

LANGUAGE RIGHTS CHARTER

Your language rights are protected under the Irish Constitution and under the Official Languages Act.

Ceacht
Lesson 5

Irish Constitution

Article 8 of the Constitution says:

As the national language, Irish is the first official language.
English is the second official language.

Official Languages Act:

These are your language rights under the Official Languages Act:

Reply in Irish

You have a right to get a reply in Irish to a letter or email in Irish to public bodies.

Acts of the Oireachtas

You have a right to be able to get Acts of the Oireachtas at the same time in both Irish and English.

Irish in the Courts

You have a right to use Irish in any court.

Mailshots

You have a right to get mailshots from public bodies at the same time in both Irish and English. Mailshots contain general information sent to the public.

Key documents in Irish

You have a right to be able to get important documents such as annual reports from public bodies at the same time in both Irish and English.

Stationery

You have a right to expect that notepaper used by public bodies is in both Irish and English.

Advice

You can get advice from our Office about your language rights.

Recorded Oral Announcements

You have a right to expect to hear recorded oral announcements by public bodies in both Irish and English, for example on phones.

Signage

You have a right to expect that signs put up by public bodies are in both Irish and English.

Irish in the Houses of the Oireachtas

TDs and Senators have a right to use Irish in the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Services agreed under language schemes

You have a right to get more services in Irish as agreed in language schemes by public bodies. Under language schemes, public bodies agree to provide many more services in Irish besides those listed here.

Complaints

Our Office will investigate if you have a complaint about your language rights.