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1. RÉAMHRÁ

AN CHAIRT EORPACH DO THEANGACHA RÉIGIÚNDA NÓ MIONLAIGH

I Mí an Mhárta 2001, dhaingnigh Rialtas na Breataine 36 foráil de chuid na Cairte, mar chur síos ar na bearta ba rún dó a dhéanamh chun an Ghaeilge a chothú. Is Coinbhinsiún í an Chairt ar chuspóir di cosaint agus cothú a thabhairt do theangacha reigiúnda nó mionlaigh. Tá dhá phríomhchuid ann – i gCuid II cuirtear síos na prionsabail ghinearálta a bheadh mar dhúshraith ag polasaí teanga, agus i gCuid III cuirtear síos ar na bearta dearfa a bheidh dírithe ar chothú na dteangacha atá sonraithe. Nuair a shíníonn stát ar bith an Chairt, luaíonn sé gach teanga atá le clúdach faoin Chairt agus luaíonn sé aon teanga acu siúd a thagann faoi Chuid III. (Baineann Cuid II den Chairt le gach teanga a luaítear). Ar an ábhar sin, sonraítear an Ghaeilge agus Albanais Uladh faoi Chuid II den Chairt, ach baineann Cuid III den Chairt leis an Ghaeilge amháin.

Tháinig an Chairt i bhfeidhm i dTuaisceart na hÉireann i Mí Iúil 2001. Déanann Comhairle na hEorpa monatóireacht ar an fheidhmiú trí mheán an Choiste Saineolaithe, dream a dhéanann scrúdú ar na bearta a dhéanann na Stáit éagsúla mar chomhlíonadh ar a gcuid gealltanais. Mar chuid den phróiseas seo, iarrtar ar na Stáit tuairisc thosaigh ar fheidhmiú na Cairte a chur i láthair bliain amháin i ndiaidh an túsdata feidhmithe. Is éigean tuairiscí a chur i láthair gach trí bliana ina dhiaidh sin. Chuir Rialtas na Breataine an chéad tuairisc ar an Chairt i láthair Chomhairle na hEorpa ar an 1 Iúil 2002.

Os rud é go dtugann an Chairt ról monatóireachta do ghrúpaí neamhrialtasacha chomh maith, tá an tuairisc seo ullmhaithe ag POBAL le cur i láthair Chomhairle na hEorpa. Cuireann tuairisc s'againne pictiúr iomlán d'fheidhmiú na Cairte i leith na Gaeilge ar fáil agus tugann sí freagra ar an tuairisc atá déanta ag Rialtas na Breataine. Tá sí bunaithe ar thorthaí ár gcuid monatóireachta le linn chéad bhliain na Cairte agus ar an eolas atá againn faoi na fadhbanna laethúla a bhíonn ag na cainteoirí Gaeilge. Os scátheagras é POBAL, féadann sé tairbhe a bhaint as an eolas atá bailithe aige faoi thaithí gach Gaelghrúpa ar fud Thuaisceart na hÉireann chun breithiúnas a thabhairt ar na deacrachtaí atá sa bhealach ag pobal s'againne.

1. INTRODUCTION

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

In March 2001 the British Government ratified 36 provisions of the Charter, representing the actions they will take to promote the Irish language. The Charter is a convention that is designed to protect and promote regional and minority languages. It is divided into two substantive parts – in Part II, the general principles that should inform language policy are outlined and Part III consists of a range of concrete measures to promote the designated languages. In signing up to the Charter, States specify which language(s) are to be covered under the Charter and which language(s) qualify for inclusion under Part III (Part II of the Charter applies to all designated languages). Thus, Irish and Ulster-Scots are specified under Part II of the Charter, while Part III applies only to Irish.

The Charter came into effect in Northern Ireland in July 2001. Its implementation is monitored by the Council of Europe, through a Committee of Experts that examines the measures taken by participating States to fulfil their commitments under the Charter. As part of this procedure, States are required to submit an initial report on implementation of the Charter one year after the Charter comes into effect. Subsequent reports must be presented at three yearly intervals. The British government submitted their report on the Charter to the Council of Europe on 1st July 2002.

The Charter also makes provision for input from non-governmental language groups, in monitoring the application of the Charter and POBAL has prepared this report for submission to the Council of Europe. Our report provides an overall assessment of the implementation of the Charter with regard to the Irish language and offers a response to the British government's report. It is based on the results of our work on monitoring the implementation of the Charter in its first year, as well as our awareness of the issues faced by Irish speakers on a daily basis. As an umbrella organisation, POBAL can draw on the experiences of Irish language groups throughout the north of Ireland in commenting on issues of concern to the Irish speaking community.

AN GHAELIGE I dTUAISCEART NA hÉIREANN

De réir daonáirimh 1991, bhí 142,003¹ duine i dTuaisceart na hÉireann a raibh eolas éigin acu ar an Ghaeilge. San fhigiúr seo bhí 79,012 a raibh labhairt, léamh agus scríobh na teanga acu. Is toradh an líon mór seo ar iarrachtaí móra athbheochana a rinneadh sa dara leath den fhichiú céad. Tharla forbairtí i mBéal Feirste sna caogaidí agus sna seascaidí agus ba mhór an tionchar a bhí acu ar an mhéadú spéise sa teanga i gcathair Bhéal Feirste agus ar fud an Tuaiscirt. Go mall sna seascaidí agus go luath sna seachtóidí tháinig roinnt lanúineacha Gaelacha le chéile agus iad ag iarraidh a gclann a thógáil le Gaeilge. Chuir siad Gaeltacht uirbeach ar bun ar Bhóthar Seoighe in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste. Chuir na tuismitheoirí seo an chéad bhunscoil Ghaeilge – Bunscoil Phobal Feirste – ar bun le taobh Bhóthar Seoighe. D’oscail an scoil sa bhliain 1971 agus 9 dalta ann. Bhí siad gan aon mhaoiniú Stáit, agus doicheadall mór ag na húdaráis oideachais rompu. Faoin bhliain 2002, bhí 24 bunscoil² agus dhá mheánscoil³ san earnáil Ghaeilge agus 2,177 dalta ag freastal orthu. Is i mBéal Feirste agus i nDoire atá an dá mheánscoil suite agus tá na bunscoileanna spréite ar fud na Sé Chontae ar fad.

Is rud lárthábhachtach é an t-oideachas trí Ghaeilge chun fás ár bpobail i dTuaisceart na hÉireann a chur chun cinn. Chomh maith leis an fhás sa scolaíocht tharla fás fosta i dtionscnaimh chultúrtha, shóisialta agus gheilleagair. Tá Cultúrlann ann – Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich i mBéal Feirste agus b’eiseamláir agus ba spreagadh í d’árais chultúrtha ar nós Gaeláras Dhoire agus Tí Chulainn in Ard Mhacha. Tá Compántas Amharclainne Aisling Ghéar ann agus an nuachtán Gaeilge ‘Lá’, an bheirt acu lonnaithe i mBéal Feirste. Is in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste fosta atá POBAL ag obair, é mar scátheagras do ghrúpaí Gaeilge agus don ghníomhaireacht fhorbartha ar a dtugtar Forbairt Feirste.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

According to the 1991 Census, there were 142,003¹ people in Northern Ireland with some knowledge of the Irish language. This includes 79,012 people who could speak, read and write Irish. The current position of the Irish language in the north of Ireland has resulted from a sustained revival effort during the second half of the twentieth century. Developments in Belfast in the 1950s and 1960s were very influential in terms of the later growth of interest in Irish in the city and throughout the north of Ireland. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a small number of Irish speaking couples who wished to raise their families through Irish, established an urban Gaeltacht on Bóthar Seoighe (Shaws Road) in West Belfast. These parents set up the first Irish-medium primary school – Bunscoil Phobal Feirste – just off Shaws Road. The school opened in 1971 with 9 pupils, without state funding and in the face of considerable opposition from the educational authorities. By 2002, there were 24 primary schools² and two second-level schools³ in the Irish-medium sector, with some 2,177 pupils. The two second-level schools are located in Belfast and Derry, while the primary schools are located throughout the six counties of the north of Ireland.

The development of Irish-medium education has been central to the growth of the Irish language community in the north of Ireland. This has been accompanied by the expansion of Irish language initiatives in the cultural, social and economic spheres. The Irish language cultural centre – Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich – in Belfast has provided a model for other cultural centres, including An Gaeláras in Derry and Tí Chulainn in Armagh. The Irish language theatre company Aisling Ghéar and the Irish language newspaper Lá are both based in Belfast. West Belfast is also home to POBAL, the umbrella organisation for Irish language groups and to the Irish language development agency Forbairt Feirste.

¹an cheist iarrtha an raibh daoine 3 bliain d’aois nó níos sine ábalta an Ghaeilge a labhairt, a léamh agus a scríobh nó nach raibh.²Ní mór do na scoileanna critéir na Roinne Oideachais a shásamh i dtaca le líon na ndaltaí atá acu chun maoiniú a fháil, agus de na 24 scoil, fuair 15 díobh maoiniú sa scoilbhliain 2001/2002. Ní bhfuair na naoi scoil eile aitheantas oifigiúil agus bhí siad ag brath ar fhoinsí éagsúla maoinithe, an pobal ag tiomsú airgid san aireamh. ³Tá ceithre de na bunscoileanna agus iarbunscoil amháin ceangailte le scoileanna Béarla. Tá na figiúirí go léir soláthraithe ag Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.

¹The question asked whether persons aged 3 and over, could speak, read or write Irish. ²Schools must satisfy the Department of Education criteria in relation to pupil numbers in order to qualify for funding and of the 24 schools, 15 schools had qualified for funding in the school year 2001/2002. The remaining nine schools had not attained official recognition and were dependant on various sources of funding, including fund-raising by local communities. ³Four of the primary schools and one post-primary school are attached to English-medium schools. All figures supplied by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.



POLASAÍ AN STÁIT FAOIN TEANGA GHAELIGE

Go hachomair, thiocfadh a rá gur léirigh an Stát meon a bhí anonn is anall idir an neamhspéis agus an doicheall i dtaca le fás phobal na Gaeilge. Is fiú a chuimhniú gur bagraíodh an dlí ar na teaghlaiha a bhunaigh an chéad bhunscoil Ghaeilge i mBéal Feirste. Tugann seo léargas éigin ar dhearcadh oifigiúil na n-údarás ar an teanga ag an am sin. Sna blianta ó shin tháinig athrú éigin, maolú éigin ar dhoicheall an rialtais roimh an Ghaeilge ach is go fadálach a rinneadh an t-athrú dearcaidh sin sna tríocha bliain atá thart agus is féidir a rá go raibh amhras agus doicheall buan ann idir na grúpaí Gaeilge agus an Stát i rith na tréimhse sin ar fad.

Tharla eachtra shárchionspóideach amháin sa bhliain 1990 nuair a baineadh an maoiniú siar ó Choiste Iarthar Bhéal Feirste de Ghlór na nGael – eagraíocht a reáchtálann comórtas bliantúil uile-Éireannach a thugann duais don phobal áitiúil is mó a chothaigh an teanga. Níor tugadh míniú oifigiúil riamh ar an chinneadh seo agus tuairmíodh go forleathan gur shampla é den pholasaí polaitiúil a bhí ar siúl ag an Rialtas i leith roinnt de na grúpaí pobail. Tuairimíonn Ó hAdhmaill⁴ gurbh í an fhíorchúis a bhí taobh thiar den rud seo ná cosc a chur ar neamhspleáchas ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge. Tugadh ar ais an maoiniú sa deireadh de thairbhe agóidí ó ghrúpaí Gaeilge agus ó ghrúpaí daoncheartacha. Ach is sampla maith é seo den chomhthéacs polaitiúil i dTuaisceart na hÉireann agus den dóigh a ndeachaigh sé i bhfeidhm ar fhorbairt na teanga.

Sa tréimhse sular bunaíodh na nua-struchtúir pholaitiúla de bharr siniú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta (1998), tháinig maoiniú don Ghaeilge (taobh amuigh de mhaoiniú an oideachais) tríd an Central Community Relations Unit (CCRU). Chonacthas do chuid de na grúpaí Gaeilge gur chuid é seo de pholasaí Rialtais chun nasc bréagach a cruthú idir cúrsaí trasphobail agus an Ghaeilge, in áit an teanga a mhaoiniú de réir a cirt féin. I dtuairisc a eisíodh i 1993⁵, thuairimigh an Committee on the Administration of Justice ‘Ní cuspóir don CCRU é spéis sa Ghaeilge a chothú. Is mian leis ról na Gaeilge i dtraidisiúin chultúrtha Thuaisceart na hÉireann a léiriú. Is follas mar sin nach bhfuil rún ar bith nó polasaí ar bith ag an Rialtas i leith sochaí dhátheangach a chothú i

STATE POLICY ON THE IRISH LANGUAGE

In general, the response of the State to the growth of the Irish language community has ranged from indifference to opposition. For example, it is worth noting that the families who founded the first Irish-medium primary school in Belfast were threatened with legal action by the authorities. This gives some indication of the official position on the language at the time. More recently, government policy has displayed a more positive approach to the Irish language, but progress has been relatively slow and for much of the past three decades, the relationship between Irish language groups and the State has been marked by suspicion and confrontation.

One particularly contentious episode was the withdrawal of funding in 1990 from the West Belfast Committee of Glór na nGael – an organisation which runs an annual all-Ireland competition, at which an award is presented to the local community which has done most to promote the Irish language. The official reason for this decision was never clearly explained and this was widely viewed as an instance of the ‘political vetting’ policy pursued by the government in relation to a number of community groups. Ó hAdhmaill⁴ suggests that the ‘...real reason for the vetting was to curb the independence of the Irish language movement’. The funding was subsequently restored following protests from Irish language and human rights groups. However, this provides a good illustration of the impact of the political context in the north of Ireland, on the development of the Irish language.

Prior to the establishment of the new political structures, which followed the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (1998), funding for Irish language projects (other than in the area of education) was provided through the Central Community Relations Unit (CCRU). This was seen by some Irish language groups as part of a government policy to make a contrived link between cross-community relations issues and the Irish language, rather than funding the language in its own right. In a report issued in 1993⁵, the Committee on the Administration of Justice commented that ‘the objective (of CCRU) is not the encouraging of interest in Irish, but rather demonstrating the contribution of Irish to the

⁴Ó hAdhmaill, Féilim (1990) ‘The Political Vetting of Glór na nGael’ i *The Vetting of Community Work in Northern Ireland, NICVA*.

⁵CAJ (1993) *Staid agus Stádas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann*.

⁴Ó hAdhmaill, Féilim (1990) ‘The Political Vetting of Glór na nGael’ i *The Vetting of Community Work in Northern Ireland, NICVA*.

⁵CAJ (1993) *Staid agus Stádas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann*.

dTuaisceart na hÉireann.’ I gcuid de na measúnachtaí a rinneadh ó shin ar pholasaí oifigiúil i leith na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann, déantar iomad tagairtí do nadúr leithchealach an pholasaí seo.

Tá tuairisc⁶ ann mar shampla a eisíodh i 1997 ag Coiste na Náisiún Aontaithe do Chúrsaí Geilleagair, Sóisialta agus Cearta Cultúrtha, agus tuairimíonn sí mar a leanas :

‘Tugann an Coiste seo faoi deara nach cosúil go bhfaigheann an Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann an stádas agus an taca airgid céanna agus a fhaigheann an Gàidhlig in Albain agus an Bhreatnais sa Bhreatain Bheag agus is í ár dtuairim í nach bhfuil bunús inchosanta ar bith ann leis an difear seo’.

Agus i dtuairisc 2001⁷ ar na bearta atá déanta sa Ríocht Aontaithe chun an Creachoinbhinsiún um Mhionlaigh Náisiúnta a chur i gcrích, deir an coiste comhairleach an méid seo "...tá scóip ann go fóill le tuilleadh cosanta a thabhairt do mhionteangacha Thuaisceart na hÉireann, don Ghaeilge go háirithe."

POBAL

Bunaíodh POBAL i 1998 agus bunchúspóir aige stiúir straitéiseach a thabhairt do na Gaelghrúpaí ar fud Thuaisceart na hÉireann. Feidhmíonn sé mar scátheagras do na grúpaí agus é ag obair chun cearta na nGaeilgeoirí a chothú agus chun taca agus comhairle a thabhairt do na ballghrupaí. Cé gur i mBéal Feirste atá sé lonnaithe tagann ballghrupaí POBAL ó achan chontae sa tuaisceart. Réimse leathan grúpaí atá i gceist, scoileanna lánGhaeilge, grúpaí cultúrtha, gníomhaireacht fhorbartha Ghaeilge agus na meáin. Is ar bhonn deonach a bhí POBAL sa chéad 2 bhliain oibre ach ina diaidh sin, i Mí Aibreáin 2001, fuair sé bunmhaoiniú ó Fhoras na Gaeilge, comhlacht uile-Éireannach a bhfuil freagracht air i leith chothú na teanga.

cultural traditions of Northern Ireland. It is clear therefore that the Government has no policy of promoting a bilingual society within Northern Ireland’.

More recent evaluations of official policy on the Irish language in the north of Ireland, also highlight the discriminatory nature of this policy.

Thus in a report⁶ issued in 1997, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reached the following conclusion:

‘The Committee notes that the Irish language in Northern Ireland does not appear to receive the same degree of financial support and status as Gaelic in Scotland and Welsh in Wales, and expresses its view that such differentiation is unjustified’.

In addition, in their report (2001)⁷ on the measures taken in the UK to give effect to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the advisory committee concludes that ‘... there remains scope, in particular, for further improving the protection of minority languages in Northern Ireland, notably concerning the use of Irish’.

POBAL

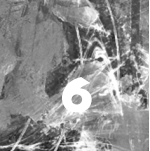
POBAL was founded in 1998, with the primary objective of providing strategic direction for Irish language groups throughout the north of Ireland. It functions as an umbrella organisation for these groups, working to promote the rights of Irish speakers and providing support and advice to member groups. Although based in Belfast, POBAL’s member groups are drawn from the six counties of the north of Ireland. The membership consists of a wide range of groups, including Irish-medium schools, cultural groups, an economic development agency and the Irish language press. POBAL operated on a voluntary basis in its first 2 years and was subsequently awarded core funding by Foras na Gaeilge - the all-Ireland body with responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language - in April 2001.

⁶Comhairle Gheilleagair agus Shóisialta na NA (1997) Concluding Observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Kingdom, (E/C.12/1/Add. 19).

⁷Comhairle Chomhairleach ar an Chreat-Choinbhinsiún um Chosaint Mionlach Náisiúnta, Opinion on the United Kingdom, Samhain 2001.

⁶UN Economic and Social Council (1997) Concluding Observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Kingdom, E/C.12/1/Add. 19).

⁷Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Opinion on the United Kingdom, November 2001.



FORAS NA GAEILGE

Cuireadh an Foras Teanga thuaidh-theas seo ar bun faoi Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta (1998). Tá dhá ghníomhaireacht ann, ceann acu atá freagrach as an Ghaeilge, (Foras na Gaeilge), agus an ceann eile freagrach as Albanais Uladh (Thà Boord o Ulster Scotch). Aistríodh cúraimí agus feidhmiú Bhord na Gaeilge, (áisíneacht Gaeilge a bhí ann roimhe sin i bPoblacht na hÉireann), aistríodh iad go Foras na Gaeilge i Nollaig 1999. Tá an Foras freagrach as cothú na teanga ar dhá thaobh na teorann, as an Ghaelscolaíocht, as spreagadh agus comhairle a thabhairt faoi úsáid na Gaeilge ar fud na sochaí, agus as croí-phleanáil. Is ceann de na príomhfhoinsí maoinithe é do na Gaeilghrúpaí.

Céim mhór chun cinn ba ea bunú an Fhorais uile-Éireannaigh seo agus ba mhór an spreagadh é do phobal na Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart. Ach bhí fadhbanna ag an eagrais sin ar dtús i gcúrsaí riaracháin de bharr a bheith ag iarraidh dul i ngleic leis an chlár oibre nua. Dá thoradh sin tá easpa chinnteachta go fóill ann faoin chur chuige atá aige i gcothú na teanga. Tá ceist ann fosta faoin bhuiséad atá ar fáil aige. €17.5m atá aige faoi láthair, ardú suntasach ar an €3.8m a bhí ann do Bhord na Gaeilge, an eagraíocht óna dtáinig sé⁸. Ach caithfear a chur san áireamh gur leagadh cúraimí móra breise ar an fhoras nua go háirithe cúrsaí na teanga sa Tuaisceart. Mar a dúirt iarchathaoirleach de chuid Bhord na Gaeilge le déanaí⁹ ba chóir Foras na Gaeilge a mhaoiniú ar aon leibhéal le Comhairle na nEalaíon (Poblacht na hÉireann) a bhfuil buiséad €47m aige faoi láthair.

Osclaíodh oifigí Fhoras na Gaeilge go hoifigiúil go luath sa bhliain 2002 ach níor earcaíodh aon Stiúrthóir dó i mBéal Feirste go fóill.

FORAS NA GAEILGE

The North-South Language Body was established under the Good Friday Agreement (1998). It is made up of two agencies, one of which is responsible for Irish (Foras na Gaeilge) and the other for Ulster-Scots (Thà Boord o Ulster Scotch). The role and functions of Bord na Gaeilge – the former Irish language body in the Republic of Ireland – were transferred to Foras na Gaeilge in December 1999. Foras na Gaeilge is responsible for the promotion of the Irish language on both sides of the border. Its remit includes supporting Irish-medium education, encouraging and advising on the use of Irish throughout society and corpus planning. It is one of the principal sources of funding for Irish language groups.

The establishment of an all-Ireland body with responsibility for the Irish language is a very welcome development for the north's Irish language community. However, the organisation experienced initial administrative difficulties in adapting to its new remit and there remains a lack of clarity about its overall approach to its language promotion role. A question must also be raised about the adequacy of the budget available to Foras na Gaeilge. The current budget stands at €17.5m, and this has increased from a budget of approximately €3.8m for Bord na Gaeilge, which preceded Foras na Gaeilge⁸. However this increase must be viewed in the context of the additional responsibilities assigned to the new language promotion body, including the extension of its brief to include the north of Ireland. A former chairperson of Bord na Gaeilge argued recently⁹, that Foras na Gaeilge should be funded to a comparable level with the Arts Council (in the Republic of Ireland) which currently has a budget of €47m.

The Belfast offices of Foras na Gaeilge were officially opened earlier in 2002, while the new director in Belfast is yet to be recruited.

⁸Ait ag Conchubhar Ó Liatháin, LÁ, 27 Meitheamh 2002.

⁹Agallamh le Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, LÁ, 27 Meitheamh 2002.

⁸Article by Conchubhar Ó Liatháin, Lá, 27 June 2002

⁹Interview with Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Lá, 27 June 2002

ROINN CULTÚIR, EALAÍON AGUS FÓILLÍOCHTA

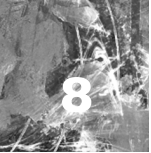
Taobh istigh d'Fheidhmeannas Thuaisceart Éireann tugadh freagrachtaí i leith polasaí teanga don Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta (RCEF). Is ar RCEF atá feidhmchúram na Cairte go príomha. De réir na bprionsabal a moladh i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta is é ceann de phríomhchuspóirí RCEF 'cothú a dhéanamh ar mheas, thuiscint agus chaoifhulaingt an phobail i leith éagsúlacht teanga'.¹⁰ Taobh istigh den Roinn tá an tAonad Éagsúlacht Teanga freagrach as an chuid seo den obair. Clúdaíonn seo forbairt pholasaí teanga don Ghaeilge agus d'Albanais Uladh, do theangacha na mionlach eitneach agus don teanga chomharthaíochta.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

Within the Northern Ireland Executive, responsibilities relating to language policy were assigned to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL). The lead responsibility in relation to implementation of the Charter lies with DCAL. Echoing the principles endorsed in the Good Friday Agreement, one of the key objectives of DCAL is 'to promote respect, understanding and tolerance of linguistic diversity'¹⁰ Within the Department, the Linguistic Diversity Unit is responsible for this area of work. This involves the development of language policy in relation to Irish and Ulster-Scots, as well as the ethnic minority languages and sign language.

¹⁰An Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta, Corporate Strategy 2001-2004.

¹⁰Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Corporate Strategy 2001-2004



2. IMCHAITN GHINEARÁLTA

Tá roinnt ceisteanna ginearálta ann a thabhaíonn scrúdú géar ó Choiste Saineolaithe Chomhairle na hEorpa: stádas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann; an dóigh inar daingníodh an Chairt; éifeacht an fheidhmithe go dtí seo.

PRÓISEAS DAINGNITHE NA CAIRTE

Cé gur fháiltigh muid go mór roimh dhaingniú na Cairte Eorpaí i leith na Gaeilge, tá sé ina ábhar inní go fóill an roghnú a rinneadh ar na forálacha a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge i gCuid a Trí. Is léir ó Thuairisc Mhínithe na Cairte agus ón chéad tuairisc a thug Rúnaí Ginearálta Chomhairle na hEorpa gur chóir forálacha Chuid a Trí den Chairt a roghnú ‘de réir staid gach teanga ar leith’. Léiríonn ionstraim dhaingnithe na Ríochta Aontaithe gur roghnaíodh 36 paragraf don Ghaeilge, rud nach mó go mór ná an t-íosmhéid (35 paragraf) a leagadh síos chun daingniú a dhéanamh ar an Chairt.

