



# **Irish Language Requirements Presented by: Declan Healy**

# **What is the Irish Language Act?**

**AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE STATE.... IN COMMUNICATING WITH OR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF PUBLIC BODIES**

**Under the Official Languages Act 2003 customers are entitled to specific services through the Irish Language including a response to correspondence in Irish and the availability of major publications in Irish e.g. Annual Report**

**The main objective of this Language Act is to ensure higher standards of public service through the Irish Language as the national and the first official language of the country**

# SDCC Framework (scheme) and Commitments

- SDCC has a Irish Language Scheme (ILS) which sets out our commitments
- Scheme is in place for an initial 3 years (December 23)
- ILS outlines what services SDCC will offer:
  - through the medium of Irish,
  - through the medium of English
  - through the medium of Irish and English
- It gives a Comprehensive list of what services etc. are provided for in Irish

Provision of Services (Please tick the relevant box)			
Name of Service	In English Only	In Irish only	Bilingually
All new commemorative plaques			✓
Information materials circulated to schools			✓
Annual Reports			✓
Corporate Plan			✓
Irish Language Section in the Council's citizen newsletter 'South Dublin County Today'			✓
Irish articles included in the staff newsletter 'South Circular'			✓
County Development Plan			✓
Standard email disclaimer			✓
Applications for dog licenses			✓
Parking ticket receipts			✓
Static content on the SOURCE website, an online digital archive			✓
Irish Classes to adults in library branches		✓	
Annual Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas - a celebration of Irish language and culture			✓
Rents App	✓		
Mindmindr 2019 App	✓		

# Specific Requirements under the act

Not exhaustive

- Right to communicate in Irish
- Right to access services in Irish
- All publicly published reports should be either bilingual or available in both languages
- All signage, branding etc. should be bilingual

## How it effects service delivery

- Requirement to translate documents
- Public facing staff need to be aware of requirements around correspondence
- Website content to be updated to Irish Language.
- New staff training on Irish Language requirements

# **The 2021 Amendment to the Irish Language Act**

**The Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021, enacted in December 2021, strengthens the Official Languages Act 2003. It contains a series of new provisions aimed at strengthening the language rights of Irish speakers.**

**Amongst the provisions of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, there is a new statutory obligation for public bodies in relation to advertising, general communications and commercial communications which engage with the public.**

**In place since October 2022, enforced from January 23**

# Breakdown of requirements

The 2 minimum requirements are as follows:

- 1. That SDCC will ensure that at least 20% of any advertising/communications in a calendar year shall be in Irish (this 20% can be met across any media e.g. Cinema, National English language print, radio, social media, OOH etc.) and through paid or owned channels (website, social media).**
- 2. That SDCC will ensure that at least 5% of all money spent on advertising/communications in a calendar year shall be spent on Irish Language Media (e.g. RnaG, tuairisc.ie, TG4, Raidio Na Life, forasnagaeilge.ie etc.) AND shall be in the Irish Language**
  - What is deemed a communication under the amendment:**

**Any communication that is looking to promote, raise awareness, engage etc. the public through any communication medium (including social media)**

**E.G. Job Advertisements, Statutory Notices,**
  - Not a communication - e.g. Content on owned channels (video's etc.) Public Awareness Campaigns**

## Requirements under the amendment

- 20% of all advertising done in Irish specifically (not bilingual) (1 in 5 rule)
- 5% of advertising budget spent on Irish Language specific channels (TG4, Radio na Life etc.)
- Self Auditing and annual submission to An Coimisinéir Teanga

## How it effects service delivery

- Certain depts. must ensure communications are done in both languages
- Self Audit and record keeping for individual dept.
- Extra demand for translation services

# Key Takeaways

- **CITIZENS ENTITLED TO ACCESS SERVICES IN IRISH**
- **CITIZENS ENTITLED TO CORRESPOND WITH THE COUNCIL IN IRISH**
- **STAFF TRAINING AND AWARENESS OF REQUIREMENTS**
- **NEW AMENDMENT MEANS THERE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ADVERTISING/COMMS TO BE MADE IN IRISH (20% AND 5%)**
- **EXTRA DEMAND ON TRANSLATION SERVICES**
- **COMMUNICATIONS THE LEAD DEPARTMENT BUT INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS REQUIRED TO MONITOR**
- **SDCC ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RECRUITING AN IRISH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER TO MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND**



**ANY QUESTIONS?  
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