

LANGUAGE RIGHTS CHARTER

Language rights are safeguarded by the Constitution of Ireland and by various enactments of the Oireachtas, in particular the Official Languages Act 2003 (“the Act”).

The objective of the Act is to increase the quantity and quality of services provided through Irish by state organisations to members of the public, in an organised manner, over a period of time.

Language rights guaranteed by the Act include:

The right to receive replies in Irish from state organisations to correspondence in Irish, in writing or by electronic mail.

The right of access to specific key documents published by state organisations simultaneously in Irish and English, including annual reports, audited accounts, public policy proposals and certain strategic statements.

The right to use Irish in any Court or in Court business.

The right to use Irish before the Houses of the Oireachtas or before committees, subcommittees, and joint committees of the Oireachtas.

The right to expect Acts of the Oireachtas to be published simultaneously in Irish and English as soon as possible after enactment.

The right to expect that information (e.g. mailshots) sent by post or e-mail from state organisations to the public be either in Irish or bilingual (Irish and English).

The right to expect state organisations to comply with any regulations made under the Act in relation to the use of Irish in signage, stationery, advertising and oral announcements.

The right to receive all services through Irish which have been confirmed in “language schemes” by state organisations under the Act, including specific provisions in relation to Gaeltacht areas.

The right to obtain advice or other assistance from An Coimisinéir Teanga with regard to rights under the Act.

The right to have a valid complaint regarding the failure of a state organisation to comply with provisions of the Act, or with any other enactment relating to the status or use of Irish, investigated by An Coimisinéir Teanga.



Constitution of Ireland.

Article 8

1. The Irish language as the national language is the first official language.
2. The English language is recognised as a second official language.
3. Provision may, however, be made by law for the exclusive use of either of the said languages for any one or more official purposes, either throughout the State or in any part thereof.



An Coimisinéir Teanga monitors compliance with the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003 and investigates complaints regarding breaches of the Act or of any other enactment relating to the status or use of Irish. An Coimisinéir Teanga provides advice to the public regarding their language rights and to public bodies regarding their responsibilities under the Act.

Further information by post, by fax, by e-mail or on the telephone:

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