Ní amháin gur roghnaíodh a laghad agus ab’fhéidir de na forálacha, ach i gcásanna áirithe roghnaíodh an leagan is laige a bhí ar fáil taobh istigh de na forálacha sin. I gcás Alt 8 den Chairt, mar shampla, feicimid nach bhfuil barántas ar bith tugtha faoi sholáthar scolaíochta Gaeilge ar achan leibhéal cionn is gur roghnaíodh an freastal ab’ísle acu do chúrsaí oideachas na Gaeilge (feach para. a-d). I láthair fhás buan na Gaelscolaíochta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann ní léir ar chor ar bith cad chuige nach bhfuil sin san áireamh sna forálacha Cairte ar glacadh leo don Ghaeilge? Mar a gcéanna atá an scéal i gcás úsáid na Gaeilge i gcúrsaí riaracháin (Feach Alt 10 den Chairt). Níl i gceist ach seirbhís íosta do lucht a labhartha. Mar shampla, cé go bhfuil sé d’fhiacha ar na húdaráis riaracháin glacadh le comhfhreagras i nGaeilge, níl sé d’fhiacha orthu freagraí a thabhairt sa teanga chéanna. Is é dearcadh POBAL é gur fada é seo ón tiomantas a rinneadh faoin Chairt chun an Ghaeilge a chothú.

Tríd agus tríd léiríonn líon agus cineál na bhforálacha a roghnaíodh i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge i gCuid III den Chairt go bhfuil mana neamhfhiail ag an Ríocht Aontaithe i dtaca le leas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Aithníonn POBAL gurb é ról an Choiste seo, Coiste Saineolaithe, feidhmiú na bhforálacha daingnithe a scrúdú. Ach san am chéanna iarraidimid ar an Choiste amharc chomh

2. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There are a number of general issues relating to the position of the Irish language in the north of Ireland and to the approach to the ratification of the Charter and its implementation to date which are relevant to the work of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts.

CHARTER RATIFICATION PROCESS

While the ratification of the European Charter to apply to the Irish language is a very welcome development, the selection of provisions to apply to Irish under Part III of the Charter gives some cause for concern. It is clear, from both the Explanatory Report on the Charter and from the first report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, that the provisions of Part III of the Charter should be selected ‘according to the situation of each language’. The UK ratification instrument shows that a total of 36 paragraphs have been selected to apply to the Irish language, while States were required to select a minimum of 35 paragraphs in order to ratify the Charter.

Apart from the minimal number of provisions selected, in a number of cases the specific measures adopted for the Irish language are the ‘weakest’ of the options available. Thus, in relation to Article 8 of the Charter, the provision of Irish-medium teaching at the various levels of the education system is not guaranteed, as the least definitive of the available options in relation to educational provision was chosen for the Irish language (under paragraphs a-d). Given the ongoing growth in Irish-medium education in the north of Ireland, it is not clear why this is not more closely reflected in the educational provisions adopted for the Irish language in the Charter. Similarly, with regard to the use of Irish in the administration (covered under Article 10 of the Charter), the measures selected to apply to Irish imply a minimal level of service for Irish speakers. For example, while the administrative authorities are required to accept correspondence in Irish, the State has not undertaken to provide replies in the same language. It is POBAL’s view that this falls short of the commitment made under the Charter to actively promote the Irish language.

maith ar an rogha ghortach a rinneadh de na forálacha i gCuid III den Cháirt i láthair staid na Gaeilge i dtuaisceart na hÉireann. Thairis seo creidimid gur chóir go mbeadh moltaí ann de bharr an scrúdaithe seo, ag iarraidh ar an Ríocht Aontaithe forálacha breise a ghabháil i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge mar atá ceadaithe faoi Alt 3 den Chairt.

Is eol do POBAL go dtuigeann Comhairle na hEorpa ról lárnach na ngrúpaí atá ag déanamh ionadaíochta do chainteoirí na dteangacha réigiúnda nó mionlaigh i dtaca leis an Chairt, sa tréimhse roimh an daingniú agus ina dhiaidh, (mar a mhaítear ar an líonláithreán don Chairt – www.coe.int). Feictear do phobal na Gaeilge gur tharla roghnú na bhforálacha do Chuid III den Chairt don Ghaeilge gan go leor idirchomhairle. Is fíor gur chuir an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta ciorclán chuig na grúpaí Gaeilge roimh an daingniú, ciorclán ina raibh liosta de mholtaí faoin Chairt i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge, ach sin a raibh ann. Bhí an idirchomhairle scallta agus teoranta. Is cruthúnas é seo ar an dóigh ar theip ar na húdaráis mana páirtíochta a léiriú i dtaca le daingniú agus feidhmiú na Cairte.

DÁTHEANGACHAS GAEILGE/BÉARLA

Tugann POBAL faoi deara go bhfuil sé luaite ag an Choiste sna tuairiscí atá déanta go dtí seo go dtarlaíonn deacrachtaí go minic nuair a bhíonn dátheangachas i gceist, is é sin nuair a bhíonn lucht na dteangacha mionlaigh líofa i dteanga an mhórlaigh chomh maith. Sna tuairiscí faoin Ungáir agus faoin Fhionlainn mar shampla, is léir don Choiste go bhfuil contúirt ann go n-amharcfar ar lucht na dteangacha mionlaigh mar chrá croí nuair a éilíonn siad cearta a dteanga féin sa chumarsáid leis an Stát. Tuairimíonn an Coiste go bhfuil gá le freastal ceart don am i láthair agus pleanáil mhaith don todhcháí chun a chinntiú go n-amharcfar ar úsáid na mionteangacha mar cheart agus nach n-amharcfar orthu mar chur isteach ar an status quo.

Baineann na tuairimí seo go dlúth le scéal na Gaeilge i dtuaisceart na hÉireann, áit a bhfuil cumas sa Bhéarla ag gach duine den daonra dúchais. Is iomaí uair a nocht na hoifigigh sna húdaráis phoiblí agus ar fud na sochaí go ginearálta an tuairim nach bhfuil aon cheart ag

In general, the number and nature of the provisions selected to apply to Irish, under Part III of the Charter, indicate a minimalist approach by the UK to the promotion of the Irish language in the north of Ireland. While POBAL recognizes that the Committee's role is to examine the implementation of the Charter provisions, as ratified, we would urge the Committee to consider the appropriateness of the existing provisions of Part III of the Charter, to the situation of the Irish language in the north of Ireland. Further to this, we believe that the recommendations arising from this examination should include a call for the UK to adopt additional provisions to apply to Irish, as provided for under Article 3 of the Charter.

POBAL notes that the Council of Europe views groups representing the speakers of regional or minority languages as having a central role in relation to the Charter, both prior to and after ratification (as outlined on the web page on the Charter – www.coe.int). It appears to the Irish language community that the selection of the provisions of Part III of the Charter for the Irish language, took place without adequate consultation. While the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure circulated an outline of proposals regarding the Charter to Irish language groups prior to the signing of the Charter, the level of consultation was very limited. This reflects the general failure of the authorities to adopt a partnership approach to the ratification and subsequent implementation of the Charter.

IRISH/ENGLISH BILINGUALISM

POBAL notes that in its reports to date, the Committee has recognised the difficulties that may arise in situations of 'diglossia', where minority language speakers are also fluent in the majority language. Thus for example, in its reports on Hungary and Finland, the committee has commented on the potential that minority language speakers are viewed as 'trouble-makers' when attempting to claim their language rights, in their contacts with the State. The committee has argued that in order to ensure the rights of minority language speakers, there is a need for comprehensive provision and forward planning so that the use of the minority language is facilitated as a right, rather than being viewed as a disruption of 'normal' procedures.



lucht na Gaeilge, atá líofa sa Bhéarla, úsáid na Gaeilge a iarraidh. Mar shampla, nuair a chuir POBAL ceist ar Chomhairle Ceantair amháin faoi chúrsaí na Cairte, dúradh sa fhreagra an méid seo: ‘...i láthair na huair níl aon socrúithe seasta againn le freastal ar lucht na dteangacha réigiúnda ach déanfaidh an Chomhairle socrú ar leith don aistriúchán nuair a bhíonn seo riachtanach do chúrsaí cumarsáide, is é sin nuair nach mbíonn Béarla ag an duine aonair nó nuair a bhíonn ciste cumarsáide de chineál éigin air.’ Mar a gcéanna, má amharctar ar shampla beag de na Scéimeanna Cothromais a tháinig amach faoin reachtaíocht chothromais (Rannóg 75, Acht Thuaisceart na hÉireann) is léir gurb é an cur chuige is coitianta i gcúrsaí teanga ná go n-aistrefar téacs na scéimeanna isteach i dteanga eile ‘do na daoine sin nach é an Béarla an chéad teanga acu’ nó ‘do na daoine nach bhfuil Béarla líofa acu’. Chuige seo, sonraíonn cuid de na scéimeanna go bhfuil an t-eolas ar fáil fosta i bhformáidí teanga mionlaigh, má iarrtar sin. Tuigimid ar ndóigh gurb éigean a chinntiú nach mbeidh an dóigh a gcuirtear na seirbhísí poiblí i bhfeidhm ina constaic ar ghrúpaí áirithe daoine ar nós chainteoirí na dteangacha eitneacha nach bhfuil líofa sa Bhéarla. Ach mar a deirtear sa Chairt agus i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus sa reachtaíocht idirnáisiúnta ba chóir bearta dearfa a dhéanamh fosta chun teangacha dúchais a chosaint agus a chothú. Ba chóir go dtuigfeadh an Coiste go bhfuil úsáid na Gaeilge i gcuid mhór comhthéacs ina chuid nádúrtha den chumarsáid leis an Stát ach nach bhfuil sin aitheanta ag an Stát. Is é sin go n-amharcann an Stát ar an rud uilig mar lomcheist chumarsáide. Is léir sin sa pholasáí agus sa chleachtas oifigiúil.

REACHTAÍOCHT INTÍRE

I dtuairisc an Choiste faoi fheidhmiú na Cairte i Stáit eile leagtar béim mhór ar an chreatlach reachtaíochta a bhaineann le teangacha réigiúnda agus mionlaigh. I dTuaisceart na hÉireann tugtar aitheantas oifigiúil don Ghaeilge i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, mar a bhfuil cuid mhór tiomantas ann i dtaca le cothú na teanga. Déanann na tiomantais seo tagairt ar leith do na prionsabail atá leagtha amach i gCuid II den Chairt (Féach Agusín). Ach níl aon fhorálacha dlíthiúla soiléire ann maidir le húsáid na teanga sa saol poiblí.

These observations are also relevant to the position of the Irish language in the north of Ireland, where competence in English is universal (among the indigenous population). The view that the right to use the Irish language in various contexts is invalid for those who are also fluent in English is commonly expressed by officials in public bodies and throughout society in general. For example, in response to POBAL’s enquiries regarding the Charter, one District Council stated that ‘... there are at this time no specific measures in place to meet the demands of users of regional languages. However ... the Council does make arrangements for translation where this is required for access purposes, that is where an individual is unable to understand English or where they suffer from some form of sensory impairment’. Similarly, a review of a small sample of the Equality Schemes produced under the equality legislation (Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act) shows that the most common approach to language issues is that information on the schemes will be translated into other languages ‘...for those whose first language is not English’ or ‘... for those not fluent in English’. Thus, a number of the schemes specify that information will be made available in ‘ethnic minority language formats’. Clearly, there is a need to ensure that the manner in which public services are delivered does not constitute a barrier for certain groups of people, such as speakers of ethnic minority languages who are not fluent in English. However, as outlined in the Charter, in the Good Friday Agreement and in international legislation, specific measures must also be taken to protect and promote indigenous languages. The committee should be aware of the fact that in a wide variety of contexts, the use of the Irish language as a ‘natural’ feature of interaction with the State has not been established and that language issues are frequently treated as issues of ‘access’ in official policy and practice.

DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

In the Committee’s reports on the application of the Charter in other States, there is considerable emphasis on the legislative framework relating to regional or minority languages. In the north of Ireland, Irish is afforded official recognition in the Good Friday Agreement, which includes a number of commitments to promote the Irish language. These commitments make specific reference to the

I dtuairisc mhínithe na Cairte deirtear nach féidir í a chomhlíonadh gan reachtaíocht intíre a thabhairt isteach chun éifeacht dhlíthiúil a thabhairt do na forálacha a roghnaíodh (Para. 11). Taobh amuigh den ordú reachtúil a bhaineann leis an Ghaelscolaíocht ní dhearnadh aon ghníomh le héifeacht dhlíthiúil a thabhairt do na tiomantais atá sa Chairt agus i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta. Agus é ag caint faoi seo le déanaí dúirt Fernand de Varennes (2001) ‘gurb ionann buanmhoilliú na reachtaíochta agus sárú a dhéanamh ar na tiomantais dhlíthiúla a rinne an Ríocht Aontaithe maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann.

Tuairimíonn POBAL gur sarú ar fhorálacha na cairte é an mhoill seo atá a déanamh ar reáchtáil na reachtaíochta a thionscnamh agus d’iarrfadh muid ar an Choiste moltaí soiléire a chur in iúl don Stát faoina dhualgais san ábhar seo.

DEARCADH GINEARÁLTA I LEITH FHEIDHMIÚ NA CAIRTE

Mar a dúradh cheana, creideann POBAL nach leor an ionstraim reachtaíochta a shocraigh an Ríocht Aontaithe don Ghaeilge, nach leor sin chun neart agus beocht phobal na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann a thaispeáint. Dá bharr sin, tá teipthe ar na húdaráis chuí sa Tuaisceart (go háirithe an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta) dul i mbun idirchomhairle cuí leis na grúpaí Gaeilge roimh shíniú na Cairte agus i ndiaidh a daingnithe. Go ginearálta táispeánann an chéad bhliain d’fheidhmiú na Cairte nach bhfuil ar siúl ag na húdaráis ach lagiarrachtaí agus dícheall bréige.

Is léir dúinn ó na teagmhálacha a rinne muid le forais poiblí áirithe nár scaipeadh eolas faoin Chairt chuig na heagraíochtaí cuí uilig. I dtaca leis an fhreastal ar chúrsaí cultúir agus ealaíne, mar shampla, atá clúdaithe faoi Alt 12 den Chairt, deir Comhairle na nEalaíon nach bhfuair siad aon treoir nó eolas ar an Chairt ón Roinn Cultúir Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta (faoi Aibréan 2002) agus ó tharla muid ag fanacht le fada le freagra ón Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne is cosúil go mbaineann seo leis an chóras leabharlainne chomh maith. Tuigean muid ó na teagmhálacha a rinne muid leis na Comhairlí Ceantair fosta nach bhfuair siadsan eolas nó treoir oifigiúil faoin Chairt (cé go bhfuil cúraimí na gComhairlí sin faoin Chairt soiléir anois).

principles outlined in Part II of the Charter. However, there are no concrete legal provisions relating to the use of the Irish language in public life.

In the explanatory report on the Charter, it is stated that compliance with the Charter requires the introduction of domestic legislation to give effect to the various provisions selected (paragraph 11). Apart from the introduction of a statutory order that relates to Irish-medium education, no action has been taken to give legislative effect to the undertakings in either the Good Friday Agreement or the Charter. In a recent comment on this, de Varennes (2001) notes that ‘continuing delays in adopting legislation ... constitute violations of the legal commitments made by the United Kingdom in relation to the use of the Irish language in Northern Ireland’.

POBAL considers the failure to introduce legislation to give effect to the Charter provisions to be a breach of the Charter commitments, and would urge the Committee to make clear recommendations on the obligations of the state in this regard.

GENERAL APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER

As noted earlier, POBAL believes that the ratification instrument submitted by the UK with respect to the Irish language, does not adequately reflect the strength and vitality of the Irish language community in the north of Ireland. In addition, the relevant authorities in the North (principally the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure) failed to engage in adequate consultation with Irish language groups prior to the signing and ratification of the Charter. In general, the lack of a positive approach to the Charter has continued to characterise its implementation in this first year.

Our contacts with various public bodies indicate that information on the Charter has not been circulated to all of the relevant organisations. Thus for example in relation to cultural and arts provision which is covered under Article 12 of the Charter, the Arts Council indicated that they had not received any information or guidance on the Charter from DCAL by April 2002 and the delay in response from the Education and Library Boards suggests that this also applies to the library service.



Tá an mhoill chéanna fosta ar scaipeadh chríochleagan na dtreoracha faoi fheidhmiú na cairte chuig na forais phoiblí chuí uilig. Tá teipthe ar Ghrúpa Idir-rannach na Cairte cheana cloí le roinnt de na spriocanna ama d'fhoilsiú na dtreoracha seo, agus níl siad ar fáil fós. Léiríonn na fíricí seo an córas íosmhéideachais atá ar siúl i bhfeidhmiú na Cairte, rud atá as réir le spiorad na Cairte agus leis an ghá le comhar dearfa i gcothú na Gaeilge. Airítear an dearcadh seo fosta maidir leis na rannóga sin den Chairt ar 'rudaí forchoiméadta' iad atá fós faoi chúram Rialtas na Breataine, rudaí ar nós chúrsaí craolacháin. Mar shampla de seo, fuair muid litir ón Roinn Cultúir, Meán agus Spóirt¹¹ le rá gur leor leis faoi láthair an méid atá á chraoladh ag BBC Thuaisceart na hÉireann le feidhmiú a dhéanamh ar an Chairt.

Creideann POBAL go n-iarrann na prionsabail atá i gCuid II den Chairt gníomhfhreagra níos dearfa ná sin agus gur chóir iarraidh ar na comhlachtaí poiblí freastal breise a thabhairt do phobal na Gaeilge in áit a bheith ag maíomh gur leor i gcomhair fheidhmiú na Cairte an soláthar atá a dhéanamh acu cheana.

RÓL NA ROINNE CULTÚIR EALAÍON AGUS FÓILLÍOCHTA (RCEF)

Os rud é go bhfuil ról lárnach ag an RCEF is fiú amharc go mion ar pholasaí agus chleachtas na roinne seo.

Pléadh polasaí teanga taobh istigh den RCEF nuair a chuir POBAL agallamh ar cheannaire an Aonad Éagsúlacht Teanga mar bheart taighde. Nocht sé seo go bhfuil cúlra polaitiúil an Tuaiscirt ina fhadhb mhór ag an Aonad seo. Mar shampla, dúirt an Stiúrthoir, Pat McAlister, go raibh sé deacair teacht ar phlean comhaontaithe d'fheidhmiú na Cairte ceann is go mbíonn ranna riaracháin áirithe ag cur ina éadan. Dúirt sí go gcuireann an mana doicheadallach seo isteach go mór ar an obair agus síleann sí nach bhfuil de rogha ann ach bheith sásta dul chun cinn a dhéanamh de réir a chéile agus taca agus dea-thoil a mhealladh ar an dóigh sin ó lucht na rann uilig. Dúirt sí fosta nach bhfuil sé cothrom bheith ag déanamh comparáide idir staid na dteangacha mionlaigh eile sa Ríocht Aontaithe gan aird a thabhairt ar na fadhbanna polaitiúla atá againn anseo agus ar an dóigh a dtéann siad i bhfeidhm ar pholasaí teanga.

Our initial contacts with District Councils also revealed that they had not received information or official guidance on the Charter by February 2002 (although, the Councils have since been informed of their responsibilities under the Charter).

There has also been a prolonged delay in issuing finalised guidance to all relevant public bodies on the implementation of the Charter. The Interdepartmental Charter Group has failed to reach a number of earlier deadlines for the publication of these guidelines, which are not yet available. This would seem to reflect a minimalist approach to the implementation of the Charter, which is at variance with the spirit of the Charter and with the need for 'resolute action' to promote the Irish language. This approach can also be seen with regard to sections of the Charter that are 'reserved matters' and remain the responsibility of the British Government, such as broadcasting. Thus, for example the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has indicated¹¹ that it considers that the Charter commitments on Irish language broadcasting are fulfilled by virtue of the current extremely limited Irish language provision, by BBC Northern Ireland.

POBAL believes that the principles outlined in Part II of the Charter demand a much more positive response and that public bodies must be called on to enhance provision for Irish speakers, rather than viewing the Charter commitments as based on existing provision.

ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE (DCAL)

Given that DCAL has a lead role in the implementation of the Charter, it is worth considering its policy and practice in some detail.

The approach to language policy within DCAL was discussed in the course of an interview with the Head of the Linguistic Diversity Unit, for a research project conducted by POBAL. This illustrated that the overall context in which language policy operates in the north of Ireland constitutes a specific challenge for the Unit. For example, the director, Pat McAlister, reported that efforts to arrive at an agreed framework for the implementation of the Charter commitments had met with opposition from some sectors of the

¹¹Litreacha chuig POBAL ó Tessa Jowell MP, Rúnaí Stáit, Roinn Cultúir, Meán agus Spóirt. 18ú Aibreán agus 29ú Bealtaine 2002.

¹¹Letters to POBAL, from Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State, Department of Culture, Media and Sport – 18th April and 29th May 2002.

Is léir go dtéann an mana oifigiúil seo i bhfeidhm ar úsáid na Gaeilge taobh istigh den RCEF. Cé go bhfuil ról lárnach ag RCEF i bhfeidhmiú na cairte agus i bpolasaí teanga go ginearálta, is mór an díoma é gur chinn sí cur chuige íosmhéideachais i dtaca le cothú na teanga taobh istigh den Roinn. Dá thoradh sin, mar a taispeánadh i gCuid a 4 den tuairisc seo tá polasaithe i bhfad níos cuimsithí forbartha ag ranna eile san Fheidhmeannas maidir le foilsiú ábhar dátheangach agus maidir le comhfhreagrais i nGaeilge.

Ó tharla gan taithí ar bith ag riarthóirí Thuaisceart na hÉireann ar chúram na Gaeilge, nó ar chúram teanga ar bith eile, chuir an Roinn Cultúir Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta tús le feachtas taighde mar threoir di féin i gcumadh polasaí. I gcás na Gaeilge, ordaíodh beart taighde a bheadh bunaithe ar idirchomhairle le grúpaí teanga, le lucht soláthar seirbhísí agus leis an phobal mhór. Baineadh úsáid as fócasghrúpaí, as agallaimh aonair agus as suirbhéanna gearra cainníochtúla i measc daoine fásta ar fud an Tuaiscirt le fáil amach cá mhéad agus cén cineál seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge a bhí á n-iarraidh ar na comhlachtaí poiblí. De réir torthaí an taighde seo¹², tá éagsúlacht mhór tuairimí ann faoin chéist: dream ag iarraidh comhstádas leis an Bhéarla, dream a bheadh sásta le taca níos teoranta ná sin i gcothú na Gaeilge, agus dream eile glan in éadan aon mhaoiniú poiblí don teanga. Léirigh an tuairisc go bhfuil tromlach na ndaoine i leith seirbhísí Gaeilge a chur ar fáil ag an Stát mar fhreagra ar éileamh ar leith agus i gcomhthéacsanna ar leith. (mar shampla, comharthaíocht dhátheangach a thabhairt isteach in áiteanna atá fabhrach don teanga de ghnáth). Ach ba léir fosta go raibh cuid mhór daoine in éadan aon bheart leis an Ghaeilge a chothú.

Ach taispeánann an cur chuige a bhí taobh thiar den taighde seo nach bhfuil aon tiomantas ag an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta a bheith túsheartach i gcothú na teanga. Agus is cúis imní do POBAL é sin. Ní ghlacann muid leis gur chóir polasaí ar bith a bhunú don Ghaeilge a bheadh ag brath ar dhearcadh daoine atá in éadan soláthar Stáit ar bith a sholáthar do na Gaeilgeoirí. Is aisteach ar fad linn go dtabharfadh aon bheart taighde den chineál seo aitheantas do dhaoine atá naimhdeach don teanga, claon in éadán na Gaeilge. Os rud é go n-iarrair an Chairt ar na Stáit comhthuisct a chothú idir grúpaí teanga uilig na tíre, creideann POBAL gur theip glan ar an Roinn dúshlán naimhde na teanga a thabhairt.

administration. She emphasised that their work is continually influenced by these issues and expressed the belief that it was necessary to adopt a measured approach to introducing change, in order to build support and goodwill. Furthermore, she suggested that comparisons with other minority language situations in the UK frequently paid insufficient attention to differences in political context and to the impact of this on language policy making.

This approach to language policy is reflected in practice within DCAL in relation to the use of Irish. While DCAL has a lead role in relation to the implementation of the Charter and to language policy in general, it is disappointing to note that it has adopted quite a minimalist approach to the promotion of the Irish language, within the department. Thus, as outlined in section 4 of this report, other Executive departments have developed more comprehensive policies with regard to the publication of bilingual materials and to responding to correspondence in Irish.

Responsibilities in relation to the Irish language (and languages in general), represented a new policy area for the Northern Ireland administration and DCAL has initiated a research programme to inform its policy. In the case of the Irish language, a research project was commissioned which involved consultation with language groups, service providers and the general public. The level and nature of demand for the provision of service through Irish by public bodies was examined by conducting focus groups, individual interviews and a short quantitative survey of adults throughout the north of Ireland. The research report¹² outlines the broad spectrum of views on the provision of services through Irish, ranging from a demand for parity with English, through support for more limited measures to promote the use of Irish to opposition to any publicly funded support for the language. The results show that the proposal that the State should provide service through Irish in response to specific requests and in particular contexts (e.g the introduction of bilingual signage in areas where attitudes towards the language are generally favourable), attracted most support among respondents. However, there was also substantial opposition to measures to promote the Irish language.

POBAL is concerned that the overall approach

¹²Dunn Seamus et al, (2001) Establishing the demand for Services and Activities in the Irish Language in Northern Ireland, Tuairisc Taighde Uimhir 1, Ionad Polasaí, Measúnaíochta agus Taighde (DCAL).

¹²Dunn Seamus et al, (2001) Establishing the demand for Services and Activities in the Irish Language in Northern Ireland, Research Report No. 1, Policy, Evaluation and Research Unit (DCAL).



Ar leibhéal níos ginearálta is éigean a rá fosta nár éirigh leis an Roinn idirdhealú a dhéanamh idir éagsúlacht chultúrtha agus éagsúlacht teanga. Agus aon iarrachtaí a rinneadh chun caiteachas na Roinne ar an dá réimse seo a shoiléiriú, bhí siad fánach. Gan na cúrsaí sin a bheith soiléir is deacair a rá cad é an dul chun cinn atá déanta ar sholáthar don Ghaeilge, má tá dul chun cinn déanta ar chor ar bith.

De bhreis ar sin, ní dhearna an Roinn aon idirdhealú idir lucht na teanga dúchais agus lucht na mionlach eitneach. Os rud é go ndéanann an Cháirt idirdhealú soiléir idir teangacha dúchais agus teangacha eitneacha mionlaigh deir sé nach mbaineann an Chairt le scéal na dteangacha nuathagtha, teangacha neamh-Eorpacha i gcuid mhór cásanna, atá i ndiaidh nochtadh de thoradh imirce a tharla le déanaí sna stáit a shínigh an chairt. Is léir nach ndearna an polasaí oifigiúil cás an dá dhream seo a scaradh óna chéile agus ar an ábhar sin ní aithníonn sé an chosaint speisialta atá ag dul don Ghaeilge mar theanga dhúchais.

taken in conducting this research reflects a lack of commitment on the part of DCAL, to take a proactive approach to promoting the Irish language. We would question the validity of basing policy in relation to the Irish language on research that includes the views of those who are strongly opposed to any public provision for Irish speakers. This would seem at the least to be an unorthodox approach, which gives credence to the opinions of those who are prejudiced towards the language. Given that the Charter commits States to promote ‘... mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country’, POBAL believes that DCAL has failed to challenge such prejudice.

In general, the distinction between ‘cultural diversity’ and ‘linguistic diversity’ does not appear to have been adequately defined by DCAL. Attempts to obtain clarification on DCAL spending on these two different areas have proved unsuccessful. Without clarity on such issues, it is difficult to assess what progress, if any, is being made in relation to provision for the Irish language.

In addition, the situation of indigenous languages and of ethnic minority languages has not been adequately reflected in DCAL’s approach to language policy. Given that the Charter makes a clear distinction between indigenous languages and ethnic minority languages – where it is stated that ‘the Charter does not deal with the situation of new, often non-European languages which may have appeared in the signatory states as result of recent migration flows ...’, it should be noted that official policy has tended to blur this distinction, and to fail to acknowledge the specific protection which is due to the Irish language, as an indigenous language.

3. TRÁCHT POBAL FAOI THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS – CODANNA I AGUS II

Rianaíonn an mhír seo freagra POBAL ar thuairisc Rialtas na Breataine¹³ faoi Chodanna 1 agus 2 den Cháirt. I mír a 4 rianaítear freagra s’againne ar an tuairisc oifigiúil ar fheidhmiú Chuid III den Chairt.

CUID I

Leathanach 5 - Aithnítear Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta (Béal Feirste) (1998) mar chuid bhunúsach den chreatlach reachtaíochta do na teangacha i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Aithníonn an Comhaontú seo scéal ar leith na teanga Gaeilge agus déanann sé tagairtí soiléire do na bearta a dhéanfar chun í a chothú. Ach tá an chuid is mó de na forálacha atá sa ráiteas mór seo faoi stádas na Gaeilge gan cur i bhfeidhm fós.

Seo thíos na forálacha:

‘...déanfaidh Rialtas na Breataine go háirithe i ndáil leis an Ghaeilge, más cuí agus más mian le daoine amhlaidh:

- gníomh diongbháilte chun an teanga a chur chun cinn

Riamh anall ón lá a síníodh an Comhaontú níl polasaí oifigiúil an Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge baol ar bheith ina ghníomh ‘diongbháilte’ i leith na teanga. Mar a léiríodh cheana i gcuid 2 den aighneacht seo, is cosúil go raibh an mana "Blas ar an bheagán" ag na húdaráis chuí i leith na Cairte, ó thaobh an ionstraim dhaingnithe agus ó thaobh phróiseas an fheidhmithe chomh maith. Léireofar seo go mionsonrach i gcomhthéacs an phlé faoi fheidhmiú Chuid III den Chairt.

- Úsáid na teanga a éascú agus a spreagadh sa chaint agus i scríbhneoireacht sa saol príobháideach agus sa saol poiblí mar a mbeidh éileamh cuí uirthi

Ní dhearnadh aon iarracht chuimsitheach le húsáid na Gaeilge sa labhairt agus sa scríbhneoireacht a chur chun cinn ar fud na sochaí. Mar shampla, taobh istigh den chóras riaracháin tá úsáid na Gaeilge go fóill ar bhonn iontach teoranta agus tá constaicí móra ann ar fad in éadan úsáid na Gaeilge i dTionól an Tuaiscirt. (Tuilleadh sonraí faoi

3. COMMENTS ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT – PARTS I AND II

This section outlines POBAL’s response to the British government report¹³, relating to Parts I and II of the Charter. Our response to the official report on the implementation of Part III of the Charter, is outlined in section 4.

PART I

Page 5. – The Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement (1998) is identified as part of the legislative framework relating to languages in Northern Ireland. The Agreement recognises the special position of the Irish language and makes specific reference to the measures which will be taken to promote it. However, most of the provisions of this key statement on the status of the Irish language, have not as yet been implemented.

The undertakings are as follows:

‘... the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:

- take resolute action to promote the language

Official policy towards the Irish language since the signing of the Agreement, falls far short of ‘resolute’ action in support of the language. As already outlined in section 2, the relevant authorities have demonstrated a minimalist approach to the Charter, both in regard to the ratification instrument and its subsequent implementation. This will be illustrated in more detail in relation to the implementation of Part III of the Charter.

- facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand

There has been no comprehensive attempt to promote the use of Irish in speech and writing, throughout society. For example, the use of Irish within the administration has been introduced on a strictly limited basis and there remain significant obstacles to the use of Irish in the Northern Ireland Assembly. (More detail in relation to this is provided in the discussion on Article 10 –

¹³Céad Tuairisc Tráthrialta na Ríochta Aontaithe faoi Chairt na hEorpa um Theangacha Réigiúnda agus Mionlaigh, Mí Iúil, 2002.

¹³Initial Periodical Report of the UK on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, July 2002.



seo san imchaint ar Alt 10 – Údaráis Riaracháin agus Seirbhísí Poiblí – Cuid III den Chairt).

- Iarracht chun deireadh a chur, más féidir é, le srianta a chuirfeadh nó a d'oibreodh in aghaidh chothú nó fhorbairt na teanga;

Deir an tAcht um Riaradh an Cheartais (Teanga) (Éire) 1737 gur i mBéarla ar fad a reáchtálfar imeachtaí na gCúirteanna Dlí. Is bac gan bogadh fós é sin ar úsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna.

- Foráil maidir le hidirchaidreamh le pobal na Gaeilge, agus a gcuid tuairimí a léiriú d'údaráis phoiblí agus gearáin a imscrúdú;

Chun an fhoráil seo a fheidhmiú go hiomlán ba ghá córas éasca teagmhála a bhunú idir pobal na Gaeilge agus na húdaráis. Bheadh gá fosta le foras, ar nós Ombudsman na Gaeilge, chun déileáil le gearáin. Ó tharla gan beart ar bith a bheith déanta i dtreo cheachtar den dá rud seo tá caidreamh an phobail leis na húdaráis teoranta agus míshásúil go fóill.

- Dualgas reachtúil a chur ar an Roinn Oideachais chun oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge a spreagadh agus a éascú de réir na socruithe láithreacha don oideachas comhtháite;

A bhuí leis an Ord Oideachais (Tuaisceart na hÉireann) 1998, tá an fhoráil seo anois i bhfeidhm. Mar a dúradh áit eile sa tuairisc seo, léiríonn na forbairtí is déanaí i réimse an oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge go bhfuil buanmhéadú dearfachta i mana na n-údarás, ní hionann is leithcheal na mblianta fada roimhe seo.

- An scóip atá ann chun Teilifís na Gaeilge¹⁴ a chur ar fáil níos forleithne i dTuaisceart na hÉireann a scrúdú, mar ábhar práinne, in éineacht le húdaráis iomchuí na Breataine agus i gcomhar le húdaráis chraolacháin na hÉireann.

Administrative Authorities and Public Services – of Part III of the Charter).

- seek to remove where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language

The Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 states that all court proceedings must be conducted in English, thereby preventing the use of Irish in court proceedings.

- make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints

The full implementation of this provision would require the establishment of a structure to facilitate contact between the Irish language community and the authorities. It would also require the establishment of a grievance mechanism, such as an Ombudsman's Office for the Irish language. To date, no actions have been taken on either of these measures and communication between the Irish language community and the authorities remains limited and unsatisfactory.

- place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish-medium education in line with current provision for integrated education

This provision has been implemented in the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. As noted elsewhere in this report, recent developments in relation to Irish-medium education reflect increasingly positive policies in this area, which follow many years of discriminatory policy towards the Irish-medium sector.

- explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilge¹⁴ in Northern Ireland

¹⁴TG4 a baisteadh ar an stáisiún ó shin.

¹⁴The station has since been re-named as TG4.

Cé gurb eol do POBAL go ndearna an rialtas iarrachtaí áirithe sa treo seo níl seirbhís shásúil curtha ar fáil don phobal fós, agus tá ceithre bliana imithe thart ó síníodh an Comhaontú. (Tuilleadh faoi seo san imchaint ar Alt 11 - na Meáin - de Chuid III den Chairt)

- Bealaí níos éifeachtaí a lorg chun spreagadh agus taca airgeadais a thabhairt do léiriú scannán agus clár teilifíse trí Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann

Tá maoiniú ar fáil don oiliúint, ach níor cuireadh maoiniú breise don táirgeadh ina chuideachta. Ní léir ach oiread an nasc atá idir oiliúint agus "spreagadh agus taca airgeadais a thabhairt". Is beag fianaise atá ann ar aon bheart dearfa atá déanta chun maoiniú a lorg agus a chur ar fáil chun teilifís agus scannáin Ghaeilge a tháirgeadh.

- Na páirtithe a spreagadh chun teacht ar chomhaontú go leanfaidh Tionól nua den tiomantas sin ar shlí a chuirfidh san áireamh mianta agus fógaireachtaí an phobail.

Is focal scoir an fhoráil seo a léiríonn an cur chuige ginearálta a bheidh ann i bhfeidhmiú na dtiomantas a luaíodh roimhe agus tagraíonn sé d'ionad na teanga i gcúlra mór na polaitíochta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Go dearfa tá baint idir an cúlra polaitiúil agus polasaí teanga. Ach mar sin féin tá sé de dhualgas ar lucht déanta polasaí an gníomh diongbháilte i gcothú na Gaeilge a chleachtadh in áit a bheith ag ligean do bhuarthaí polaitiúla treo an pholasaí a stiúradh.

Leathanach 10 – Deirtear sa tuairisc ‘Go ndearnadh idirchomhairle leis na Ranna Rialtais uilig sa Tuaisceart agus le réimse maith comhlachtaí gaolmhara i gcomhair na tuairisce seo’. Is éigean dúinn a rá áfach nach ndearnadh iarracht ar bith chun tuairimí na nGaelghrúpaí neamhrialtasacha a fháil faoi ábhar na tuairisce seo ón Stát.

Leathanach 11 – Maidir leis na bearta a rinneadh le heolas a scaipeadh, rinne POBAL monatóireacht i dtaca leis an Chairt agus fuair sé amach go raibh moill mhór ann go minic ar scaipeadh eolais agus treoirlínte chuig na comhlachtaí poiblí cuí uilig. (Tugtar tuilleadh fianaise faoi seo go sonrigh in eanáil 4).

While POBAL is aware that government can point to efforts on this issue, the service available to the Irish language community in the North remains very unsatisfactory, some four years after the signing of the Agreement. (More detail in relation to this is provided in the discussion on Article 11 – Media – of Part III of the Charter).

- seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland

Funding has been made available for training in these areas, but this has not been accompanied by further financial support for production. Nor is it clear what the link is between training and ‘encouraging and providing financial support’. There is in general a lack of evidence as to the concrete measures taken to secure or provide funding for television and film production in Irish.

- encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by a new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community

This provision relates to the overall approach to be taken in relation to the preceding commitments on the Irish language and refers to the position of the language and the wider political context in the North of Ireland. While this undoubtedly has an influence on language policy, it is also clear that it is incumbent on policy makers to pursue ‘resolute action’ to promote the Irish language, rather than allowing political concerns to dictate the nature of policy.

Page 10 – It is stated that ‘All Northern Ireland Departments and a range of associated bodies were consulted for this report’. It should be noted that no attempt was made to seek the views of non-governmental Irish language groups on the content of the State report.

Page 11 – In relation to the measures taken to circulate information, the results of POBAL’s monitoring in relation to the Charter indicate that there were considerable delays in issuing information and guidelines to all of the relevant public bodies. (This evidence is presented in greater detail in section 4).



D'fháiltigh POBAL roimh bhunú Ghrúpa Idir-rannach na Cairte. Is ábhar imní é áfach nach bhfuil an grúpa sin ag obair ar dhóigh chomh héifeachtach agus a bheadh de dhíth. De réir eolais a tháinig ón Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta¹⁵, níor tháinig an grúpa le chéile ach ceithre huaire suas go dtí Aibreán 2002. Tharla moill mhór fosta i seachadadh chríochleagan na dtreoirilinte Cairte chuig na Ranna Rialtais agus chuig forais phoiblí chuí eile.

Má tá dualgas ann eolas faoin Chairt a scaipeadh chuig na forais cuí uilig, dar le POBAL go mbaineann seo fosta leis na grúpaí teanga comh maith. Tá easpa cur chuige onghníomhaigh shoiléir le sonrú in imeachtaí na n-údarás (go háirithe imeachtaí na Roinne Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta, dream a bhfuil príomhfhreagracht na gcúrsaí seo acu) i dtaca le heolas faoin Chairt a thabhairt do na grúpaí Gaeilge. Le linn obair mhonatóireachta POBAL is ar ár gconlán féin a fuair muid aon eolas faoin dul chun cinn i bhfeidhmiú na Cairte. Mar shampla, rinne muid teagmháil le Ranna an Fheidhmeannais agus le roinnt foras poiblí (rud a gcuirtear síos go sonrach air in earnáil 4) agus chuir muid ceisteanna faoin Chairt. Thairis sin, shocraigh muid cruinniú le hÓifig Thuaisceart Éireann agus le hÓifig an Chéad Aire agus LeasChéad Aire chun feidhmiú na Cairte a phlé. Is éigean a fhógairt go soiléir áfach nach ndearna na húdaráis aon rud le tús a chur leis na teagmhálacha sin nó le heolas a thabhairt do ghrúpaí Gaeilge faoin Chairt. Fáiltíonn POBAL roimh an scéala gur rún don Ghrúpa Idir-rannach ar an Chairt cruinniú oscailte faoin Chairt a eagrú. Tá súil againn fosta go mbeidh an chríochleagan de na socruithe uilig ar fáil gan mórán moille.

Focal scoir faoin easpa idirchomhairle le pobal na Gaeilge. Is cosúil go síleann an RCEF gur leor a bheith ag déanamh teagmhála le forais reachtúla Ghaeilge (ar nós Iontaobhas Ultach agus Foras na Gaeilge)¹⁶. Fágann a leithéid seo de dhearcadh agus de mhodh imeachta áfach nach dtagann tuairimí na ngrúpaí neamhrialtasacha i láthair RCEF nó chuig comhlachtaí uile a bhfuil freagracht acu i dtaca le forbairt polasáí teanga.

While the establishment of the Interdepartmental Charter Group is to be welcomed, POBAL is concerned that the group has not operated as effectively as might be expected. According to information supplied by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure¹⁵, the group had met on just four occasions, by April 2002 and there has also been a prolonged delay in issuing finalised guidance on the Charter to Executive departments and other relevant public bodies.

The requirement to ensure that all relevant bodies are adequately informed about the Charter, presumably also relates to raising awareness among the language groups concerned. There has been a marked lack of a pro-active approach by the authorities (and most particularly by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)), who have lead responsibility in this regard) to informing Irish language groups about the Charter. During POBAL's monitoring work, all of our information on progress in implementing the Charter was obtained on our own initiative. Thus, we contacted the Executive departments and a range of other public bodies (this is described in greater detail in section 4) with enquiries about the Charter. We also arranged meetings with the Northern Ireland Office and with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, to discuss the implementation of the Charter. However, it should be noted that the authorities did not take any steps to initiate such contact or to inform Irish language groups of issues relating to the Charter. POBAL welcomes the information that the Interdepartmental Charter Group plans to host an open meeting on the Charter and would hope that the detailed arrangements will be finalised shortly.

As a final observation on the lack of genuine consultation with the Irish language community, by the authorities, it would appear that DCAL takes the view that contacts with statutory Irish language bodies (Iontaobhas Ultach and Foras na Gaeilge) constitute adequate liaison with Irish language groups¹⁶. However, this means that the views of non-governmental Irish language groups are not adequately represented to DCAL and other bodies, with responsibility for developing language policy.

¹⁵Freagra ó Michael McGimpsey, Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta, ar cheist ó Gerry Adams MLA, 8 Aibreán 2002.

¹⁶Nochtadh an tuairim seo ag Ceannaire Aonad Éagsúlacht Teanga sa Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i rith cruinnithe a bhí aici le POBAL i mí na Bealtaine 2002.

¹⁵Response by Michael McGimpsey, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to Gerry Adams MLA, 8 April 2002.

¹⁶This view was expressed by the Head of the Linguistic Diversity Unit in DCAL, during a meeting with POBAL in May 2002.

CUID II

Leathanach 15 – I dtaca leis an chlár taighde atá ag Aonad Éagsúlacht Teanga an RCEF, tugann POBAL faoi deara go bhfuil plean straitéiseach forbartha arna ordú i gcás Albanais Uladh. Cé go bhfuil difríocht shoiléir ann idir scéal na Gaeilge agus scéal Albanais Uladh faoi láthair creideann POBAL go gcaithfear tús áite a thabhairt don phleanáil straitéiseach i leith na Gaeilge agus gur chóir go mbeadh seo ina slánchuid de chlár oibre na Roinne.

Leathanach 16 – Maidir le daonáireamh 2001, is éigean a lua gur i mBéarla amháin a bhí na foirmeacha daonáirimh le fáil. Thairis sin níl sé soiléir go mbeadh aon fhoirmeacha a líonadh i nGaeilge inglachtha mar fhoirmeacha bailí.

Leathanach 22 – I dtaca leis an idirchomhairle le pobal na Gaeilge, bheadh míniú agus soiléiriú de dhith ar POBAL maidir leis na grúpaí sonracha a bhfuil rún ag an Aonad Éagsúlacht Teanga teagmháil a dhéanamh leo, agus maidir le minicíocht agus modh oibre na dteagmhálacha sin.

Ar bhonn níos ginearálta, i ndiaidh an t-eolas a léamh a tugadh dúinn ar fheidhmiú Cuid II den Chairt, nílimid cinnte ar chor ar bith gur cuireadh tosca na Gaeilge agus tosca Albanais Uladh san áireamh i gceart agus an polasaí á chumadh. Sa chuntas atá ann, mar shampla, faoi na céimeanna a tugadh le húsáid na Gaeilge agus Albanais Uladh a chothú sna meáin chumarsáide, i bhfoilseacháin oifigiúla agus i gcomhfhreagras leis an chóras riaracháin dealraíonn sé gur polasaí ‘comhfhreastail’ atá i gceist. Tuigimid ar ndóigh gurb éigean cuntas cuimsitheach a thabhairt sa mhír seo faoi na céimeanna a tugadh i gcás Albanais Uladh, teanga nár sonraíodh faoi Chuid III den Chairt, ach tá imní ar POBAL nach bhfuil fianaise ar bith ann go bhfuil tábhacht uathúil na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann aitheanta go sásúil i dtaca le feidhmiú na Cairte.

PART II

Page 15 – With reference to the research programme of the Linguistic Diversity Unit of DCAL, POBAL notes that Unit has commissioned a strategic development plan for Ulster-Scots. While there are clear differences in the circumstances of the Irish language and Ulster-Scots, at present, POBAL believes that strategic planning is a priority in relation to the Irish language and that this should be reflected in DCAL’s work programme.

Page 16 – In relation to the 2001 Census, it should be noted that the census forms were available only in English. Furthermore, it was not clear whether forms completed in Irish would be accepted as valid.

Page 22 - With regard to consultation with the Irish language community, POBAL would welcome clarification on the particular Irish language groups with which the Linguistic Diversity Branch of DCAL liaises, and also on the frequency and format of this contact.

In general, the information supplied on the implementation of Part II of the Charter, raises some questions about the extent to which language policy on Irish and Ulster-Scots has been developed with appropriate regard to the individual circumstances of each language. For example, the account of measures taken to promote the use of Irish and Ulster-Scots in the media, in official publications and in correspondence with the administration, indicates that a policy of ‘parallel provision’ has been adopted. While it is clear that this section requires a comprehensive account of measures taken in relation to Ulster-Scots, which has not been specified under Part III of the Charter, POBAL is concerned that there is insufficient evidence that the special position of the Irish language in the north of Ireland, has been adequately recognised in relation to the implementation of the Charter.

4. FEIDHMIÚ NA CAIRTE – CUID III

ALT 8 – OIDEACHAS

Mar a d'úradh sa Réamhrá, tharla fás buan sa Ghaelscolaíocht i dTuaisceart na hÉireann le tríocha bliain anuas. Is de bharr tionscadail an phobail féin a tharla é seo, d'ainneoin neamhspéise agus naimhdis uaireanta, ó na húdaráis. Le blianta beag anuas ar ndóigh tá mana níos fearr ag na húdaráis ar earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta agus dá chomhartha sin ritheadh an tOrd Oideachais (TÉ) 1998. San Ord seo ceanglaítear ar Roinn an Oideachais 'spreagadh agus éascú a thabhairt d'fhorbairt na Gaelscolaíochta.' Cuireadh dhá fhoras reachtúla ar bun le déanaí san earnáil seo agus is aitheantas breise é an beart sin do na Gaelscoileanna. 'Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta' a thugtar ar cheann amháin a bunaíodh sa bhliain 2001 agus tá sí freagrach as cothú na Gaelscolaíochta. Tá ról ionadaíochta aici don earnáil uilig, agus ról comhairleach aici i dtaca le scoileanna nua agus planáil. Tá 'Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta' ann fosta, rud a bunaíodh i 2001 agus gan de ról aige ach maoiniú a choinneáil leis na scoileanna nach bhfuair aitheantas oifigiúil fós agus nach bhfuil i dteideal aon mhaoiniú a fháil ón Roinn Oideachais. Dea-fhorbairt eile ar an pholasáí ba ea athmheas na gcritéar inmharthanachta. Roimh an athrú seo bhí rolla 25 dalta de dhíth chun bheith inmhaoinithe. Tá an figiúr seo íslithe go dtí 15 i mBéal Feirste agus i nDoire agus go dtí 12 do na scoileanna taobh amuigh den dá mhórchéantar uirbeacha sin.

In ainneoin seo uilig tá roinnt ábhar imní ann do na Gaelscoileanna arb éigean dul i ngleic leo chun gealltanais na Cairte a chur i bhfeidhm go sásúil.

• Áiseanna agus Ábhair Teagaisc

Tá roinnt tograí ar siúl chun ábhair a fhorbairt do na Gaelscoileanna. Tá Áisionad ann i gColáiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire - coláiste oiliúna múinteoireachta i mBéal Feirste agus cuireann sé seo ábhair ar fáil. Tá maoiniú ar fáil fosta faoi chlár síochána an AE chun ábhair a sholáthar do bhunscoileanna sa Tuaisceart. Ach ní leor na tionscnaimh seo chun freastal ar riachtanais na hearnála seo atá ag fás go borrach buan. Tá gá le tuilleadh acmhainní. Cuireann an easpa ábhair agus áiseanna teagaisc sna Gaelscoileanna cúram

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER – PART III

ARTICLE 8 – EDUCATION

As outlined in the introduction, the past three decades have seen a sustained growth in Irish-medium education in the north of Ireland. This has resulted from community initiatives and has largely taken place in a context of official indifference or even hostility. In recent times, the educational authorities have adopted more favourable policies towards the Irish-medium sector, including the introduction of the Education Order (Northern Ireland) 1998. This commits the Department of Education to 'facilitate and encourage the development of Irish-medium schools'. The recent establishment of two statutory bodies with responsibilities in relation to Irish-medium education also reflects the increasing official recognition of this sector. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (the Council for Irish-medium education), which was established in 2000, is responsible for the promotion of Irish-medium schooling. Its role includes representing the Irish-medium sector, advising groups in establishing new schools and overall planning for the future development of the sector. Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta (the Irish-medium education Trust), which was set up at the start of 2001, has the specific role of providing funding to schools which have not attained official status (and so do not qualify for funding from the Department of Education). Another favourable policy development in relation to Irish-medium education was the revision of the viability criteria for primary schools. Prior to this revision, schools had to have 25 pupils enrolled in order to qualify for grant-aid. This has now been reduced to 15 pupils for schools in Belfast and Derry and to 12 pupils for schools outside the two main urban areas.

There are a number of specific concerns in relation to existing provision for Irish-medium education, which need to be addressed to ensure satisfactory implementation of the Charter commitments.

• Resources and teaching materials

There are a number of projects in place to develop materials for Irish-medium schools. Thus, there is

breise ar na múinteoirí, cúram nach mbíonn ar a leathbhreac féin sna scoileanna Béarla. De réir taighde a rinne POBAL le déanaí deir múinteoirí na nGaelscoileanna gurb éigean an t-uafás ama a chaitheamh ag aistriú téacsanna ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge. Dhírigh siad ár n-aird ar an ghéarghá atá ann le téacsleabhair, leabhair léitheoireachta, ábhar closamhairc agus bogearraí ríomhaireachta.

Cuireann an ganntanas acmhainní agus áiseanna Gaelscoileanna faoi mhíbhuntáiste mór i gcomparáid leis na scoileanna Béarla. Ní féidir le forálacha na Cairte an Gaeloideachas a chur i bhfeidhm i gceart gan aghaidh a thabhairt ar an ghanntanas seo agus maoiniú i gcomhair acmhainní agus áiseanna cuí a chur ar fáil dóibh.

- **Seirbhísí Sláinte agus Seirbhísí Saineolaithe**

Cé go bhfuil fás buan le daichead bliain anuas ar an earnáil Ghaelscolaíochta, is beag forbairt atá le feiceáil sa soláthar do chúrsaí sláinte agus seirbhísí speisialta eile trí mheán na Gaeilge do na daltaí. Baineann seo go speisialta leis an tSeirbhís Sláinte do na scoileanna agus don mheasúnacht fhorbartha a dhéantar ar na páistí. I measc na bhfadhbanna is géire faoi láthair tá an easpa uirlisí diagnóiseacha don mheasúnacht ar chúrsaí teanga agus ar fhorbairt céille i gcás daltaí dátheangacha. Ó tharla gur i mBéarla a forbraíodh na trialacha seo uilig, tá sé fíordheacair measúnacht bheacht a dhéanamh ar pháistí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna Gaeilge. Mar bharr air sin tá ganntanas mór foirne sna Seirbhísí Sláinte agus Seirbhísí Gaolmhara (ar nós teiripe cainte, síceolaíochta agus oibre sóisialta) i measc daoine ar féidir leo a gcuid oibre a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.

Téann an easpa fhorbartha sa réimse seo go mór i bhfeidhm ar pháistí a bhfuil sainriachtanais acu. De dheasca na mbearnaí sa chóras measúnachta agus leighis is éigean anois go minic do pháistí a bhfuil sainriachtanais acu éirí as an Ghaelscolaíocht agus dul chuig scoileanna eile chun seirbhísí cuí a fháil. Le linn an taighde a rinne POBAL i measc phobal na Gaeilge fuair siad cuntas ar chuid de na cásanna seo agus ba bhriseadh mór croí iad ag tuismitheoirí, múinteoirí agus ag páistí chomh maith.

a Resources Unit (An tÁisaonad) in St. Mary's University College – a teacher training college in Belfast – which produces materials for schools. Funding has also been made available under the EU Peace Programme to provide materials for Irish-medium primary schools in the north of Ireland. However, these initiatives are not sufficient to serve the needs of this fast growing sector of education and there is a need for substantially increased resources. The inadequate supply of teaching materials and resources for use in Irish-medium schools places pupils and teachers at a disadvantage in relation to their counterparts in English-medium schools. In a research study conducted by POBAL, teachers in Irish-medium schools reported that translation of various school texts from English to Irish constituted a major part of their workload. They identified an urgent need for the provision of a range of materials (text-books, readers, audio-visual material, software) in Irish.

The inadequate provision of teaching materials and resources for Irish-medium schools places these schools at a considerable disadvantage relative to English-medium schools. The full implementation of the Charter provisions on Irish-medium education requires that this deficiency be addressed, through substantially increased funding and resources for the development of suitable materials.

- **Health and Specialist services**

While the Irish-medium education sector has grown and developed over the past four decades, there has been very little development in the provision of health and other specialist services through the medium of Irish for pupils attending these schools. This applies to the school health service and to the developmental assessments of children. One of the most pressing problems is the lack of appropriate diagnostic tools for the assessment of language and cognitive development in bilingual (English and Irish) children. Since all of the tests currently available have been developed in English, there are serious problems in obtaining accurate assessments of children attending Irish-medium schools. In addition, there is a severe shortage of staff in the health services and related services (such as speech therapy, psychology, social work) who are



Bhí taighdeoir amháin darbh ainm Ó Hagan¹⁷ ag fiosrú faoi thaithí chainteoirí Gaeilge mar úsáideoirí na seirbhísí sláinte agus fuair sé amach go raibh na tuismitheoirí buartha go mór faoin íde a bhí á tabhairt do na páistí ag na cuairteoirí gairmiúla seo. Is iomaí tuismitheoir a nocht a míshásamh faoin dóigh ar cuireadh an mheasúnacht fhorbartha ar na páistí. Ó tharla gur réachtáladh na measúnachtaí seo i mBéarla agus go raibh gné teanga ag baint leo cibé ar bith, ba mhínic a bhí na tuismitheoirí in amhras faoi fhóirsteanacht an phróisis mheasúnachta dá bpáistí.

Thuairiscigh na tuismitheoirí chomh maith faoi ócáidí áirithe nuair a dúirt na hoibrithe gairmiúla gurbh am amú é an t-oideachas dátheangach agus go raibh sé ag cur isteach ar fhorbairt na bpáistí a raibh fadhbanna cainte nó fadhbanna eile forbartha acu. Níor míníodh bunús na dtuairimí seo go sásúil riamh do na tuismitheoirí agus tá sé ag teacht salach ar an dearcadh forleathan go bhfuil buntáistí ag baint leis an dátheangachas. Léiríonn taighde O'Hagan an dóigh a dtéann an easpa seirbhísí cuí seo i bhfeidhm ar na páistí agus ar na tuismitheoirí. Taispeánann sé fosta an phráinn atá le soláthar agus forbairt na seirbhísí sin i nGaeilge.

Tá POBAL i ndiaidh páirtíochtaí a chur ar bun le lucht soláthar seirbhísí sláinte i mBéal Feirste chun dul i ngleic le cuid de na riachtanais seo. Dá thairbhe sin tá dul chun cinn éigin déanta acu maidir le hoiliúint na foirne sláinte agus soláthar na seirbhísí sláinte do na Gaelscoileanna.

Tá POBAL ag comhoibriú fosta le scátheagras den chineál chéanna i bPoblacht na hÉireann ar thogra i gcomhair treoirínte do lucht teiripe cainte agus iad ag déanamh measúnachta ar fhorbairt teanga i gcás páistí dátheangacha. Tá géarghá le tuilleadh oibre ar an togra seo. Ar leibhéal Ranna an Fheidhmeannais, is léir go bhfuil dualgas ar na Ranna Sláinte agus Oideachais sa réimse seo agus tá comhoibriú de dhíth ón dá chuid ar an obair seo.

competent to conduct their professional duties through Irish.

The lack of development in this area has a particularly serious impact on children with special needs. The absence of appropriate services, from assessment to treatment has resulted in a situation where children with special needs are often forced to leave Irish-medium education, in order to avail of suitable specialist services. During POBAL's research on the needs of the Irish language community, a number of these instances were reported and were described as being very distressing for parents, teachers and pupils.

During the course of his research on the experiences of Irish speakers as users of the health service, O'Hagan¹⁷ found that the way in which children were treated by professionals was of central concern to parents. It was common for parents to express dissatisfaction with the way in which developmental assessments of children were conducted. Since these assessments, which frequently included a language element, were generally conducted through English, parents often doubted the appropriateness of the assessment procedure for their children. Parents also reported instances where professional workers suggested that a bilingual upbringing or education was detrimental to children who showed signs of speech or other developmental difficulties. This opinion was never explained to parents and is contrary to the widely acknowledged benefits of bilingualism. O'Hagan's research highlights the practical consequences for parents and children of the lack of appropriate services and confirms the need to develop such services.

POBAL has established partnerships with health service providers in Belfast, in order to address some of these needs. This has resulted in some progress in relation to the provision of training for health service staff and the provision of school health services through Irish. POBAL are also co-operating with a similar Irish language umbrella group in the Republic of Ireland on a project to develop guidelines for speech therapists in assessing language development in bilingual children. There is a pressing need for this work to be further developed. At the level of the Executive departments, it is clear that the departments of health and education have responsibilities in this area, and the development of the work requires co-operation at this level.

¹⁷O'Hagan, Kieran (2001) *Cultural Competence in the Caring Professions*, Jessica Kingsley, London

¹⁷O'Hagan, Kieran (2001) *Cultural Competence in the Caring Professions*, Jessica Kingsley, London

Tá an soláthar a dhéanann na seirbhísí sláinte agus sainiúla eile míshásúil ar fad i gcomhair na Gaelscolaíochta faoi láthair. Go sonrach, tá géarghá le huirlisí diagnóiseacha do mheasúnacht teanga agus do mheasúnacht forbartha céille do pháistí dátheangacha agus le soláthar seirbhísí cuí do pháistí a bhfuil sainriachtanais acu i scoileanna Gaeilge. Gan aghaidh a thabhairt ar na ceisteanna seo ní féidir forálacha na Cairte a chur i bhfeidhm go hiomlán.

- **Soláthar Iarscoile**

In earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta is beag soláthar iarscoile atá le fáil. Os rud é go mbíonn cuid mhór de na tuismitheoirí a chuireann a gcuid páistí chuig na Gaelscoileanna ar bheagán Gaeilge iad féin, is léir go bhfuil gá le clubanna iarscoile agus clubanna obair bhaile mar chuidiú do na páistí agus do na tuismitheoirí.

- **Teagasc na Gaeilge sna scoileanna Béarla**

Is fíor gurb iad na Gaelscoileanna na rudaí is tábhachtaí maidir le fás agus forbairt phobal na Gaeilge. Is cuid fhíorbheag go fóill iad de phobal scoile an Tuaiscirt áfach. Dá bhrí sin, tá tábhacht mhór le teagasc na Gaeilge sna scoileanna Béarla fosta cionn is gur féidir leis seo teacht a fhad le níos mó daltaí. I láthair na huaire ní gnách an teagasc seo a dhéanamh ach sna scoileanna dara leibhéal. Níl áit ar bith ann don teanga ar churaclam reatha na mbunscoileanna. Ag an dara leibhéal teagascar an Ghaeilge i dtromlach na scoileanna Caitliceacha agus i gcorrscoil chomhtháite chomh maith. I scoileanna de chineálacha eile tugadh léargas éigin ar an Ghaeilge do na daltaí a bhuí leis an Chlár Saibhrithe sa Léann Gaelach a chuir Gael-Linn ar fáil ó 1995 ar aghaidh. Clúdaíonn an clár seo roinnt mhór ábhar: ciall na logainmneacha, tionchar na Gaeilge ar an chineál Béarla a labhartar in Éirinn, bunchúrsa i nGaeilge Uladh agus araile. De réir na measúnachtaí a rinneadh ar an chlár seo¹⁸ is cosúil gur glacadh go maith leis agus gur spreag sé daltaí chun tuilleadh staidéir a dhéanamh ar an teanga.

The provision of health and other specialist services that are appropriate to Irish-medium education is far from satisfactory, at present. In particular, there is an urgent need for diagnostic tools for the assessment of language and cognitive development in bilingual children and for the provision of appropriate services for children with special needs in Irish-medium schools. Full implementation of the Charter provisions on education requires that these issues be addressed.

- **After-school provision**

In the Irish-medium sector, after-school provision is currently very limited. Given that many parents who choose Irish-medium education for their children may have limited ability in Irish, there is a clear need for the establishment of after-school and homework clubs, to assist parents and children.

- **Teaching of Irish in English-medium schools**

Clearly, Irish-medium education has been and continues to be central to the further growth and development of the Irish language community. However, the pupils attending Irish-medium schools constitute a small minority of the total pupil population in the north of Ireland. Thus, the teaching of Irish in English-medium schools is an important area, which has the potential to reach a much greater number of pupils. At present, the teaching of Irish in English-medium schools is largely confined to second-level. Irish is not generally taught at primary level as there is no provision for this within the current primary level curriculum. Irish is taught in a majority of Catholic managed schools and in some integrated schools at second-level. Pupils in other school types have been introduced to Irish, through the Enrichment Programme in Gaelic Studies, provided by Gael-Linn since 1995. The programme covers a range of topics including the origin of place names and the influence of Irish on the English spoken in Ireland, as well as a basic course in Ulster Irish. Evaluations of the programme¹⁸ show that it has been positively received and has generated an interest in further study of Irish among pupils.

¹⁸Gael-Linn a rinne na measúnachtaí seo, agus tháinig an maoiniú ón CCRU (Lár-ionad don Chaidreamh Trasphobail).

¹⁸These were carried out by Gael-Linn and the sponsor organisation CCRU (Central Community Relations Unit).

Tháinig teagasc na Gaeilge sna scoileanna Béarla faoi bhagairt roinnt uaireanta nuair a rinneadh bearta pholasaí oideachais ar rún dóibh, de réir cosúlachta, stádas na teanga sna scoileanna a íslíú. Sa bhliain 1988/99 rinneadh iarracht an Ghaeilge a bhaint de liosta na dteangacha nua-aimseartha a bhí inglactha don churaclam dara leibhéal. Theip ar an iarracht seo.

Deir McKendry áfach¹⁹ go bhfuil laghdú le feiceáil ar líon na ndaltaí i scoileanna dara leibhéal atá ag foghlaim Gaeilge, tar éis leasú an chórais oideachais i 1989 de dheasca chaolú ar an amchlár agus ar an bhuiséad.

Tá géarghá ann le gníomh dearfach chun an Ghaeilge a chothú mar ábhar i scoileanna Béarla má tá an gealltanais a bhí in Alt 8 den Chairt le comhlíonadh.

• Oiliúint

I measc na ngealltanais a rinneadh maidir leis an Ghaeilge sa chóras oideachais tá gealltanais ar leith ann a bhaineann le hoiliúint chuí a chur ar fáil do mhúinteoirí (Alt 8, h).

Mar chuid den chúrsa don chéim ‘ Baitsiléir Oideachais’ atá ar fáil i gColáiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire i mBéal Feirste tá cosán Gaeilge ann a thairgeann oideachas ar leith do na daoine sin ar mian leo obair a dhéanamh san earnáil seo. Teagasc dátheangach a dhéantar sa chosán seo. Reáchtálann an Ollscoil seo teastas iarchéime san oideachas (TICO) fosta don Ghaeilge agus déantar an chuid is mó den teagasc trí Ghaeilge ar mhaithe le céimithe ar mian leo post a ghlacadh i mBunscoileanna lánGhaeilge.

In alt a foilsíodh le déanaí i Lá²⁰ dúirt príomhfheidhmeanach Chomhairle na Gaelscolaíochta go bhfuil ganntanais múinteoirí ar cheann de na fadhbanna is mó atá ag cur isteach ar earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta sa Tuaisceart faoi láthair. Mar shampla, thuairiscigh sé go raibh 28 múinteoir nuacháilithe a dhíth don scoilbhliain 2002/2003 ach nach rabhtas ag dúil le níos mó ná 24 ó na cúrsaí oiliúna múinteoireachta. Tá an ganntanais múinteoirí seo bainteach le dhá rud, ganntanais áiteanna traenála múinteoireachta sa chéad áit, agus mar bharr air sin an deacracht a bhíonn ag cuid de na hiarrthóirí an caighdeán cuí a bhaint amach i gcomhair oiliúna gairmiúla.

The teaching of Irish in English-medium schools has been threatened, at various stages, by education policy decisions which appear to be designed to undermine the position of the language in schools. In 1988/89, there was an unsuccessful attempt to exclude Irish from the list of admissible modern languages in the second-level curriculum. However, McKendry¹⁹ notes that there has been a decrease in the number of second-level schools teaching Irish, following the 1989 education reform, due to timetable and budget restrictions.

There is a need for positive action to promote Irish as a subject in English-medium schools, in order to fully implement the commitments under Article 8 of the Charter.

• Training

Under the commitments relating to the Irish language in the education system, there is a specific undertaking to provide appropriate training for teachers (Article 8, h).

The Bachelor of Education degree at St. Mary’s University College in Belfast includes an Irish-medium pathway, which offers specialist training for those wishing to work in this sector. This course is taught bilingually. The University also runs an Irish-medium PGCE (Post-Graduate Certificate in Education) which is taught mainly through Irish and which is directed at graduates wishing to teach in Irish-medium primary schools.

In a recent article in Lá²⁰ (an Irish language newspaper), the Chief Executive of Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta stated that the shortage of teachers was one of the major challenges facing the Irish-medium education sector in the North of Ireland. For example, he reported that for the coming school year (2002/2003), 28 newly qualified teachers would be required for Irish-medium schools, while just 24 students were due to graduate from teacher training courses. This shortage of teachers is linked both to the limited supply of teacher training places and to difficulties among some applicants in reaching the standard required to undertake professional training.

¹⁹McKendry, E (2001) i Kirk, John & Ó Baoill, Dónall P. (eag.) Language Links: The Languages of Scotland and Ireland, Cló Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste.

²⁰Agallamh le Seán Ó Coinn, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Lá, 20 Meitheamh, 2002.

¹⁹McKendry, Eugene (2001) in Kirk, John and Ó Baoill, Dónall P. (eds.) Language Links: The Languages of Scotland and Ireland, Queens University Press, Belfast.

²⁰Interview with Seán Ó Coinn, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Lá, 20 June 2002.

Chun a chinntiú go mbeidh go leor soláthar sásúil múinteoirí ar fáil do na Gaelscoileanna is gá líon níos mó áiteanna oiliúna múinteoireachta a chur ar fáil agus teagasc breise a sholáthar do mhic ionchasacha léinn chun cuidiú leo na cáilíochtaí iontrála a bhaint amach.

Is iad na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne a bhíonn freagrach as oiliúint inseirbhíse a sholáthar do mhúinteoirí na scoileanna stát-aitheanta. I láthair na huaire deir na múinteoirí nach dugtar aitheantas ceart don earnáil Ghaelscolaíochta sna cúrsaí seo cionn is go bhfuil an chuid is mó acu á soláthar trí mheán an Bhéarla. Mar a dúradh thuas faoin ábhar teagaisc sna scoileanna, is éigean an t-ábhar oiliúna a úsáidtear sna cúrsaí seo a aistriú go Gaeilge. Le blianta beaga anuas tá dul chun cinn éigin déanta sa réimse seo. Fostaíodh oibrí taca amháin sna Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne i gcomhair na nGaelscoileanna. Tá géarghá áfach le tuilleadh forbartha sa réimse seo chun freastal i gceart ar riachtanais na múinteoirí atá ag obair sna Gaelscoileanna.

Tá gá le tuilleadh foirne agus foinsí chun cúrsaí cuí oiliúna inseirbhíse a fhorbairt do mhúinteoirí in earnáil an oideachais lánGhaeilge.

- **Teagasc staire agus cultúir a bhaineann le teanga réigiúnda nó mionlaigh**

Leagann curaclam Thuaisceart na hÉireann amach roinnt mhaith téamaí traschuraculaim atá le clúdach sna scoileanna. Ina measc siúd tá téama na hoidhreachta cultúrtha, ar cuspóir dó léargas éigin a thabhairt do na daltaí ar chomheachtraí a gcuid oidhreachtaí cultúrtha, ar thréithe éagsúla agus sainiúla a gcuid cultúr féin agus ar idirspiléachas na gcultúr éagsúil.

Tá cuspóirí na dtéamaí seo leagtha amach i gcreatlach leathan agus níl tagairt ar bith iontu do chúrsaí teanga mar lárghné den oidhreacht chultúrtha. Tugann seo cuid mhór saoirse do na scoileanna agus iad ag roghnú go díreach cad é a bheidh á theagasc. De réir tuairiscí ó na múinteoirí níl ach mionlach scoileanna ann a thugann eolas ar an Ghaeilge do na daltaí mar chuid de ghné oidhreachta cultúrtha an churaclaim. Ach tá comharthaí ann anois go mbeidh athrú roimh i bhfad ar ionad na

In order to ensure an adequate supply of teachers for Irish-medium schools, there is a need to provide a greater number of teacher training places and to provide prospective students with additional tuition to assist them to meet the entry requirements.

The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) are responsible for providing in-service training for teachers, including those in the Irish-medium sector (in schools which have attained official recognition). At present, teachers report that there is insufficient recognition of the Irish-medium sector in these courses, which are largely delivered through English. As noted above in relation to teaching materials, any such material provided at training courses must be translated to Irish. More recently, there has been some progress in this area, with the employment of a support worker for Irish-medium schools by the ELBs. As a result, the provision of in-service training through Irish has improved. However, there is a need for further development in this area, in order to adequately meet the needs of teachers employed in the Irish-medium sector.

There is a need for further staff and resources to develop appropriate in-service training courses for teachers in the Irish-medium sector of education.

- **Teaching of history and culture reflected by the regional or minority language**

The Northern Ireland curriculum sets out a number of cross-curricular themes to be covered in schools. This includes the theme of cultural heritage, which aims to introduce pupils to ‘the common experiences of their cultural heritage, the diverse and distinctive aspects of their culture and the interdependence of cultures’.

The objectives of this theme are outlined in broad terms and do not include any reference to language, as a central aspect of cultural heritage. This allows schools some flexibility in determining what will be taught. Reports from teachers suggest that a minority of schools introduce pupils to the Irish language as part of the cultural heritage element of the curriculum. However, there are indications that the position of cultural heritage within the cross-curricular themes will be diminished following the current review of the curriculum²¹.

²¹Mc Kendry, E. (2001) op.cit.

hoidhreachta cultúrtha taobh istigh de na téamaí traschuraclaim nuair a chríochnófar an t-athmheas atá á dhéanamh ar an churaclam anois²¹.

Tá scóip ann le heolas níos fearr a scaipeadh faoin Ghaeilge mar lárghné den oidhreacht chultúrtha taobh istigh den churaclam. Tabharfaidh an t-athmheas atá á dhéanamh faoi láthair deis do na húdaráis le dul i ngleic leis seo.

- **Oideachas Teicniúil/Oideachas Gairmiúil**

Ar an leibhéal iarscoile, tá roinnt cúrsaí oiliúna trí Ghaeilge ar fáil ó eagraíochtaí ar nós Forbairt Feirste agus Gairm ach níl na cúrsaí sin ar fáil go forleathan. Deacracht amháin sa réimse seo gur i mBéarla amháin atá fáil ar na hábhair teagaisc agus scrúdaithe do na cáilíochtaí náisiúnta gairmiúla NVQ.²² I mBéal Feirste tugann Forbairt Feirste oiliúint do mhic léinn atá i ndiaidh an Mheánscoil áitiúil a fhágáil, Meánscoil Feirste. I measc na gcúrsaí seo tá cúram leanaí agus teicneolaíocht an eolais. Tá eagraíocht nua ann anois, í bunaithe i mBéal Feirste faoin ainm ‘Cumasú’ agus tá sí ag díriú airde ar riachtanais na ndaltaí atá ag teacht ó leibhéal na meánscoile. Tugann Gairm oiliúint faoi láthair do dhaoine difhostaithe trí mheán an chláir ‘New Deal’ agus tá gné d’oiliúint trí Ghaeilge i gceist chomh maith. Ba chóir a rá anseo gur eagraíochtaí deonacha iad seo uilig nach bhfuil mórán acmhainní acu.

Ó tharla fás buan ar an oideachas Gaeilge is iondúil go mbeidh fás ar an ghá le hoiliúint theicniúil, oiliúint ghairmiúil tríd an Ghaeilge. De réir measúnachta amháin a rinneadh le déanaí beidh 26 áit oiliúna de dhíth i mBéal Feirste faoin bhliain 2005 agus rachaidh an figiúr seo suas go dtí 66 faoin bhliain 2010.²³

Tá gá le méadú sna háiseanna oiliúna trí Ghaeilge chun freastal ar na daltaí atá anois ag fágáil an oideachais lánGhaeilge anois. Mairfidh agus méadóidh an riachtanas sin feasta.

- **Oideachas trí Ghaeilge ag an Ollscoil**

Tá céimeanna ollscoile, bunchéimeanna agus ardcheimeanna sa Ghaeilge agus i litríocht na Gaeilge, ar fáil ag an dá Ollscoil sa Tuaisceart, Ollscoil na Ríona i mBéal Feirste agus Ollscoil Uladh. Tá siad

There is considerable scope to promote a greater awareness of the Irish language as a central aspect of cultural heritage within the curriculum. The current review of the curriculum provides an opportunity to address this.

- **Technical /Vocational Education through Irish**

At post-school level, some training courses through Irish are provided by organisations such as Forbairt Feirste and Gairm but such courses are not widely available. One difficulty in this area at present is that teaching materials and examinations for NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) are available only in English.²² In Belfast, Forbairt Feirste provides training for students leaving the local Irish-medium secondary school – Meánscoil Feirste. Their courses include childcare and information technology. A new organisation based in Belfast – Cumasú – is also focused on the needs of pupils leaving Irish-medium second level education. Gairm currently provides training for unemployed people, through the New Deal programme, which includes some Irish-medium training. It should be noted that these are all voluntary organisations with very limited resources.

With the continued growth in Irish-medium education, the need for Irish-medium technical/vocational training is likely to increase. According to one recent estimate, by 2005, 26 training places will be required in Belfast and this is expected to increase to 66 places by 2010.²³

There is a need for increased provision for Irish-medium training in order to meet current needs and the future training requirements of pupils leaving Irish-medium education.

- **Education through Irish at University**

Primary and higher degree courses in Irish language and literature are available at the two universities in the north of Ireland – Queen’s University, Belfast and the University of Ulster. These are provided on a full-time and part-time basis. In addition, there is a new post-graduate course in translation being provided at Queen’s University.

²¹ McKendry, E (2001) *op. cit.*

²² Ó hAdhmaill, Féilim (2002) sa leabhar le Hamilton, D. & Fisher, C. (Eagarthóirí) Mapping West Belfast, Fóram Geilleagach Iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

²³ Ó hAdhmaill, F., *op. cit.*

²² Ó hAdhmaill, Féilim (2002) in Hamilton, Douglas and Fisher, Charlie (eds.) Mapping West Belfast, West Belfast Economic Forum

²³ Ó hAdhmaill, F., *op. cit.*

seo soláthraithe ar bhonn lánaimseartha agus páirt-aimseartha. Sa bhreis air sin, tá cúrsa iarchéime san aistriúchán ar fáil in Ollscoil na Ríona. Níl aon áiseanna ann le staidéar a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge ag an trío leibhéal taobh amuigh de na hOllscoileanna. Ach de thoradh taighde atá déanta ag POBAL tá éileamh suntasach i measc na ndaltaí i meánscoileanna lánGhaeilge ar leanúint dá n-oideachas iarmheánscoile trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Taobh istigh de spiorad na Cairte ba chóir a bheith ag cothú áiseanna oideachais trí Ghaeilge ar an trío leibhéal chun an gealltanais a rinneadh faoi Alt 8, e a chomhlíonadh.

- **Gaeilge san Oideachas Aosach**

Tá sé deacair figiúirí beachta a fháil faoi na mic léinn atá ag freastal ar ranganna Gaeilge do dhaoine fásta. De réir na bhfigiúirí atá ag Institiúid Bhéal Feirste don Ardoideachas agus don Bheis-oideachas áfach (ceann de na forais is mó a chuireann ranganna Gaeilge ar fáil d'aosaigh i mBéal Feirste) chláraigh thart faoi 1800²⁴ mac léinn i ranganna Gaeilge na hinstiúide sin sa scoilbhliain 2001-2002. Cuireann cuid mhór eagraíochtaí ranganna ar fáil, forais bheis-oideachais, na hollscoileanna, grúpaí pobail agus grúpaí deonacha. Tá ranganna ar fáil go forleathan mar sin do dhaoine, ar a laghad sna áiteanna mórdhaonra agus in áiteanna eile ina bhfuil múinteoirí áitiúla le fáil. Thiocthadh a rá áfach gur córas ad-hoc atá ann go fóill gan aon léargas soiléir ar riachtanais nó ar chuspóirí na bhfoghlaimoírí agus ar an dóigh le hiad seo a bhaint amach. Tá gá le comhordú níos fearr ar an soláthar le seans ceart a thabhairt do na foghlaimoírí líofacht a bhaint amach sa teanga. Tá gá ar leith le dianchúrsaí a chur ar fáil, cúrsaí a thugann cosáin shoiléire tríd na céimeanna éagsúla cumais. Tá riachtanais ann fosta do thraenáil níos cuimsithí do na múinteoirí a bheidh ag teagasc Gaeilge d'aosaigh. I réimse seo an oideachais aosaigh is féidir cuid mhór a fhoghlaim ó na córais tá ar siúl i dtíortha eile ar nós na Breataine Bige agus Thír na mBascach, áit a bhfuil an scéal, a bheag no a mhór, mar a gcéanna.

There is no provision to study through the medium of Irish at third level in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted by POBAL showed that there is substantial demand among pupils in Irish-medium second level schools, for continuing their post-school education through Irish.

Within the spirit of the Charter, the issue of access to Irish-medium education at third level, should be actively pursued, in order to fully implement the commitment made under Article 8, e.

- **Irish in Adult Education**

Reliable figures on the numbers of students who attend Irish classes for adults are not readily available. However, figures provided by the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education (one of the key providers of Irish classes for adults in Belfast) show that some 1800²⁴ students were enrolled in Irish classes provided by the Institute in 2001/2002. Classes are provided by a wide variety of organisations, including further education institutes, the universities and community/voluntary organisations. Thus, classes are widely available (at least in the larger centres of population and other areas where there are local teachers). However, the provision could be described as ad-hoc, with a lack of clear focus on the needs and objectives of learners and on how these can be achieved. There is a need for greater co-ordination of provision in order to give learners a realistic opportunity to become fluent in the language. An important area here is the need for greater provision of intensive courses, with clear pathways through the various levels of competence. There is also a need for more comprehensive provision of training for those teaching Irish to adults. In the area of adult education, much can be learned from the systems in place in other countries, such as Wales and the Basque country, where the language situation is similar.

²⁴Tá cúrsaí lánaimseartha agus páirt-aimseartha san áireamh anseo.

²⁴This includes full-time and part-time courses

I láthair tábhacht na bhfoghlaimoirí fásta i neartú na dteangacha réigiúnda nó mionlaigh, ba chóir an soláthar reatha don Ghaeilge san oideachas aosach a fhorbairt ar dhóigh shamhlaíoch agus chomhordaithe, agus aithris a dhéanamh ar nósanna ar éirigh leo thar lear.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA HEORPA

Leathanach 46 – I dtaca leis an réamhscolaíocht trí Ghaeilge is éigean a lua nach bhfuil soláthar ar leith luaite don earnáil seo taobh istigh de ‘Clár Forbartha don Oideachas Réamhscoile’. Níl aon aitheantas ann ar na riachtanais san oideachais dátheangach nó ar na fadhbanna maoinithe a théann leis.

Cé go maíonn an tuairisc oifigiúil go bhfuil bunmhaoiniú curtha ar fáil do Altram ní léiríonn seo an scéal reatha ar chor ar bith. Cuireadh maoiniú gearrthréimhse ar fáil do rudaí ar leith ach níl cinnteacht ar bith ann go fóill go mbeidh bunmhaoiniú ar fáil.²⁵

Tugann an tagairt do ‘Forbairt Naonraí Teo.’ le fios go bhfuil an foras seo bainteach le forbairt na réamhscolaíochta Gaeilge sna Sé Chontae. Ní oibríonn an eagraíocht seo faoi láthair ach i bPoblacht na hÉireann áfach. De bharr an bhrú ó na heagraíochtaí Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart is cosúil anois go n-athrófar bunreacht an fhorais réamhscoile seo chun réimse uile-Éireannach a dhéanamh den réimse oibre. Tá sé ráite cheana áfach nach mbeidh maoiniú ar bith ar fáil do na Sé Chontae.

Maidir leis an leasú ar na critéir inmhharthanachta do scoileanna i Mí na Nollag 2002, cé go ndeir an tuairisc oifigiúil go mbaineann sé seo le Gaelscoileanna agus le scoileanna trasphobail ba chóir a chur san áireamh go mbaineann sé le gach bunscoil sa Tuaisceart. Ní taca ar leith nó taca breise ar bith é do na Gaelscoileanna. Thairis sin cé go gcuirfeadh maoiniú ar fáil do bhunscoil tuaithe a bhfuil dháréag dálta uirthí sa tuaithe, fanann na critéir do na réamhscoileanna ag seisear déag. Is léir go bhfuil seo ag teacht salach ar na rialacháin do na bunscoileanna agus is bac é ar fhorbairt na Gaelscolaíochta ag leibhéal réamhscoile.

²⁵Fuarthas eolas ar staid reatha (i dtaca le maoiniú srl.) eagraíochtaí ag obair i réimse an oideachais lánGhaeilge ó Chomhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.

In view of the significant contribution of adult learners to the strengthening of regional/minority languages, current provision for Irish in adult education, should be developed in a co-ordinated and innovative way, drawing on successful models from other countries.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Page 46 – In relation to Irish-medium pre-school education, it should be noted that there is no specific provision for this sector within the ‘Pre-school Education Expansion Programme’. Thus, there is no recognition of the specific needs of bilingual education nor of the funding implications of this.

While the official report states that ‘core funding’ has been provided for Altram, this gives an inaccurate picture of the current situation. Short-term funding has been provided for specific projects and there is no indication that core funding will be provided.²⁵

The reference to Forbairt Naonraí Teo. suggests that this body is involved in the development of Irish-medium pre-school education in the six counties of the north of Ireland. However, at present this organisation operates only in the Republic of Ireland. As a result of pressure from Irish-medium educational organisations in the north of Ireland, it seems likely that the constitution of the pre-school body will be altered to include a reference to an all-Ireland remit. However, it has been confirmed that funding will not be available for the six counties.

In relation to the change in the viability criteria for schools in December 2000, while the official report states that this applies to Irish-medium and integrated schools, it should be noted that this applies to all primary schools in Northern Ireland. Thus, it does not represent a specific measure in support of Irish-medium schools. In addition, while funding will be provided for a primary school with an enrolment of 12 pupils in a rural area, the enrolment criteria for pre-schools remains at 16. Clearly, this is in conflict with the regulations regarding primary schools and constitutes an obstacle to the development of Irish-medium education at pre-school level.

²⁵Information on the current situation (with regard to funding etc.) of organisations working in the area of Irish-medium education was obtained from Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta

Leathanach 47 – I dtaca le Gaeloiliúint, grúpa deonach a thacaíonn le Gaelscolaíocht, is fiú a lua gur ar feadh bliana amháin a mhairfidh an maoiniú a luaíodh sa tuairisc oifigiúil, sin maoiniú ó Foras na Gaeilge. Diúltaíodh tuilleadh maoinithe a thabhairt agus is éadócha go mbeidh maoiniú ar bith ann tar éis deireadh na bliana seo. Is ábhar inmí mór do phobal na Gaeilge é an diúltú seo ar mhaoiniú a thabhairt do cheann de na heagrais neamhrialtasacha is mó atá ag obair i réimse na Gaelscolaíochta.

Is fiú a lua fosta gur rud fíorbheag an maoiniú atá á thabhairt do GESO, grúpa deonach atá ag obair i réimse na sainriachtanas agus na Gaelscolaíochta. I láthair na huairé tá oibrí amháin fostaithe ag GESO. Tá an scéal céanna ag baint le cuid mhór eagraíochtaí deonacha atá gníomhach i réimse an bhreisoidéachais agus na hoiliúna trí mheán na Gaeilge, nó tá acmhainní fíorthéoranta acu dá gcuid oibre. Is fiú a chuimhniú go bhfuil na heagraíochtaí seo ag obair i reimsí ina n-aithnítear bearnaí móra sa soláthar do Ghaeilgeoirí. Tá siad ag déanamh oibre tábhachtaí don phobal, ar bheagán costais don Stát.

Mar a luaíodh cheanna tá gá le meadú suntasach maoinithe don Áis-aonad (an foras a chuireann ábhar teagaisc ar fáil don Ghaelscolaíocht) má tá freastal ceart le déanamh ar riachtanais na nGaelscoileanna. Cé go n-abraítear sa tuairisc fosta go bhfuil an t-Áis-aonad gníomhach in earnáil na hiarbhunscolaíochta caithfear a rá go gcuireann an tAonad áiseanna ar fáil do bhunscoileanna agus d'iarbhunscoileanna araon. Leis an fhírinne a rá, is mó an soláthar a rinne sé do bhunscoileanna ná do na hiarbhunscoileanna go dtí seo.

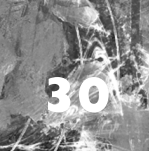
Tugann POBAL faoi deara fosta nach bhfuil tagairt ar bith ann do stádas na teanga i scoileanna Béarla an Tuaiscirt. Is cruthúnas é seo ar an easpa tuisceana faoi impleachtaí na bhforálacha a bhaineann leis an oideachas faoi Alt 8 (Para a-d). Cé gur iarr muid ar shoiléiriú faoin ábhar seo ón Roinn Oideachais, ní bhfuair muid go fóill aon fhreagra ar litir a cuireadh chuig an Roinn i Mí na Bealtaine 2002.

Page 47 — With regard to Gaeloiliúint, a voluntary group which supports Irish-medium education, it should be noted that the funding from Foras na Gaeilge, as referred to in the official report, has been granted for a period of one year only and that further funding has been refused. It seems unlikely that this funding will be renewed after this year. The withdrawal of funding from the principal non-governmental organisation working in the area of Irish-medium education, is of serious concern to the Irish language community.

It should also be noted that the funding provided for GESO – the voluntary group that works in the area of special needs and Irish-medium education – is limited. At present, GESO has one paid worker. Similarly to the voluntary organisations involved in the area of Irish-medium further education and training, these groups have very limited resources with which to carry out their work. In addition, these organisations are working in areas where there are recognised gaps in service provision for Irish speakers, and they could conceivably be viewed as carrying out essential work, at a very low cost to the State.

As noted earlier, there is a need for substantially increased funding for the Áisaonad (the resource centre for teaching materials in Irish-medium education), in order to meet the needs of the Irish-medium sector. It should also be noted that while reference is made to the work of the Áisaonad in the section on post-primary education, the Unit provides resources for both primary and post-primary schools and in fact, the output has been most substantial in the area of resources for primary schools, to date.

POBAL also notes the omission of any reference to the position of the Irish language in English-medium schools in Northern Ireland. This reflects the lack of clarity about the practical implications of the provisions selected to apply to education under Article 8 (paragraphs a-d). While we have requested clarification on this from the Department of Education, we have yet to receive a response to a letter sent to the Department in May 2002.



Alt 9 - Údaráis Dhlíthiúla

Faoin alt seo roghnaíodh paragraf amháin, (3) don Ghaeilge. Tá sé deacair do phobal na Gaeilge glacadh leis seo mar chomhlíonadh ar na prionsabail atá leagtha amach i gCuid II den Chairt. Tuigeann muid chomh maith ar ndóigh áfach gur gá an dlí a athrú sular féidir forálacha breise a ghlacadh faoin alt seo. Deir an tAcht um Riaradh Ceartais (Teanga) (Éire) 1737, gurb éigean imeachtaí go léir na cúirte a réachtáil i mBéarla.

Maidir leis an ghealltanas go mbeidh leagan Gaeilge ann de na téacsanna náisiúnta reachtaíochta is tábhachtaí, bhí sé deacair ag POBAL aon eolas a fháil faoin dul chun cinn a bhí déanta. An chéad eolas a fuair muid ó Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann, léirigh sé go raibh freagracht an ghealltanais seo glactha ag Seirbhís Chúirteanna Thuaisceart na hÉireann ach ina dhiaidh sin fuair muid eolas go bhfuil an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i mbun stiúradh na hoibre seo. (Féach tuairim faoin tuairisc oifigiúil thíos).

Sa tuairisc (2000) a chuir an Grúpa um Athbhreithniú ar an Cheart Choiriúil amach, maíodh go n-amharcaí ar úsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna mar chuid d'fhorbairt an pholasaí ghinearálta d'úsáid na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí. Sa phlean feidhmithe a d'fhoilsigh Rialtas na Breataine ar mholtaí an Ghrúpa Athbhreithnithe seo is cosúil go bhfuil siad i ndiaidh glacadh leis an mholadh seo agus go bhfuil Seirbhís Chúirteanna Thuaisceart na hÉireann ag déanamh machnaimh air i gcomhairle le Ranna eile den Fheidhmeannas.

Is beag an scóip a thairgeann Alt 9 den Chairt do chothú na Gaeilge sa chóras dlíthiúil. Chun an scéal seo a leasú tá gá le reachtaíocht nua chun díchur a dhéanamh ar na bacanna atá ar an Ghaeilge sna cúirteanna faoi láthair.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA hEORPA

Leathanach 49 - Fáiltíonn POBAL roimh an scéal go bhfuil tús curtha ar leaganacha Gaeilge de na téacsanna reachtúla a chur ar fáil. Ach is beag eolas atá ann faoin dóigh a roghnófar na téacsanna seo atá le foilsiú i nGaeilge agus ar na critéir atá roghnaithe. Os rud é gur obair bhuan a

Article 9 – Judicial Authorities

Under this article, one paragraph (3) has been selected to apply to Irish. From the standpoint of the Irish language community, this can hardly be viewed as complying with the principles outlined in Part II of the Charter. However, it is clear that there is a need for legislative change before additional provisions could be adopted under this article. The Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 states that all court proceedings must be conducted in English.

In relation to the undertaking to issue Irish language versions of the 'most important national statutory texts', POBAL had difficulty in obtaining information on progress made on this provision. Initial information from the Northern Ireland Office indicated that the Northern Ireland Courts Service had responsibility for this undertaking, although our most recent information is that DCAL will oversee this work (see comment on official report – below).

In their report (2000), the Criminal Justice Review Group recommended that

'... consideration of the use of the Irish language in courts be taken forward in the wider context of the development of policy on the use of Irish in public life generally'. In their Implementation Plan on the review group proposals, the British Government indicate that they have accepted this proposal and that it is being considered by the Northern Ireland Courts Service, in consultation with other Executive departments.

The provision adopted under Article 9 of the Charter offers very limited scope for the promotion of the use of Irish in the judicial system. In order to improve this situation, there is a need for the introduction of legislation to remove the current restrictions relating to the use of Irish in the courts.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Page 49 – POBAL welcomes the fact that work has begun on producing Irish language versions of statutory texts. However, there is a lack of information on the basis for selecting the texts to be produced in Irish and the rationale behind this.

bheidh i gceist, ba chóir na critéir do roghnú na dtéacsanna a fhoilseofar go dátheangach a shoiléiriú.

Alt 10 Údaráis Riaracháin agus Seirbhísí Poiblí

Tugann na forálacha a roghnaíodh don Ghaeilge faoi Alt 10 fairsingeacht bhreise chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid le roinnt foras poiblí. Go dtí pointe áirithe, is ionann sin agus séala oifigiúil a chur ar chleachtas a bhí ann roimhe nó le tamall maith anuas ba ghnách le forais phoiblí glacadh le comhfhreagras i nGaeilge roimh an Chairt a theacht i bhfeidhm. (I dtuairisc a d'éisigh an Coiste um Riaradh an Cheartais i 1993²⁶, tá faisnéis ann go raibh na húdaráis sásta comhfhreagras a ghlacadh i nGaeilge agus freagraí a thabhairt orthu i mBéarla). Chaith POBAL cuid mhór ama ag monatóireacht chur i bhfeidhm na bhforálacha seo i dtaca leis an Chairt. Scríobhadh i nGaeilge, chuig na heagraíochtaí seo leanas agus fiosraíodh faoi chur i bhfeidhm na bhforálacha a bhain le glacadh le comhfhreagras i nGaeilge:

- Ranna den Fheidhmeannas (10)²⁷
- Comhairlí Ceantair (26)
- Boird Sláinte agus Seirbhísí Sóisialta (4)
- Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (5)
- Forais Phoiblí eile (Ioncam Intíre, Feidhmeannas Tithíochta, Gníomhaireacht na Seirbhísí Sóisialta).

De réir monatóireachta s'againne is léir go bhfuil na Ranna Rialtais uilig ag comhlíonadh an riachtanais faoi ghlacadh le comhfhreagras i nGaeilge. Sna freagraí a thug siad dúirt na Ranna gur ghnách leo na litreacha a aistriú go Béarla taobh istigh de 48 uair an chloig. Tá an phríomhfhreagracht ar an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta d'fheidhmiú na Cairte, trí mheán an Aonad Éagsúlacht Teanga. Tá an chraobh seo i ndiaidh seirbhísí aistriúcháin a chomhordú don Fheidhmeannas agus deir na Ranna uilig go bhfuil ionadaithe acu ar an Ghrúpa idir-Rannach don Chairt a chuir an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta ar bun.

Since it is likely that this work will be ongoing, it is important that the criteria for selecting the texts to be produced bilingually are clarified.

Article 10 – Administrative Authorities and Public Services

The provisions selected to apply to the Irish language under Article 10, provide significantly increased scope to use Irish in dealings with a range of public bodies. To some extent, this means giving formal effect to previously established practice, since for example, it was common for public bodies to accept correspondence in Irish prior to the coming into effect of the Charter. (In a report issued by the Committee on the Administration of Justice in 1993²⁶, there is evidence that the authorities were prepared to accept correspondence received in Irish, and to reply in English).

A major part of POBAL's work in relation to the Charter was devoted to monitoring the implementation of these provisions.

The following organisations were contacted by letter (in Irish) with enquiries about implementation of the requirement to accept correspondence in Irish:

- Executive departments (10)²⁷
- District councils (26)
- Health and Social Service Boards (4)
- Education and Library Boards (5)
- Other public bodies (Inland Revenue, Housing Executive, Social Service Agency)

Based on our monitoring, it is clear that the Executive Departments are all complying with the requirement to accept correspondence in Irish. In their replies, the departments reported that letters were generally translated into English within 48 hours. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has lead responsibility for the implementation of the Charter, through its Linguistic Diversity Unit. The Unit has co-ordinated translation services for the Executive and all Departments stated that they were represented on the Interdepartmental Charter Group, which was set up by DCAL.

²⁶CAJ (1993) Staid agus Stádas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na Éireann

²⁷Ní chuireann seo san áireamh oifig an Chéad Aire agus an LeasChéad Aire (ar socraíodh cruinniú leo faoi chúrsaí na Cairte).

²⁶CAJ (1993) Staid agus Stádas na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann

²⁷This does not include the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (with whom a meeting was arranged in relation to the Charter)



Cé nach bhfuil siad faoi cheangal dlí ag na forálacha a roghnaíodh, tá sé de nós ag Roinn Rann den Fheidhmeannas freagraí Gaeilge a thabhairt ar litreacha Gaeilge. Mar fhreagra ar an chéad litir ó POBAL scríobh ceithre Roinn freagraí i nGaeilge: An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí, An Roinn Airgeadais agus Pearsanra, An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Forbairt Tuaithe agus an Roinn Oideachais. De bhreis air sin thaispeáin an comhfhreagras a bhí againn le hOifig an Chéad Aire agus an LeasChéad Aire go bhfuil polasaí acu freagraí Gaeilge a thabhairt ar litreacha Gaeilge.

Tá treoracha tugtha amach d'fhoireann na Roinne Oideachais a bheadh ina sampla maith do na Ranna eile. Dúradh leis an fhoireann gur chóir dóibh:

- freagra Gaeilge a thabhairt ar litir Ghaeilge,
- freagra Gaeilge a thabhairt ar litir dhátheangach (Gaeilge agus Béarla) agus
- leagan Gaeilge den seoladh a úsáid nuair is cuí é sin.

Maidir leis an pointe dheireanach seo thaispeáin an comhfhreagras a bhí ag POBAL le Ranna Rialtais agus le forais phoiblí eile gur ghnáthchleachtas é leaganacha Gaeilge de na seoltaí a aistriú go Béarla agus iad ag tabhairt freagra.

Clúdaíonn Alt 10, 1 (a) cumarsáid labhartha chomh maith le cumarsáid scríofa. Mar chuid dá thogra monatóireachta ghlaigh POBAL ar dheich Roinn den Fheidhmeannas i Mí Eanáir 2002, agus d'iarr muid fiosrúchán a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Faoi láthair bíonn áis ghuthphoist ar fáil mar a dtig teachtaireacht a fhágáil i nGaeilge mura mbíonn teacht ar bhall den fhoireann atá líofa sa Ghaeilge agus cumasach le déileáil leis an iarratas. Molann an teachtaireacht seo do dhaoine a bhfuil gnó práinneach acu glaoch ar ais i mBéarla.

Thaispeáin an triail seo dúinn go mbíonn sé deacair ag bunús na bhfoirne an Ghaeilge labhartha a aithint agus go mbíonn siad amhrasach faoin dóigh le freagra a thabhairt. Thaispeáin sé fosta go raibh cuid den fhoireann aineolach faoi na modhanna le teacht ar an ghuthphost Gaeilge. (Sna teagmhálacha leis na deich Roinn seo, aistríodh muid 8 uair go dtí an tseirbhís seo agus dhá uair chuig an ghuthphost Béarla). Bhí moill mhór ann, moill choicíse sula bhfuair muid freagraí ar na teachtaireachtaí seo.

While the provisions selected to apply to the Irish language do not require that replies are issued in Irish, a number of Executive Departments have a policy of responding in Irish to correspondence received in Irish. In response to the initial letter from POBAL, four Departments issued written responses in Irish (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Department of Finance and Personnel, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Education). In addition, correspondence with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister shows that they have a policy of issuing replies in Irish, to correspondence received in Irish.

The guidelines on the use of Irish issued to staff in the Department of Education provide a useful model for other departments. Staff have been informed that they should:

- Respond in Irish to correspondence received in Irish
- Respond in Irish to correspondence received in bilingual form (i.e Irish and English)
- Use Irish versions of addresses where appropriate

In relation to this last point, POBAL's correspondence with government Departments and other public bodies shows that it is common practice to translate Irish versions of addresses to English, when replying to correspondence.

Article 10, 1 (a) covers verbal as well as written communication. As part of POBAL's monitoring project, we telephoned the ten Executive Departments (in January 2002) and requested to make an enquiry in Irish. At present, a voice-mail facility is provided, where it is possible to leave a message in Irish, if it is not possible to speak to a member of staff who is both fluent in Irish and competent to deal with the request. The message advises those with urgent business to phone back in English.

This exercise showed that most staff have difficulty recognising spoken Irish, and are unsure how to respond initially. It also indicated that some staff were unaware of the procedures for accessing the Irish language voice-mail facility. (Of the ten Departments, in eight cases we were transferred to this service and in two cases to the English voice-mail facility). There was a considerable delay – of two weeks – before we received a response to these messages.

Rinne muid teagmháil ar na mallaibh leis na Ranna agus is léir fós go bhfuil cuid mhór tranglaim ann faoin dóigh le déileáil le glaonna Gaeilge. Tá sé le feiceáil fosta áfach go bhfuil biseach ann maidir leis an am a ghlacann sé na teachtaireachtaí a fhreagairt.

Nuair a scríobh muid fiosrúchán faoi fheidhmiú na Cairte dúirt Roinn Feidhmeannais amháin gur aimsigh siad roinnt cainteoirí Gaeilge i measc na foirne a bheadh sásta déileáil le hiarratais gutháin i nGaeilge.

Thairis seo, baineann ceist na cumarsáide labhartha leis na cruinnithe a bhíonn againn leis an Fheidhmeannas. Cuireann an Feidhmeannas seirbhís aistriúcháin ar fáil do na cruinnithe nuair a iarrtar é. Ach mura n-iarrtar sin roimh ré is ghnách leis na cruinnithe seo bheith i mBéarla. Creideann POBAL gur chóir go mbeadh sé ina ghnáthchleachtas go socrófaí córas aistriúcháin a úsáid nuair a bhíonn Gaeilgeoirí páirteach i gcruinnithe. Chomh maith leis sin, is léir do POBAL ar na cruinnithe sin nach mbíonn aistriúchán chomhuaineach ar fáil. Fágann sin go mbíonn an t-aistritheoir páirteach sa chruinniú, rud a bhíonn ina bhac mór ar an chumarsáid. Is léir fosta nach bhfuil córas caighdeánach ar bith ann do na cineálacha seo aistriúcháin. Aistríonn cuid de na daoine focal ar fhocal agus déanann daoine eile aistriúchán saor ar an rud a deirtear. Is cosúil nach dtugtar taca nó oiliúint mhaith do na daoine a bhfuiltear ag iarraidh orthu an tseirbhís speisialta seo a sholáthar.

Cé go mbaineann an méid seo thuas le taithí s'againne ar fheidhmiú na bhforálacha cuí den Chairt i leith na Gaeilge, tá na forálacha sonrath a roghnaíodh iontach teoranta.

- Is geall le caoinfhulaingt é an fhoráil a deir go nglacfar le litreacha Gaeilge ach gan freagra Gaeilge a thabhairt. Ní cothú dearfach é seo mar a moladh sa Chairt.
- I dtaca leis an chumarsáid bhéil níl aon deis cheart ann teagmháil a dhéanamh leis na forais phoiblí chuí trí Ghaeilge. Is féidir mar shampla teachtaireacht thaifeadtha i nGaeilge a fhágáil ach (de réir taithí s'againne) tagann na freagraí go hiondúil i mBéarla agus fágfar an Gaeilgeoir le rogha an dhíogha, leanúint den rud trí Bhéarla, nó leanúint de bheith de shíor ag fágáil teachtaireachtaí Gaeilge ar an ghuthphost.

More recent contact with departments indicates that there is still considerable confusion about how to respond to callers speaking Irish. However, there also seems to have been an improvement in relation to the time taken to respond to messages.

In response to our written enquiries on the implementation of Charter, one Executive Department stated that they had identified a number of Irish speakers among their staff, who would be prepared to deal with telephone requests in Irish.

Verbal communication with the Executive Departments also relates to the use of Irish during meetings with officials. The Executive provides a translation service for meetings, on request. However, in the absence of specific requests for Irish/English translation, it is assumed that meetings will be conducted through English. POBAL believes that it should be standard practice to make arrangements for translation, where Irish speakers are participating in meetings. In addition, it has been POBAL's experience of such meetings that simultaneous translation facilities are not provided, and so the translator participates in the meeting, which tends to have the effect of hindering communication. It is also apparent that there is no standardised format for this type of translation in use at present. Some translators translate verbatim while others paraphrase. There is a question mark over the extent of support and training available for those who are being asked to provide this highly specialised service.

While the above discussion relates to our findings on the implementation of the relevant Charter provisions as they apply to Irish, the specific measures selected are quite limited.

- The provision to accept correspondence in Irish, but not to issue replies in the same language represents 'tolerance' of the language, as opposed to active promotion as advocated throughout the Charter.
- In relation to verbal communication there is no meaningful opportunity to communicate with the relevant public bodies through Irish. Thus, it is possible to leave a recorded message in Irish, but responses are (in our experience) delivered through English, and Irish-speakers are left with the choice of continuing through English or leaving repeated messages in Irish on the voice-mail facility.



Cé go bhfuil Ranna an Fheidhmeannais ag comhlíonadh forálacha na Cairte faoi láthair maidir le comhfhreagrú i nGaeilge creideann POBAL gur chóir forléiriú níos féile a thabhairt don Chairt agus an comhfhreagrú Gaeilge a fhreagairt i gcónaí i nGaeilge. Maidir leis an chumarsáid ghutháin agus an chumarsáid ag cruinnithe tá gá le leasú chun dul i ngleic leis na fadhbanna a luaíodh thuas.

I dtaca le cáipéisí a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge tá an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i ndiaidh leagan Gaeilge dá Plean Straitéiseach agus dá Scéim Chothromais a fhoilsiú. Tá dhá Roinn den Fheidhmeannas, An Roinn Sláinte agus Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí agus an Roinn Oideachais, i ndiaidh polasaí dátheangach níos cuimsithí a fheidhmiú ná Roinn ar bith eile. Táirgeann an dá Roinn leagan Gaeilge, go hiomlán nó go hachomair de na cáipéisí a bhaineann leis na príomhréimsí polasaí agus idirchomhairle. Maidir leis na preasráitis ó na Ranna seo bíonn siad i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge. Maidir leis an fhógraíocht i gcomhair earcaíochta nó tairiscintí, cuireann an Roinn Sláinte fógraí Gaeilge sna meáin Ghaeilge agus fógraí dátheangacha i nuachtáin áirithe eile. Níor chuir Roinn ar bith eile ábhair Ghaeilge ar fáil go fóill áfach.

Is léir fosta nach bhfuil aon pholasaí comhordaithe ar fud na Rann Rialtais i dtaca le leaganacha dátheangacha de cháipéisí agus d'ábhar eile a chur ar fáil. Ó tharla an príomhfhreagracht a bheith ag an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i dtaca le forbairt polasaithe Gaeilge táimid meallta go bhfuil siadsan meáite ar a laghad agus is féidir a sholáthar.

Maidir le cáipéisí agus le hábhair eolais a chur ar fáil go dátheangach tá sampla den dea-chleachtas ar siúl ag cuid de Ranna an Fheidhmeannais agus ba chóir na nósanna sin a leathnú go dtí na Ranna eile. Chuideodh a leithéid seo chun polasaí an ghnímh dhiongbháilte a chomhlíonadh de réir mar a gealladh i gCuid II den Chairt.

While Executive Departments are currently complying with the Charter provision with regard to correspondence in Irish, POBAL believes that a more generous interpretation of the Charter requires that correspondence in Irish should be answered in the same language. The current provision for telephone communication and for meetings needs to be improved to address the difficulties identified above.

With regard to the production of documents in the Irish language, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has issued Irish versions of its Strategic Plan and its Equality Scheme. Two Executive Departments (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), Department of Education (DENI)) have adopted a more comprehensive bilingual policy than other Departments. Both Departments issue Irish language versions (either complete or in summary form) of key policy and consultation documents. All press releases from these Departments are issued bilingually (English and Irish). In relation to advertising (for example for recruitment and tenders), the DHSSPS places advertisements in Irish in the Irish language press, and bilingual advertisements in selected newspapers. Other Departments have not produced material in the Irish language, to date.

However, there is an absence of a consistent policy throughout Executive Departments with regard to the production of Irish language or bilingual versions of documents and other information material. Given the lead role of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure with regard to developing policy on the Irish language, it is disappointing to note that they have opted for a minimal level of provision.

With regard to producing documents and information materials bilingually, the models of good practice already in place in some Executive Departments should be extended to other Departments. This would help to fulfil the commitment to undertake 'resolute action' to promote the Irish language, as outlined in Part II of the Charter.

ÚDARÁIS ÁITIÚLA

I gcás na cumarsáide leis na húdaráis áitiúla ba í an fhoráil a roghnaíodh don Ghaeilge ná go ndéanfadh na húdaráis áitiúla is réigiúnacha úsáideoirí na Gaeilge agus na dteangacha réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a cheadú agus / nó a spreagadh chun ábhar scríofa agus labhartha a chur i láthair sna teangacha seo. Tá an méid seo teoranta do na húdaráis sin a shíleann go bhfuil líon na gcainteoirí mór go leor sa cheantar chun na socruithe seo a chosaint. Tá an scéal seo mar an gcéanna no beagán níos lú ná an fhoráil a roghnaíodh i gcomhair an lár-ionaoid riaracháin (Is é sin Feidhmeannas Thuaisceart Éireann).

Tá 26 Comhairle Ceantair i dTuaisceart na hÉireann agus mar a dúradh thuas chuaigh muid i dteagmháil scríofa leo i nGaeilge a fhiosrú faoi na socruithe a bhí déanta faoi Alt 10 den Chairt. Cuireadh an chéad litir chuig na Comhairlí, is é sin, chuig an Phriomhfheidhmeannach, i Mí Feabhra 2002 agus fuair muid seacht bhfreagra scríofa uirthi seo. Rinneadh teagmháil leis na 19 eile arís i Mí na Bealtaine 2002 agus tháinig 7 freagra breise mar gheall uirthi sin faoi lár Lúnasa 2002. Fuair muid chomh maith roinnt glaonna gutháin ag iarraidh orainn ár litreacha a aistriú agus roinnt díobh a bhí iontach doicheadallach roimh rud ar bith a fháil a bhí scríofa i nGaeilge. Léirigh na freagraí sin roinnt de na ceistanna a bhaineann le dearcadh na gComhairlí Ceantair faoin Chairt.

- Sna freagraí tosaigh (idir scríofa agus labhartha) dúradh linn nach bhfuair na Comhairlí aon eolas faoin Chairt roimh go luath i 2002. I ndiaidh dúinn a bheith i dteagmháil go díreach leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, atá freagrach as na húdaráis áitiúla, insíodh dúinn gur scaipeadh eolas faoin Chairt ar na Comhairlí i mí Mhárta 2002 agus go gcuirfí eolas breise chucu i ndiaidh cúpla pointe a shoiléiriú. D'inis trí Chomhairle Ceantair dúinn go raibh an Roinn Comhshaoil ar lorg comhairle dlí faoi cé acu a bhainfeadh forálacha Alt 10 den Chairt leis na Comhairlí Ceantair. Tá an cheist seo socraithe go sásúil anois agus scaip an Roinn na Ciorcláin ar na Comhairlí Ceantair faoi dheireadh Iúil 2002 agus dúirt go mbeadh ceangal Cairte ar na Comhairlí Ceantair faoi Alt 10.²⁸
- Mar a tharla i gceist na Rann Rialtais tá polasaithe ag cuid de na Comhairlí cheana a théann níos faide ná dualgais na Cairte agus fuair muid freagraí scríofa i nGaeilge ó 6 Comhairle.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

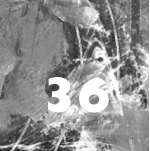
In relation to communications with local authorities, the provision selected for the Irish language states that local and regional authorities should 'allow and/or encourage the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages'. This is limited to those authorities where the proportion of speakers of the regional/minority language 'justifies' these measures. This is a similar (though somewhat weaker) provision to that selected to apply to the central administration (i.e. the Northern Ireland Executive).

There are 26 District Councils in the north of Ireland and as noted above, we contacted them in writing (in Irish) with an enquiry about the arrangements for complying with Article 10 of the Charter. The first letter was sent to the Councils (to the Chief Executives) in February 2002, and we received seven written responses to this. The remaining 19 Councils were contacted secondly in May 2002 and this yielded 7 further written responses by mid August 2002. We also received a number of phone calls asking for our letters to be translated, including some quite hostile reactions to being contacted through Irish. The responses highlighted a number of issues regarding the approach to the Charter in the District Councils:

- The initial responses (in writing and by telephone) from the councils indicated that they had not received any information about the Charter by early 2002. Following direct correspondence with the Department of the Environment (which has responsibility in relation to local authorities), we were informed that information on the Charter had been circulated to the councils in March 2002 and that more detailed advice would be issued, following clarification of a number of issues. We were informed by three District Councils that the Department of the Environment had sought legal guidance on whether the provisions of Article 10 of the Charter would apply to the District Councils. This has been successfully resolved and the Department of the Environment issued a circular to the District Councils at the end of July 2002, which confirmed that Councils would be bound by the Charter commitments under Article 10.²⁸
- As in the case of the Executive Departments, some councils have existing policies which go beyond the Charter requirements and we received written responses in Irish from six Councils.

²⁸An Roinn Comhshaoil, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Implications for District Councils, 29 Iúil 2002.

²⁸Department of the Environment, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Implications for District Councils, 29 July 2002



- Maidir leis an chur chuige ginearálta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann i dtaca le feidhmiú na Cairte sna Comhairlí Ceantair, is mór idir é agus an dearcadh atá léirithe ag Roinn Oideachais Pharlaimint na hAlban mar a dtugtar spreagadh do na Comhairlí Contae agus forais phoiblí eile cloí le spiorad na Cairte agus níos mó a sholáthar ná an lom-mhéid a iarrann focal na Cairte.²⁹

ÚSÁID NA GAEILGE LE LINN DÍOSPÓIREACHTAÍ

Faoi Alt. 10 2 (e) iarrtar ar an Stát úsáid na Gaeilge sa Tionól ‘a chéadú nó a spreagadh’. Léiríonn taifead oifigiúil an Tionóil go n-úsáideann mionlach de na comhaltaí beagáinín Gaeilge le linn a gcainteanna ach úsáideann Aire amháin cuid mhór Gaeilge sa Tionól. Go dtí seo spreag an cleachtas seo mana naimhdeach ó roinnt de na comhaltaí, dream acu ag rá gur chur amú ama a bhí sna cainteanna dátheangacha.³⁰ Rinneadh an scéal seo níos measa cionn is nach raibh an córas aistriúcháin sa Tionól ag obair go hiomlán (faoi Lunasa 2002) nó cé go raibh teacht ag an Cheann Comhairle agus na Cléirigh ar na háiseanna aistriúcháin ní raibh na gnáthchomhaltaí i dteagmháil leis an chóras.

ÚSÁID NA GAEILGE SNA FORAIS PHOIBLÍ (3C)

Mar chuid de thogra monatóireachta POBAL, scríobhadh i nGaeilge chuig roinnt de na soláthraithe seirbhísí poiblí faoi na socruithe a bhí acu i dtaobh Alt 10 den Chairt. Ina measc siúd bhí dream a bhí freagrach as cúrsaí sláinte agus oideachais a sholáthar, agus roinnt bheag eile foras poiblí a raibh teagmháil fhíormhinice acu leis an phobal.

Fuair muid freagraí comhordaithe ó cheithre bhord sláinte agus seirbhísí sóisialta, iad scríofa go dátheangach agus ag rá go raibh siad eolach ar an Alt cuí den Chairt, is é sin ‘an dualgas i dtaobh glacadh le hiarratais a bhí scríofa i dteangacha mionlaigh nó reigiúnda agus iad a aistriú “chomh fada agus ab’fheidir” ach thug siad le fios chomh maith ‘gur ghnách leis na boird uilig gnáthchúrsaí oibre agus riaracháin a reáchtáil i mBéarla’.

- The general approach taken in the north of Ireland in relation to the implementation of the Charter in the District Councils is in contrast with that taken by the Scottish Executive Education Department, where local authorities and other public bodies are encouraged to abide by the spirit of the Charter and provide a service to Gaelic speakers, which offers more than the minimum required under the Charter.²⁹

USE OF IRISH DURING DEBATES

Under Article 10 2(e), the State is required to ‘allow and/or encourage’ the use of Irish in the Assembly. While the official record of debates in the Assembly shows that a minority of members use some Irish during their contributions, at least one minister makes extensive use of Irish in the Assembly. In the past, this has generated a negative reaction from some members, including accusations that the practice of making bilingual contributions is a waste of Assembly time.³⁰ This situation is exacerbated by the fact that the Assembly’s system of simultaneous translation was not fully operational (by August 2002). Thus, while the Speaker and the Clerks have access to the translation facilities, the members do not.

USE OF IRISH IN PUBLIC BODIES (3C)

In the course of POBAL’s monitoring project, a number of public service providers were contacted with enquiries (by letter, in Irish) about their arrangements for implementing Article 10 of the Charter. This included the regional bodies with responsibility for delivering health and education services and a small selection of other public bodies, which have a high level of contact with the public.

The four Health and Social Service Boards issued a co-ordinated response in a bilingual format, stating that they were aware of the relevant article of the Charter – i.e. of the requirement to accept requests in regional or minority languages and provide for translation, ‘as far as reasonably possible’. However they also indicated that ‘... it is practice within all Boards to conduct day-to-day administrative business in English’.

²⁹Comhfhreagras ón Roinn Oideachais chuig Príomhfheidhmeannach na nUdarás Áitiúil in Albain, Feabhra 2002.

³⁰Féach Hansard – Tuairisc oifigiúil ar imeachtaí an Tionóil- 25 Meán Fómhair 2000.

²⁹Correspondence from the Education Department to the Chief Executives of Scottish local authorities, February 2002.

³⁰See Hansard – Official Report of the Assembly proceedings – 25 September 2000.

Tá 5 Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOL) sa Tuaisceart agus faoi mhí Iúil 2002, fuair muid dhá fhreagra scríofa i mBéarla ar ár gceist faoi fheidhmiú Alt 10 den Chairt. Ní raibh iontu ach admháil lom ar ár litreacha agus gealltanais go raibh an t-ábhar á scrúdú. Tugann seo le fios dúinn nach bhfuair na Boird seo treoir faoin Chairt agus ar an ábhar sin go bhfuil siad fós ag meá an fhreagra a thabharfaidh siad uirthi.

As an réimse mór foras eile atá ag soláthar seirbhísí poiblí, rinne muid teagmháil le triúr a mbíonn an pobal ag déanamh cuid mhaith cumarsáide leo. Ba iad seo Lucht Ioncaim Intíre, an Ghníomhaireacht Slándála Sóisialta agus an Feidhmeannas Tithíochta.

Faoi lár mhí Lúnasa 2002, fuair muid freagra scríofa i mBéarla ón Ioncam Intíre agus ón Ghníomhaireacht Slándála Sóisialta (ar gníomhaireacht feidhmiúcháin í den Roinn Forbartha Sóisialta). Dúirt siad beirt gur chloígh siad le forálacha na Cairte agus go raibh socruithe ar bun acu ar aon dul leis na Ranna rialtais.

Úsáid Logainmneacha agus Ainmneacha Teaghlaigh (para. 2 g & 5)

Maidir le comharthaí sráide i nGaeilge soláthraíonn na Comhairlí Contae leagan dátheangach faoi láthair má bhíonn tromlach lucht cónaí na sráide ina leith seo. Mar a dúradh in áit eile sa tuairisc seo, tá sé de nós ag roinnt de na Ranna rialtais agus ag forais phoiblí eile an leagan Gaeilge den seoladh a aistriú go Béarla agus iad ag freagairt litreacha, sin nó gan glacadh ach le leagan Béarla de sheoladh ar bith. Bíonn deacrachtaí rialta ann fosta maidir le seachadadh litreacha a bhfuil seoladh Gaeilge orthu. Ina theannta sin is féidir go ndiúltofar a gceart ar dhaoine ar mian leo an leagan Gaeilge den seoladh a úsáid má dhiúltaíonn an chomhairle áitiúil na comharthaí sráide a chur suas.

Níl aon chosc oifigiúil ar úsáid na sloinnte Gaeilge. Ach tá go leor scéalta ann a thugann fianaise ar an chéasadh a spreagann an nós sin i gcúrsaí áirithe. Mar shampla, i dtaighde ar eachtraí Gaeilgeoirí a bhí i dteagmháil leis na seirbhísí sláinte sa tuaisceart deir Ó Hagan (2001)³¹ gur mhinic gan aon iarracht a dhéanamh na sloinnte a fhuaimniú i gceart nó a litriú i gceart agus uaireanta gur nocht an fhoireann fearg nó doicheall. Tá go leor scéalta

There are five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) in Northern Ireland, and by July (2002), we had received two written replies (in English) to our enquiries about the implementation of Article 10 of the Charter. These were simply acknowledgements of receipt of our letters and assurances that the matter was being examined. This suggests strongly that the ELBs have not been issued with guidance on the Charter and that they are still considering their response to it.

From the wide range of other bodies involved in providing public services, three organisations which have a high level of contact with the public were contacted. These were the Inland Revenue, the Social Security Agency and the Housing Executive.

By mid-August (2002), we had received written replies in English from the Inland Revenue Service and the Social Security Agency (which is an Executive Agency of the Department of Social Development). They both stated that they complied with the provisions of the Charter, with similar arrangements as those in place in the Departments of the Executive.

Use of Place-Names and Family Names (paragraphs 2 g and 5)

With regard to the use of street-signs in Irish, the District Councils provide bilingual versions at present, if a sufficient proportion of residents on the street support this. As noted elsewhere in the report, it is practice among some government Departments (and other public bodies) to translate Irish versions of addresses to English, when replying to correspondence, or to insist on the use of the English version of an address. There are also regular difficulties with regard to the delivery of mail addressed in Irish. In addition, those wishing to use the Irish version of their address may be denied this right if the local council has not already agreed to erect a bilingual street sign.

There is no official prohibition against the use of Irish surnames. However, there is substantial anecdotal evidence that the use of Irish personal names can attract harassment, in some contexts. For example, in a study of Irish-speakers experiences of contact with the health services in the north of Ireland, O'Hagan (2001)³¹ found that it was common for people to report that staff made no effort to spell or pronounce their names

³¹ O'Hagan, Kieran (2001) op. cit.

³¹ O'Hagan, Kieran (2001) op.cit.



ann fosta faoi mhílitriú na sloinnte fiú ag lucht craolacháin agus ag lucht na nuachtán.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA HEORPA

Leathanach 49 – I dtuairisc an Rialtais cuirtear síos ar na socruithe reatha do na glaonna gutháin trí Ghaeilge chuig na Ranna rialtais mar ‘éascú an bhealaigh do na saoránaigh sin ar mian leo an gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.’ Mar a dúradh cheana áfach, (Féach leath. 32) ní thugann na socruithe reatha mórán éascaíochta don chumarsáid Ghaeilge agus de ghnáth, is éigean leanúint den ghnó i mBéarla i ndiaidh na chéad teagmhála.

Leathanach 50 – I dtaca le Comhairle Ceantair an lúir agus Mhúrn a bhfuil polasaí dátheangach cuimsitheach aici, is fiú a lua nach féidir an polasaí seo a chur i bhfeidhm go laethúil cionn is gur tugadh dúshlán do dhaoine taobh istigh den Chomhairle. Fuair POBAL eolas go bhfuil an polasaí dátheangach á chur faoi mheasúnacht chontúirte ar an fhoras go dtagann sé salach ar fhreagrachtaí na comhairle maidir le dualgais an chothromais (faoi earnáil 75 d’Acht Thuaisceart na hÉireann). Tógann seo ceist thábhachtach faoi stádas na reachtaíochta intíre faoin chothromas i láthair na Cairte, agus tá súil againn gur féidir leis an coiste seo a shoiléiriú gan mhoill. Is í tuiscint POBAL ar an cheist go ndearbhaíonn an Chairt go soiléir gurb eigean beart dearfach a dhéanamh chun teangacha réigiúnda nó mionlaigh a chur chun cinn agus mar sin, in Alt 7 (para. 2), deirtear nach bhfuil leithcheal ar bith ar lucht na mórtheanga aon chéimeanna a thugtar ar mhaithe le comhstádas nó comhdheis a bhunú idir lucht na dteangacha réigiúnda nó mionlaigh agus lucht teanga an tromlaigh.

Leathanach 51 – Maidir le forbairt na seirbhíse aistriúcháin, fáiltíonn POBAL roimh an scéal go bhfuil coiste ceaptha chun caighdeáin ghairmiúla don aistriúchán béil agus scríofa a leagan síos do na seirbhísí poiblí. Maidir leis na seirbhísí atá ann go dtí seo tá fianaise ann nach mbíonn siad i gcónaí sásúil. Mar shampla, ón aiseolais a fuair muid ó chomhaltaí³² an Fhóraitm Shaoránaíochta, cé go bhfuil fáilte roimh an tseirbhís chomhuaineach atá ansin, is cosúil go bhfuil oiliúint agus taca de dhíth ar na haistritheoirí a chuireann an tseirbhís seo ar fáil.

(in Irish) correctly and in some instances they experienced hostile reactions from staff. There are also relatively common instances of mis-spelling of names, including in the broadcast and print media.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Page 49 – In the government report, the current arrangements for making telephone contact through Irish with Executive Departments are described as facilitating members of the public ‘... who wish to conduct their business through Irish’. However, as outlined earlier (see p.32) the current arrangements provide very limited opportunity to communicate through Irish, and all follow-up contact is generally conducted through English. Page 50 – In relation to Newry and Mourne District Council, which has a comprehensive bilingual (English/Irish) policy, it should be noted that this policy cannot be effectively implemented in practice, due to recent challenges from within the Council. Thus, POBAL has received information that the bilingual policy is being subject to ‘risk assessment’ on the basis that it contravenes the Council’s responsibilities in relation to the Equality Duty (under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act). This raises an important issue about the relative status of domestic equality legislation and the Charter and it is to be hoped that the committee can clarify this. It is POBAL’s interpretation that the Charter contains a clear statement on the need for positive measures to promote regional or minority languages. Thus in Article 7 (paragraph 2), it is stated that ‘the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages’.

Page 51 – In relation to the development of a translation service, POBAL welcomes the fact that a committee has been appointed to outline professional standards for translation/interpretation in the public service. With regard to services provided to date, there is evidence to suggest that these have not always been satisfactory. For example, feedback from members³² of the Civic Forum indicated that the

³²Eolas ó Janet Muller agus ó Donncha Mac Niallais faoina dtaithí féin de bheith ag caint trí Ghaeilge ag cruinnithe san Fhóram Saoránaíochta.

³²Information from Janet Muller and Donncha Mac Niallais on their experiences of making contributions through Irish to Civic Forum meetings.

Leathanaigh 51-52 Tagraíonn tuairisc an rialtais do na tograí Gaeilge atá ar bun i Seirbhís Phóilíneachta Thuaisceart Éireann. Cé go bhfuil fáilte roimh úsáid na Gaeilge in áit ar bith ba chóir go dtuigfeadh an coiste go bhfuil fadhbanna buana ann faoi inchreidiúnacht na nuasheirbhíse póilíneachta. Ar an ábhar sin is féidir go mbeidh cuid de phobal na Gaeilge beagáinín amhrasach (más leor ‘beagáinín’ lena rá) faoi rud ar bith a bheith ar siúl ag na péas mura mbíonn sé á dhéanamh ag Roinn ar bith eile den Státseirbhís.

Alt. 11 – Na Meáin

Os rud é gur rud iontach tábhachtach iad na meáin i gcúrsaí teangacha mionlaigh, fáiltíonn POBAL roimh an scéal gur roghnaíodh cuid mhór forálacha don Ghaeilge faoin Alt seo. Cuireann seo neart scóipe ar fáil d’fhorbairtí sa réimse seo, cé gur cúis inní againn é go ndearcann cuid de na húdaráis ar an Chairt mar ‘liosta seiceála’ de na rudaí atá ar siúl cheana in áit déileáil léi mar chláir oibre d’fhorbairtí breise.

Craolann BBC Thuaisceart Éireann cláir laethúla i nGaeilge suas go dtí 4.5 uair sa tseachtain. Dhiúltaigh Údarás Raidió na Ríochta Aontaithe áfach ceadúnas a thabhairt le déanaí do stáisiún Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste - Raidió Fáilte – atá ag craoladh anois go mídhleathach ó Mhí Feabhra 2002.

Cuireann BBC (TÉ) cláir teilifíse i nGaeilge amach roinnt uaireanta sa bhliain. Sa bhliain reatha (2001/2002), bhí suas le 16 uair de chur amach i nGaeilge ann ar fad – agus 13 uair de sin ina athchraoladh ar an chláir teagaisc d’fhoghlaimoirí fásta: Now You’re Talking. Go dtí seo i mbliana ní raibh ann ach 3 uair a chloig de chláir nua i nGaeilge – an clár ceoil Ghaeilge - Ceol i gCuideachta. Níl méadú ar bith sa táirgeadh teilifíse le feiceáil ó síníodh Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta nó ó daingníodh an Chairt.

Má tá soláthar cuí de chláir Ghaeilge le craoladh ar an teilifís tá gá le caighdeán a thabhairt isteach i dtaca le líon na n-uaireanta agus na dtráthanna craolta. Tá gá fosta le réimse cuimsitheach clár a fhreastalaíonn ar gach aoisghrúpa: nuacht agus cúrsaí reatha, cláir fhaisnéise, cláir oideachais, dráma agus spórt.

I gcás na teilifíse go háirithe, is léir go bhfuil an BBC ag déanamh faillí sa tseirbhís do phobal na

provision for simultaneous translation during meetings, whilst welcome, could be considerably improved by appropriate training and support for the translators concerned.

Pages 51/52 – The government report refers to the Irish language initiatives in place in the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Whilst measures to promote the use of the Irish language are welcome from all sources, the Committee should be aware that there are continued difficulties regarding the credibility of the new police service. Thus, it is likely that, in the absence of similar initiatives in all other sections of the civil service, such measures will be viewed with suspicion by at least part of the Irish language community.

Article 11- Media

In view of the widely acknowledged importance of the media in minority language situations, POBAL welcomes the fact that a comprehensive range of provisions were selected to apply to Irish, under this article. This provides significant scope for development in this area, although POBAL is concerned to note that some of the relevant authorities appear to view the Charter as a ‘checklist’ of existing provision rather than as an opportunity for further development.

BBC Northern Ireland currently broadcasts daily radio programmes in Irish, amounting to 4.5 hours per week. The Radio Authority (UK) recently refused to grant a licence to a Belfast based Irish language radio station – Raidió Fáilte – which has been broadcasting illegally since February 2002.

BBC Northern Ireland broadcasts television programmes in Irish a few times a year. During the current year (2001/2002), television output in Irish has amounted to 16 hours – including 13 hours of a repeat programme for adult learners of Irish – Now You’re Talking. To date this year there has been three hours of new programming in Irish – the Irish music programme - Ceol i gCuideachta. Thus, there has been no increase in Irish language television output, since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, or since the ratification of the Charter.

Adequate provision for Irish language broadcasting on television requires the introduction of standards on the number of hours of Irish language output, and conditions regarding the

Gaeilge, dream ar cuid mhór agus cuid bhorrach dá lucht éisteachta agus féachána iad. Is léir chomh beag agus atá an soláthar Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann nuair a chuirtear i gcomparáid é le scéal na Breatnaise agus na Gàidhlig é. Sa Bhreatain Bheag tá cainéal teilifíse ar leith ann don chraoladh tríd an Bhreatnais agus tá seirbhís Raidió Breatnaise ar fáil chomh maith, Raidio Cymru. In Albain craoltar clár raidió Gàidhlig ar Raidio nan Gàidheal agus maoiníonn an Rialtas an ‘Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig’ le cláir teilifíse a chur ar fáil. Craoltar iadsan ar BBC agus ITV.

Tá fianaise ann fosta ar an dóigh ar theip ar na húdaráis chraolta stádas na Gaeilge mar theanga dhuchais anseo a aithint, teanga atá i dteideal cothú speisialta a fháil de réir mar atá scríofa sa Chairt agus sa reachtaíocht idirnáisiúnta eile. Mar shampla, i litir³³ chuig POBAL dúirt ceannaire na gclár i BBC Thuaisceart Éireann, gur mhó an phráinn é cláir a chur ar fáil don phobal Síneach i dTuaisceart na hÉireann ná aon mhéadú a dhéanamh ar na cláir Ghaeilge. Tá an cur chuige seo ag teacht salach ar na gealltanais a rinneadh faoin Ghaeilge de réir na Cairte.

Tá pobal na Gaeilge ag iarraidh go mbunófaí ciste craolta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Tá an t-iarratas seo diúltaithe ag na húdaráis go dtí seo agus tá muid meallta nach bhfuil aon tagairt don chraoladh Gaeilge sa Dréacht-Bhille Cumarsáide (2002), cé go bhfuil soláthar ann don Bhreatnais agus don Gàidhlig.

Tá an Roinn Cultúir Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i ndiaidh maoiniú a chur ar fáil do chlár oiliúna i dtáirgeadh teilifíse agus scannánaíochta agus reachtáladh an chéad chúrsa go luath sa bhliain 2002. Cé go bhfuil seo dearfach ann féin, is leanúint é ar chúrsaí den chineál chéanna a bhí ann roimhe agus tá míshástacht ann go fóill i measc grúpaí Gaeilge sa phobal nach mbíonn aon mhaoiniú ann don táirgeadh tar éis do dhaoine an cúrsa oiliúna a dhéanamh.

times when these programmes are broadcast. It also requires that a comprehensive range of programmes are broadcast which cater for all age groups and include: news and current affairs, documentaries, educational programmes, drama, sport.

With regard to television in particular, it is clear that the BBC is neglecting its public service remit in the case of Irish speakers, who make up a significant and growing proportion of its audience. The very minimal level of provision for Irish language broadcasting in Northern Ireland is clearly highlighted when compared with broadcasting in Welsh and in Scottish Gaelic. In Wales, there is a separate Welsh language television channel and the BBC provides a Welsh language radio service, Radio Cymru. In Scotland, radio programmes in Gaelic are broadcast on Radio nan Gàidheal and the government funds the Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig (the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee) which produces television programmes in Gaelic. These are broadcast on the BBC channels and on ITV.

There is also evidence of a failure to acknowledge the position of the Irish language as an indigenous language here, which is entitled to specific promotion measures as outlined in the Charter, and in other international legislation. Thus for example, in a letter³³ to POBAL, the Head of Programming of BBC Northern Ireland, suggested that it was of greater priority to provide programmes for the Chinese community in Northern Ireland, than to increase the provision of Irish language programmes. This approach is at variance with the undertakings in relation to the Irish language under the Charter.

The Irish language community has called for a broadcasting fund comparable to that in Scotland, to be established in the North of Ireland. This has been refused by the authorities and it is particularly disappointing to note the failure to make any reference to Irish language broadcasting in the draft Communications Bill (2002), while there is provision for both Welsh and Scottish Gaelic.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has provided funding for a training programme in television and film production, and the first course was held in early 2002. While this may be viewed as a positive initiative, it follows similar training

³³Litir ó Anna Carragher, Stiúrthóir BBC (TÉ) 15ú Bealtaine 2002: ‘I am sure you will appreciate that we have to serve a range of needs and wishes while appealing to a broad audience ... Other linguistic communities also wish for programming – for example the largest monoglot community in Northern Ireland, after English speakers, is the Cantonese community.’ (Is léir nach pobal aon teanga iad lucht an Bhéarla nó lucht na Cantóinise ach oiread, sa chiall is coitianta den téarma sin).

³³Letter from Anna Carragher, Controller BBC NI, 15th May, 2002 : ‘I am sure you will appreciate that we have to serve a range of needs and wishes while appealing to a broad audience ... Other linguistic communities also wish for programming – for example the largest monoglot community in Northern Ireland, after English speakers, is the Cantonese community.’ (Clearly neither the English- nor Cantonese-speaking communities are ‘monoglot’ communities in the usual sense of the term)

Faoi láthair níl BBC Thuaisceart Éireann ag comhlíonadh gealltanais na Chairte i dtaca le ‘go leor soláthair’ d’ábhar Gaeilge a chraoladh. Tá gá mór mar sin le méadú suntasach sa soláthar, rud a thiocfadh a dhéanamh go héifeachtach trí Chiste Craolacháin a bhunú ar nós an ruda atá acu in Albain. Mar bharr air sin, tá gá le reachtaíocht nua chun ceangal a chur ar na craoltoirí céatadán níos mó d’ábhar Gaeilge a chraoladh. Bá chóir go mbeadh caighdeán sa reachtaíocht sin i dtaca leis an sceideal craolta agus cineál agus cáilíocht na gclár.

Tá foráil sa Chairt i dtaca le hábaltacht le teacht ar sheirbhísí craolacháin sa mhionteanga i Stát bhéal dorais. Baineann seo go díreach leis an ghlacadh (caighdeán closamhairc) atá le fáil i dTuaisceart na hÉireann ar TG4, an stáisiún teilifíse Gaeilge atá ar obair i bPoblacht na hÉireann. Luaíodh seo go sonrach i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta sna focail seo: ".....an scóip atá ann chun Teilifís na Gaeilge a chur ar fáil ar bhonn níos forleithne i dTuaisceart na hÉireann a scrúdú, mar ábhar práinne, in éineacht le húdaráis iomchuí na Breataine agus i gcomhar le húdaráis chraolacháin na hÉireann."

Cé go bhfuil dul chun cinn éigin bainte amach tá fadhbanna ann fós maidir leis an ghlacadh atá ar TG4 sa Tuaisceart. Meastar go bhféadann idir 65% agus 70% den daonra sa Tuaisceart TG4 a fheiceáil. Níl an glacadh rómhaith go fóill áfach i gcuid mhór ceantar agus is féidir a rá nach léir biseach ar bith ar na cúrsaí sin ón uair a síníodh an Comhaontú.

Níl go leor dul chun cinn déanta go fóill ar an ghealltanais sa Chairt go mbeadh teacht ar fud Thuaisceart na hÉireann ar chlár an stáisiúin teilifíse Gaeilge TG4. Tá cuid mhór moilleanna le feiceáil i dtaca le leathnú na seirbhísí seo go dtí an Tuaisceart agus níl na fadhbanna sin réitithe go sásúil go fóill.

courses and there is dissatisfaction among community based Irish language groups that provision for training has not been followed up with adequate funding for production.

At present BBC Northern Ireland is not meeting the Charter commitment to make ‘adequate provision’ for broadcasting in the Irish language. Thus, there is a need for a substantial increase in provision, which could best be achieved by establishing a Broadcasting Fund, as exists in Scotland. In addition, there is a need for the introduction of legislation to place a duty on broadcasters to provide an increasing percentage of Irish language programming. The legislation should also set standards with regard to broadcasting schedules, types and quality of programming.

The Charter requirement regarding access to broadcasting services in the minority language from neighbouring states, relates directly to reception of TG4 (the Irish language television station which operates from the Republic of Ireland) in the north of Ireland. This was specifically mentioned in the Good Friday Agreement, which states ‘...the British Government ...will explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilge (now TG4) in Northern Ireland’.

While some progress has been achieved in relation to this, there are ongoing problems in relation to reception of TG4 in the North of Ireland. Thus, it is estimated that about 65-70% of the population in the north can view TG4. However, the quality of reception is far from satisfactory in many areas and in general, actions taken since the Agreement can be said to have produced little discernible difference in relation to the availability of the station in the north of Ireland.

The Charter undertaking relating to universal access to the Irish language television station TG4 throughout the north of Ireland is not currently being met. The extension of this service to the North has been characterised by long delays, and this has yet to be satisfactorily resolved.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA HEORPA.

Leathanach 52 – Ba chóir go gcuirfeadh an Coiste san áireamh gur diúltaíodh le déanaí d'iarratas chuig Foras na Gaeilge ón nuachtan 'Lá' faoi choinne maoiniú a chuirfeadh an páipéar amach ar bhonn laethúil san am atá le teacht.

Leathanach 52/53 – I dtaca leis an mhaoiniú atá le fáil ó Choimisiún Thuaisceart Éireann do Scannánaíocht agus Theilifís, is cosúil nach bhfuil maoiniú ar leith ann d'ábhar Gaeilge ach go bhfuil cead ag daoine aonair iarratas a chur isteach. Chomh maith leis sin, ní fios do POBAL go ndearnadh poiblíocht ar bith faoin scéim seo chun insint do ghrúpaí Gaeilge go bhfuil maoiniú le fáil.

Leathanach 53 – Tagraíonn an tuairisc don chúrsa oiliúna Gaeilge do theicneoirí sna meáin (a reáchtáladh i 1997). Is fiú a lua nár cuireadh a mhacasamhail de chúrsa ar bith eile ar fáil ón am sin. Níor tháinig méadú ar bith ar ábhar Gaeilge (ó BBC TÉ) ón am sin ach oiread fosta.

Alt 12 – Imeachtaí agus Áiseanna Cultúrtha

Tá POBAL iontach sásta gur roghnaíodh réimse mór forálacha i dtaca le Gaeilge faoi Alt. 12. Is forálacha iontach forleathana iad mar is léir ón liosta atá déanta acu de "Imeachtaí agus Áiseanna" sonraithe.

Is in earnáil na n-ealaíon is mó a fheictear fás agus forbairt na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Is ón earnáil dheonach agus earnáil an ghnáthphobail is mó a tháinig sé agus bhí fás níos teoranta ar an soláthar ó na forais sheanbhunaithe a bhí i mbun cultúir agus na n-ealaíon.

Is cuid bharrthábhachtach d'fhorbairt na teanga í gur bunaíodh lár-ionaid a chuireann réimse mór imeachtaí cultúrtha ar fáil agus a fhónann mar áit chruinnithe agus teagmhála do na Gaeilgeoirí. Is áit Iarnach í Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich do phobal na Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste agus ar fud Thuaisceart na hÉireann. Bunaíodh cultúrlanna in áiteanna eile chomh maith: An Gaeláras i nDoire, Tí Chulainn in Ard Mhacha Theas, agus An Droichead i nDeisceart Bhéal Feirste. Stáitsíonn an Compántas Amharclainne Aisling Ghéar, atá lonnaithe i mBéal Feirste, drámaí Gaeilge

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Page 52 – The committee should note that a recent application by the Irish language newspaper - 'Lá'- to Foras na Gaeilge for funding to issue the paper on a daily basis has been refused.

Pages 52/53 – With regard to the funding available from the Northern Ireland Film and Television Commission, it appears that no particular funding exists for Irish programming but that individuals may simply apply to the general fund. In addition, POBAL is not aware of any publicity about this scheme to inform Irish language groups of the availability of funding.

Page 53 – The report refers to the Irish-medium training course for media technicians (conducted in 1997). It should be noted that no similar course has been provided since then. Nor has there been any significant increase in Irish language programme output (on BBC NI) since that time.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

POBAL welcomes the fact that a comprehensive range of provisions were selected to apply to Irish, under Article 12. These provisions have wide application, as indicated in the wide range of 'activities and facilities' identified.

The growth and development of the Irish language in the north of Ireland is reflected in the emergence of a vibrant Irish language arts sector. This activity has originated from the community and voluntary sector, while provision for the Irish language has been more limited in established arts and cultural bodies.

The establishment of centres which provide a range of cultural activities, as well as a focal point for Irish speakers has been a key element in the development of the language. The Cultúrlann is a key resource for the Irish language community in Belfast and throughout the north of Ireland. Cultural centres have also been established in other areas, including An Gaeláras in Derry, Tí Chulainn in South Armagh, An Droichead in south Belfast. The Belfast-based theatre company Aisling Ghéar stages plays in the Irish language (both original works and translations), which are

(bunsaothair agus aistriúcháin) don phobal ar fud na hÉireann agus thar lear. Mar bharr air sin, bíonn roinnt féilte bliantúla agus scoileanna samhraidh ann a reáchtáiltear ar fad trí Ghaeilge nó a mbíonn gné shuntasach den Ghaeilge iontu.

Maidir le cúrsaí na n-ealaíon i nGaeilge, tagann an chuid is mó den mhaoiniú ó Chomhairle Ealaíon (TÉ) agus ó Fhoras na Gaeilge. Le blianta fada anuas bhí na grúpaí Gaeilge iontach míshásta leis an easpa taca a fhaigheann siad ó Chomhairle na nEalaíon agus leis an easpa dearfachta sna polasaithe do chúrsaí na nEalaíon Gaeilge. Taispeánann na figiúirí is déanaí faoin mhaoiniú³⁴ atá déanta ag Comhairle na nEalaíon nár tugadh ach 0.027% de mhaoiniú 2002/2003 do na grúpaí Gaeilge. Dar le POBAL, cuireann an Chairt deis ar fáil chun soláthar a mhéadú sa réimse seo agus go gcaithfidh na forais chuí (leithéid Chomhairle na nEalaíon) a sciar a dhéanamh.

I dtaca le forais eile a bhfuil baint acu le soláthar imeachtaí ealaíne agus cultúir níl mórán ábhair Gaeilge le feiceáil ar chor ar bith. Mar shampla, is beag an soláthar de leabhair Ghaeilge agus d'ábhair Gaeilge a bhíonn ar stoc sna leabharlanna poiblí le fada anuas. Agus sinne ag monatóireacht an scéil rinne muid teagmháil le cúig Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne a fhiosrú faoin fhreastal a bhí á dhéanamh ag na seirbhísí leabharlainne ar phobal na Gaeilge. Agus muid a scríobh seo, bhí dhá fhreagra faighte againn. Dúradh linn go mbíonn ceannach leabhar agus ábhar eile i nGaeilge ag brath ar an éileamh áitiúil. Dhearbhaigh an tAire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta an rud céanna mar fhreagra ar cheist a cuireadh sa Tionól.³⁵ Tá sé deacair áfach céatadán an chaiteachais ar ábhair i nGaeilge a aimsiú faoi láthair, rud a dhéanann deacair é méid an tsoláthair don Ghaeilge a chinntiú, sa dóigh seo ar scor ar bith. (Deir an tAire go mbeidh an fhaisnéis seo ar fáil tríd an togra leictreonach do na leabharlanna, rud a bheidh réidh faoi lúil 2003³⁶ agus beidh seo ina áis mhonatóireachta don soláthar do na Gaeilgeoirí i seirbhísí na leabharlainne).

Os a coinne sin is léir ó na freagraí go bhfuil seirbhís na leabharlainne ag machnamh ar riachtanais na nGaelscoileanna. I gceann amháin de na Boird, thuairiscigh an príomhleabharlanaí go raibh ábhar Gaeilge forbartha ag an fhoireann le húsáid le linn cuairteanna ranga ó na Gaelscoileanna. I mBord eile, dúirt an

performed throughout Ireland and abroad. In addition, a number of annual festivals and schools are conducted entirely through Irish, or incorporate a significant Irish language element.

In the area of Irish language arts activity, the two principal sources of funding are the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Foras na Gaeilge. Over the years, Irish language groups have been very critical of the lack of support from the Arts Council and of the absence of a clear policy on the Irish language arts. The most recent figures on Arts Council funding³⁴ show that awards to Irish language arts groups accounted for approximately 0.027% of total awards for 2002/2003. It is POBAL's view that the ratification of the Charter provides an opportunity to enhance provision in this area, and that it is imperative on the relevant bodies (such as the Arts Council) to do so.

With regard to other bodies involved in arts and cultural provision, the Irish language has not featured to any great extent. For example, the stock of Irish language books and other material in public libraries has traditionally been very minimal. In the course of our monitoring project, POBAL contacted the five Education and Library Boards, with enquiries on provision for the Irish language community in the library service. At the time of writing, we had received responses from two boards. The information supplied indicates that decisions relating to the purchase of books and other materials in Irish are based on local demand. This was confirmed by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure in a response to an Assembly question.³⁵ However, information on the percentage of expenditure on materials in Irish is not available at present and so it is difficult to assess the adequacy of provision for the Irish language (at least, in this way). (The Minister has indicated that this information is likely to become available through the electronic libraries project, which is due for completion by July 2003³⁶, and this should assist in monitoring provision for Irish speakers in the library service.)

On a more positive note, the responses to POBAL's enquiries indicated that the needs of Irish-medium schools are being considered by the library services. In one ELB, the Chief Librarian reported that material in Irish had been developed by staff for use during class visits from Irish-medium schools. In another board, the librarian reported that story-telling through Irish was

³⁴Taca Bliantúil d'Eagraíochtaí ar líonáithreán Chomhairle Ealaíon Thuaisceart na hÉireann (www.artscouncil-ni.org). Tagraíonn na figiúirí do dheontais tugtha le linn na tréimhse Aibreán 2002- Márta 2003.

³⁵Freagra tugtha ag Michael McGimpsey, Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta ar cheist an Uasail B. Mac Giolla Dhuibh CT, 27 Bealtaine 2002.

³⁶Freagra tugtha ag Michael McGimpsey, Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta ar cheist M. Bn. Mhic Niallais CT, 3 Bealtaine 2002.

³⁴Annual Support for Organisations on the website of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (www.artscouncil-ni.org). The figures refer to awards made for the period April 2002 -March 2003

³⁵Response by Michael McGimpsey, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to Mr.B McElduff MLA, 27 May 2002.

³⁶Response by Michael McGimpsey, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to Ms. M. Nelis MLA, 3 May 2002.

leabharlannaí go raibh scéalaíocht as Gaeilge ar siúl le linn cuairteanna na nGaelscoileanna. Reáchtálann an Bord seo ‘Lá eolais’ fosta, rud a thugann deis do na grúpaí teanga eolas faoina gcuid oibre a thabhairt don phobal.

Faoi láthair, tá an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta ag déanamh athbhreithnithe ar sheirbhísí leabharlainne. I bhfianaise dhaingniú na Cairte agus go sonrach i láthair na bhforálacha cuimsitheacha ar glacadh leo don Ghaeilge faoi Alt 12, ba cheart go dtabharfaí aird mhór don pholasaí Gaeilge le linn an athbhreithnithe seo.

I 1998 tháinig na ceithre iarsmalann agus dhánlann i dTuaisceart na Éireann le chéile chun eagraíocht nua a bhunú. MAGNI a baisteadh uirthi. Mar a dúirt siad sa fhreagra ar fhiosrúchán ó POBAL faoi úsáid na Gaeilge sna hinstiúidí seo bhí soláthar éigin do Ghaeilgeoirí ar fáil fada go leor siar. Bhí treoirleabhar dánlainne agus ábhair oideachais i nGaeilge, bhí léiriúcháin chlos-téipe agus léachtaí i nGaeilge agus comharthaí dhátheangacha ar fáil. Go dtí seo áfach, is éigean a rá gur ar bhonn teoranta ó thaobh méid agus ar bhonn fánach ó thaobh ama de a bhí an soláthar seo ar fáil. I gcomhthéacs dhaingniú na Cairte, tá géarghá ann le cur leis na seirbhísí seo go mór.

Go ginearálta, tá polasaí soiléir a dhíth sa Chomhairle Éalaíon (TÉ) chun cúrsaí ealaíon trí Ghaeilge a fhorbairt agus a chothú. Maidir le háiseanna ar nós iarsmalann agus leabharlann tá gá le haitheantas níos mó ar fhás phobal na Gaeilge agus ar an ghá go mbeidh teacht éasca iomlán ag an phobal ar na seirbhísí seo uilig trí mheán na Gaeilge.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA hEORPA

Leathanaigh 54/56 – Leabharlanna – Tugann an tuairisc oifigiúil seo fianaise go bhfuil nua-iarraichtaí déanta ag lucht na leabharlann poiblí chun freastal ar riachtanais an phobail áitiúil Ghaeilge i dtéarmaí áiseanna agus seirbhísí. Mar shampla, is rud an-tábhachtach é go gcuirtear seirbhísí ar fáil do na Gaelscoileanna agus tá POBAL buíoch as an obair atá déanta ag na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne sa réimse seo. Is éigean a rá áfach gur de thoradh deathoil na foirne

provided during visits from Irish-medium schools. This board also runs an ‘Irish-language Information Day’, when language groups have an opportunity to inform members of the public about their work.

At present, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure are conducting a review of the Public Library Service. In view of the ratification of the Charter and specifically, the wide-ranging provisions adopted for the Irish language under Article 12, it is important that policy on the Irish language is given careful consideration during this review.

In 1998, the four major museums and galleries in the north of Ireland merged to form MAGNI (Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland). As indicated in their response to POBAL’s enquiry regarding the use of Irish in these institutions, there has over the years been a certain level of provision for Irish speakers, through the production of gallery guides and educational materials in Irish, audio presentations and lectures in Irish and bilingual signage. However to date, this type of provision has been of a limited and periodic nature. In the context of the ratification of the Charter, there is a need to extend these services significantly.

In general, there needs to be a clear policy in the Arts Council (NI) to develop and promote the Irish language arts. In relation to facilities such as museums and libraries, there is a need for greater recognition of the growing Irish language community and to ensure that this community has access to these public services through the Irish language.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Pages 54/56 – Libraries – The account provided in the official report of provision for Irish speakers in the public library service, shows clear evidence of initiatives designed to meet the needs of local populations, in terms of the provision of resources and services through Irish. For example, the provision of services for local Irish-medium schools is of central importance and POBAL acknowledges the work of the Education and Library Boards in this area. However, it is

agus éileamh ó na Gaeilgeoirí féin a tháinig an soláthar chun cinn. Níor chuid d'aon phleanáil ghinearálta é. Tá gá mar sin le planáil iomlán straitéiseach sa réimse seo chun na rudaí maithe a bhuanú agus a fheabhsú agus chun tuilleadh seirbhísí a fhorbairt do Ghaeilgeoirí. Mar shampla, Tá ionnas 'ad-hoc' an tsoláthair reatha léirithe mar go mbíonn caighdeán seirbhíse níos fearr ann do Ghaelscoileanna áitiúla i gceantar amháin ná i gceantair eile. Níl seirbhísí den chineál chéanna le fáil ag achan Ghaelscoil.

Maidir le hAlt 1e, a bhaineann le hearcú foirne atá cumasach sa Ghaeilge, ba mhaith le POBAL tuilleadh mioneolais faoi na straitéisí atá ar bun ag na Boird chun a chinntiú go mbíonn go leor cainteoirí cumasacha ar fáil chun freastal ar an phobal sna leabharlanna poiblí.

Rud ginearálta, is ábhar iontais dúinn é chomh minic agus a thagraítear, sa chuid seo den tuairisc, don soláthar atá á dhéanamh d'Albanais Uladh agus do theangacha eitneacha. Cuid III den Chairt atá faoi thrácht anseo, agus ní shonraítear teanga ar bith seachas an Ghaeilge.

Alt 13 – An Saol Sóisialta agus Geilleagrach

Tá sé deacair an dul chun cinn a mheas maidir le hAlt 13, nó ní abraíonn an fhoráil don Ghaeilge ach go ndéanfaidh an Stát éascú agus/nó cothú úsáid na Gaeilge sa saol geilleagrach agus sóisialta ar dhóigh ghinearálta.

Tá roinnt samplaí ann sa Tuaisceart den lom-dhoicheadh roimh an Ghaeilge. B'fhearr, dá bhrí sin, dá leanfadh an Rialtas de rún an pharagraif roimhe sin, áit a gceanglaítear ar an Stát cur in éadan chleachtais nó nósanna ar bith ar cuspóir dóibh na teangacha mionlaigh nó reigiúnda a imeallú i dtaca le himeachtaí geilleagracha nó sóisialta.

Mar shampla, tá fadhbanna fós ann leis na seirbhísí poist. Is minic a fhaigheann POBAL gearán ó bhallgrúpaí faoi neamhsheachadadh litreacha a bhfuil ainm nó seoladh i nGaeilge orthu. Tháinig seo amach go soiléir le linn obair POBAL i dtaca leis an Bhille Daoncheartach do Thuaisceart na hÉireann, nó bhí cártaí poist ann a raibh seoladh beacht Gaeilge orthu ach tháinig siad ar ais ón Runaí Stáit agus teachtaireacht scríofa orthu: 'Scríobh i mBéarla' nó 'seoladh

important to note that existing provision has largely developed due to the goodwill of staff and to demands from Irish-speakers, rather than as part of overall planning for provision for the use of Irish in the library service. Thus, there is a need for overall strategic planning in this area, in order to consolidate and further develop services for Irish speakers. The ad-hoc nature of current provision is illustrated by the fact that while greater levels of service are available in certain areas for local Irish-medium schools, not all schools have access to a local library with comparable services.

With regard to paragraph 1e, relating to recruiting staff with competence in Irish, POBAL would welcome clarification on the strategies in place in the boards to ensure that there are adequate numbers of staff with competence in Irish, to provide service to Irish speakers in public libraries.

As a general comment, we are somewhat surprised by the repeated references throughout this section to services provided in Ulster-Scots and ethnic minority languages, since this section relates to Part III of the Charter, under which Irish is the only designated language, in the north of Ireland.

Article 13 – Economic and Social life

It is difficult to assess progress on Article 13, as the provision adopted for Irish requires the State to 'facilitate and/or encourage' the use of Irish in the economic and social sphere, in a general way.

There are some instances where the use of Irish is actively discouraged, and for this reason, it would have been useful if the preceding paragraph which requires the State to 'oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities' had been adopted.

For example, there have been ongoing problems with the postal service. POBAL receives regular complaints from member groups about the non-delivery of letters with names and addresses in Irish. This was also highlighted during POBAL's work in relation to the proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, when postcards correctly addressed in Irish, to the Secretary of State were returned with written messages 'Write in English' and 'Incomplete address'. POBAL has addressed these complaints to the Royal Mail, with

neamhiomlán'. Chuir POBAL na gearáin seo ar aghaidh chuig an Royal Mail agus fuair sé sásamh ach os rud é gur buan na fadhbanna seo is léir gur gá le tabhairt fúthu ar dhóigh níos sásúla.

San earnáil phríobháideach tá samplaí ann de chomhlachtaí a d'aithin fás phobal na Gaeilge trí sheirbhísí a ofráil nó chomharthaí dátheangacha a úsáid. I dTuaisceart na hÉireann tá bainc ann – Banc na hÉireann, An Chéad Iontaobhas agus Banc Uladh – atá sásta leagan Gaeilge de sheicleabhair a eisiúint má iarrtar orthu. I gcás Bhanc na hÉireann, tugann sé seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge i gcuid de na brainsí. I mBéal Feirste, san Iarthar go háirithe, tá comharthaí dátheangacha in airde i gcuid mhaith siopaí agus gnónna.

I gcás imeachtaí ina bhfuil níos lú tionchair ag an Stát orthu, is dócha go n-iarrann an fhoráil seo den Chairt go spreagfaí úsáid na teanga nó go méadófaí an soláthar áiseanna di. Níl fianaise ann go fóill go bhfuil aon chéim tugtha sa bhealach seo.

Maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge san áit oibre, tá POBAL buartha go bhfuil an Coimisiún Cothromais do Thuaisceart na hÉireann i ndiaidh a chur in iúl d'fhostóirí áirithe gur féidir nach mbíonn úsáid na Gaeilge i gcomhthéacs áirithe ag teacht le neodracht an spáis oibre.³⁷ Le linn comhfhreagrais le POBAL dúirt an Coimisiún gur shíl sé go mbeadh úsáid na Gaeilge san áit oibre ina foras do líomhaintí leithcheala ag daoine gan Ghaeilge agus gurbh fhéidir go gcuirfí d'fhiacha ar na fostóirí bearta a dhéanamh chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chosc. I gcomhfhreagrais ar an téama céanna tá Coimisiún um Chearta Daonna TÉ i ndiaidh tacú leis an léirmhíniú seo ar an scéal reatha maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge san áit oibre.

Is gá soiléiriú a dhéanamh ar na bearta a dhéanfar chun úsáid na Gaeilge sa saol gilleagrach agus sóisialta a chur chun cinn.

satisfactory results, but the persistence of such problems indicates that there is a need to tackle such practices in a more pro-active way.

In the private sector, there are some examples of companies which have responded to the growth of the Irish language community, by offering service through Irish or using bilingual signage. In Northern Ireland, a number of banks – Bank of Ireland, First Trust and Ulster Bank – will issue Irish versions of cheque-books on request. Bank of Ireland also provides service through Irish in some branches. In Belfast, particularly in the west of the city, many shops and businesses display bilingual signs.

In relation to areas of economic activity in which the State has less direct influence, it is likely that this particular provision of the Charter requires that the use of Irish, or provision for Irish speakers should be encouraged. There is no evidence that any such measures are in place at present.

With regard to the use of Irish in the workplace, POBAL is concerned that the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, has advised some employers that the use of Irish in certain contexts is not conducive to the creation of a 'neutral workspace'.³⁷ In the course of correspondence with POBAL, the Commission has expressed the view that the use of Irish in the workplace could provide the basis for allegations of discrimination against non-Irish speakers and that this could potentially place a duty on employers to take steps to prevent the use of Irish in this context. In related correspondence, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has supported this interpretation of the current situation regarding the use of Irish in the workplace.

There is a need for clarification of the measures which will be employed to promote the use of Irish in economic and social life.

³⁷Comhfhreagrais idir POBAL agus Coimisiún Cothromais do Thuaisceart na hÉireann.

³⁷Correspondence between POBAL and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA HEORPA

Leathanach 57 – Agus í ag tagairt d’fheidhmiú Alt 13 deir an tuairisc oifigiúil gur féidir le eagraíochtaí Gaeilge san earnáil phríobháideach/neamhrialtasach taca poiblí a lorg ar an bhonn chéanna le heagraíochtaí eile san earnáil phríobháideach. Is ar éigin is féidir glacadh leis seo mar pholasáí dearfach chun an Ghaeilge a chothú san earnáil seo.

Alt 14 – Comhar Trasteorann

Is í an Ghaeilge príomhtheanga náisiúnta Phoblacht na hÉireann í, áit a léiríonn na figiúirí daonáirimh is déanaí (1996) go bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge³⁸ ag 41% den phobal (atá in aois a 3 nó níos sine). Ardaíonn an figiúr seo go dtí 73% den phobal sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.³⁹ Tá sé ríthábhachtach go mbeidh comhar idir an pobal mór Gaeilge seo agus Gaeilgeoirí i dtuaisceart na hÉireann. Aithnítear tábhacht na nasc sin go soiléir sa tuairisc mhínitheach sa Chairt nuair a deir sí ‘go bhfuil ardtábhacht le comhar agus le malartú cultúrtha, go háirithe nuair atá teanga ina teanga réigiúnda i Stát amháin agus í ina príomhtheanga chultúrtha nó fiú ina teanga náisiúnta sa Stát eile. Sa dóigh seo is féidir leis an chomhar trasteorann deis a thabhairt don phobal réigiúnach tairbhe a bhaint as imeachtaí sa teanga is forleithne sin.

Ba mhór an dul chun cinn é bunú an fhorais uile-Éireannaigh An Foras Teanga chun comhar i gcúrsaí Gaeilge a fhorbairt ar leibhéal oifigiúil. Níor tugadh céimeanna suntasacha ar bith go fóill áfach chun cur leis na teagmhálacha trasteorann ag grúpaí Gaeilge. Is mór idir an easpa ghníomhaíochta anseo agus an rud atá déanta ag tograí eile ar nós Co-operation North, a mhaoiníonn comhar trasphobail agus Iomairt Cholmille, a chothaíonn naisc idir cainteoirí Gaeilge agus cainteoirí Gàidhlig in Albain.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Page 57 – The statement in the official report on the implementation of Article 13 which states that Irish language organisations in the private/NGO sector can apply for public support on the same basis as any other private sector organisation, can hardly be viewed as a positive policy of promoting the use of Irish in these sectors.

Article 14 – Transfrontier Exchanges

The Irish language is the first national language in the Republic of Ireland, where the most recent census figures (1996) indicated that 41% of the population (aged 3 and over) could speak Irish³⁸. This rises to over 73% of the population in Gaeltacht³⁹ areas. Mutual co-operation with this larger Irish language community is of central importance for Irish speakers in the north of Ireland. The importance of such links is explicitly recognised in the Explanatory Report on the Charter, which states that co-operation and cultural exchange is ‘... particularly important where a regional language in one state corresponds to a major cultural language, or even the national language, of another state and where transfrontier co-operation can enable the regional community to benefit from cultural activity in that more widespread language’.

The establishment of the all-Ireland language body An Foras Teanga has facilitated greater co-operation at an official level in relation to Irish language policy. However, no significant steps have been taken to encourage greater cross-border contact between Irish language groups. The failure to establish initiatives to encourage this is in contrast with other projects, such as Co-operation North which funds cross-community exchanges and the Iomairt Cholmille initiative, which promotes links between Irish speakers and Gaelic speakers in Scotland.

³⁸Cuirtear an cheist an bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge ag daoine in aois a 3 nó níos sine.

³⁹Ceantair oifigiúla aitheanta Ghaeilge.

³⁸The question asked whether persons aged 3 and over could speak Irish

³⁹Officially recognised Irish-speaking areas

Chun Alt 14 den Chairt a chur i bhfeidhm tá gá le cur chuige i bhfad níos gníomhaí maidir le naisc a chothú idir grúpaí Gaeilge ar fud na hÉireann.

TRÁCHT AR THUAIRISC AN RIALTAIS CHUIG COMHAIRLE NA hEORPA

Leathanach 58 – Tá maoinseimeanna áirithe ag an AE atá dírithe ar an chomhar trasteorann agus tagraíonn Tuairisc an Rialtais dóibh mar shampla de shocruithe iltaobhacha a chothaíonn naisc idir Gaeilgeoirí ar fud na hÉireann. Cé gur féidir le grúpaí Gaeilge iarratas a chur isteach do na scéimeanna seo, níl na scéimeanna áfach dírithe go sonrach chun naisc a chothú idir Gaeilgeoirí. Mar a dúradh cheana go minic is é dearcadh POBAL é gur gá le bheith i bhfad níos dearfaí chun naisc trasteorann a spreagadh, trí thograí ar leith.

In order to implement Article 14 of the Charter, there is a need for a much more active approach to the promotion of links between Irish language groups throughout Ireland.

COMMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Page 58 – The government report refers to particular EU funding programmes directed at cross-border co-operation as examples of multilateral agreements, which foster links between Irish speakers throughout Ireland. However, while it is open to Irish language groups apply to these programmes for funding, these initiatives are not specifically designed to promote links between Irish speakers. As noted above, it is POBAL's view that there is a need for a more positive approach to promoting cross-border links, through specific initiatives.

AGUISÍN

CAIRT NA HEORPA DO THEANGACHA RÉIGIÚNACHA NÓ MIONLAIGH*

CUID II

(A BHAINNEAN LEIS AN GHAELGE AGUS AN ULTAIS)

Cuspóirí agus prionsabail arna saothrú i gcomhréir le hAirteagal 2, Alt 1

AIRTEAGAL 7 CUSPÓIRÍ AGUS PRIONSABAIL

1. I dtaca le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, ar na críocha ina n-úsáidtear na teangacha sin agus i gcomhréir leis an gcor ina bhfuil gach teanga, fothóidh na Páirtithe a mbeartaís, a reachtaíocht agus a gcleachtas ar na cuspóirí agus prionsabail seo a leanas:

- a. na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a aithint mar fhriotal ar an saibhreas cultúrtha;
- b. limistéar geografach gach teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a urramú d'fhonn a chinntiú nach mbaintear feidhm as ranna riarthacha atá ann nó as ranna nua chun cur isteach ar na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh i dtrácht a chur ar aghaidh;
- c. an riachtanas atá le gníomhaíocht dhiongbháilte d'fhonn teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chur ar aghaidh ar mhaithe lena gcoimirciú;
- d. úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh sa chaint agus i scríbhinn a éascú agus/nó a chothú, sa saol poiblí agus príobháideach;
- e. naisc a chothabháil agus a fhorbairt, sna réimsí atá folaithe sa Chairt seo, idir grúpaí a úsáideann teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh agus grúpaí eile sa Stát a úsáideann teanga i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil, mar aon le caidreamh cultúrtha a bhunú le grúpaí eile sa Stát a úsáideann teangacha difriúla;
- f. foirmeacha agus meáin iomchuí a sholáthar chun teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a theagasc, nó staidéar a dhéanamh orthu, ag gach céim iomchuí;
- g. saoráidí a sholáthar chun gur féidir le daoine nach labhraíonn teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a bhfuil cónaí orthu sa limistéar ina labhraítear í an teanga sin a fhoghlaim más mian leo;

APPENDIX

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES*

PART II

(TO APPLY TO IRISH AND ULSTER-SCOTS)

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

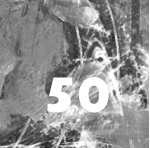
ARTICLE 7 OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

1. In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

- a. the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;
- b. the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;
- c. the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them
- d. the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in private and public life
- e. the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;
- f. the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;
- g. the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;

*Leagan iomlán na Cairte ar fáil ar www.coe.int

*The full text of the Charter is available on www.coe.int



- (h) staidéar agus taighde ar theangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chur ar aghaidh in ollscoileanna nó in institiúidí coibhéiseacha;
- (i) sagsanna iomchuí comhaiseag trasnáisiúnta a chur ar aghaidh sna réimsí atá folaithe sa Chairt seo, i dtaca le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a úsáidtear i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil in dá Stát nó níos mó;

2. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh aon idirdhealú, eisiamh, srianadh nó fabhar nach bhfuil bunús leo a dhíchur, mura bhfuil sé déanta acu cheana, a bhaineann le teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a úsáid agus arb é is aidhm dóibh cothabháil nó forbairt na teanga sin a dhíspeagadh nó a chur i gcontúirt. Bearta speisialta a ghlacadh, ar mhaithe le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, arb é is aidhm dóibh comhionannas a chur ar aghaidh idir úsáidirí na dteangacha sin agus an chuid eile den phobal nó a thugann aird chuí ar a ndálaí sonracha, níl sé le meas mar ghníomh a idirdhealaíonn i gcoinne úsáidirí na dteangacha is mó úsáid.

3. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh an tuiscint fhrithpháirteach idir grúpaí teangeolaíocha uile na tíre a chur ar aghaidh le bearta iomchuí agus go háirithe meas, tuiscint agus caoinfhulaingt i ndáil le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a áireamh ar chuspóirí an oideachais agus na hoiliúna a chuirtear ar fáil ina dtíortha agus na hollmheáin a chothú chun an cuspóir céanna a shaothrú.

4. Agus a mbeartas maidir le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh á chinneadh acu, cuirfidh na Páirtithe san áireamh na riachtanais agus toilmhianta arna gcur in iúl ag na grúpaí a úsáideann na teangacha sin. Déantar na grúpaí a chothú chun comhlachtaí a bhunú, más gá, d'fhonn comhairle a chur ar na húdaráis ar gach ábhar a bhaineann le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh.

5. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh na prionsabail atá liostaithe i míreanna 1 go 4 thuas a chur i bhfeidhm, mutatis mutandis, ar theangacha neamhchríochacha. Fad a bhaineann leis na teangacha sin, áfach, cinnfear ar dhóigh sholúbtha cineál agus raon feidhme na mbeart atá le glacadh chun éifeacht a thabhairt don Chairt seo ag féachaint do riachtanais agus do thoilmhianta na

- h. the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;
- i. the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of a regional or minority language. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

3. The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

4. In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

5. The Parties undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and

ngrúpaí a úsáideann na teangacha i dtrácht agus ag urramú a gcuid traidisiún agus sainghnéithe.

CUID III

Bearta chun úsáid na dteangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chur ar aghaidh sa saol poiblí i gcomhréir leis na gealltanais arna ngabháil ar láimh faoi Airteagal 2(2)

(36 foráil a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Na hailt atá i gceist i gcló trom).*

AIRTEAGAL 8 - OIDEACHAS

1. Maidir leis an oideachas, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, ar an gcríoch ina n-úsáidtear na teangacha sin, i gcomhréir leis an gcor ina bhfuil gach ceann de na teangacha sin, agus gan dochar do theagasc theanga oifigiúil nó theangacha oifigiúla an Stáit sin:

- a. i. oideachas réamhscoile a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
 - ii. cuid mhór den oideachas réamhscoile a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
 - iii. **ceann de na bearta dá bhforáiltear faoi i agus ii thuas a chur i bhfeidhm ar na daltaí sin ar a laghad a n-iarrann a dteaghlach a leithéid agus ar leor an líon díobh atá ann;**
- b. i. bunoidéachas a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
 - ii. cuid mhór den bhunoidéachas a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
 - iii. forálacha a dhéanamh chun go ndéantar sa bhunoidéachas na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha a theagasc mar chuid dhílis den churaclam; nó
 - iv. **ceann de na bearta dá bhforáiltear faoi i go iii thuas a chur i bhfeidhm ar na daltaí sin ar a laghad a n-iarrann a dteaghlach a leithéid agus ar leor an líon díobh atá ann;**

characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned.

PART III

Measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life in accordance with the undertakings entered into under Article 2, paragraph 2

(36 paragraphs which apply to Irish in Northern Ireland. Relevant paragraphs are highlighted in bold). *

ARTICLE 8 - EDUCATION

1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State, to:

- a. i. make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages ; or
 - ii. make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
 - iii. **apply one of the measures provided for under i and ii above at least to those pupils whose families so request or whose number is considered sufficient;**
- b. i. make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
 - ii. make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
 - iii. provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or
 - iv. **apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils whose families so request or whose number is considered sufficient;**

*Nóta an taighdeora

*Researcher's own note



- c. i. meánoideachas a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
ii. cuid mhór den mheánoideachas a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
iii. forálacha a dhéanamh chun go ndéantar sa mheánoideachas na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha a theagasc mar chuid dhílis den churaclam; nó
iv. ceann de na bearta dá bhforáiltear faoi i go iii thuas a chur i bhfeidhm ar na daltaí sin ar a laghad a iarrann a leithéid, nó, más iomchuí, a n-iarrann a dteaghlach a leithéid agus ar leor an líon díobh atá ann;
- d. i. oiliúint theicniúil agus gairmoiliúint a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
ii. cuid mhór den oiliúint theicniúil agus den ghairmoiliúint a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha; nó
iii. forálacha a dhéanamh chun go ndéantar san oiliúint theicniúil agus sa ghairmoiliúint na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ábhartha a theagasc mar chuid dhílis den churaclam; nó
iv. ceann de na bearta dá bhforáiltear faoi i go iii thuas a chur i bhfeidhm ar na daltaí sin ar a laghad a iarrann a leithéid, nó, más iomchuí, a n-iarrann a dteaghlach a leithéid agus ar leor an líon díobh atá ann;
- e. i. oideachas ollscoile agus ardoideachas eile a chur ar fáil i dteangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh;
ii. saoráidí a chur ar fáil chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar na teangacha sin mar ábhair san oideachas ollscoile agus san ardoideachas; nó
iii. más rud é, de thairbhe ról an Stáit i ndáil le hinstiúidí ardoideachais, nach féidir fomhíreanna i agus ii a chur i bhfeidhm, soláthar oideachas ollscoile nó foirmeacha eile ardoideachais i dteangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chothú agus/nó a cheadú nó saoráidí a chur ar fáil chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar na teangacha sin mar ábhair san oideachas ollscoile nó san ardoideachas;
- c. i. make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
ii. make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
iii. provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or
iv. apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families so request or whose number is considered sufficient;
- d. i. make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
ii. make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
iii. provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or
iv. apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families so request or whose number is considered sufficient;
- e. i. make available university and other higher education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
ii. provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects; or
iii. if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs i and ii cannot be applied, encourage and/or allow the provision of university and higher education in regional or minority languages or of facilities for the study of these languages as university or higher education subjects;
- f. ii. offer [regional or minority languages] as

- f. ii. na teangacha sin a thairiscint mar ábhair don oideachas do dhaoine fásta agus don oideachas leanúnach; nó
- g. socruithe a dhéanamh chun teagasc na staire agus an chultúir a áirithiú a bhfuil an teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh ina friotal orthu;
- h. bunoiúint agus oiliúint bhreise a chur ar fáil do na múinteoirí is gá chun na míreanna sin ó a go g atá glactha ag an bPáirtí a chur chun feidhme;
2. Maidir leis an oideachas agus i dtaca le críocha seachas na críocha ina n-úsáidtear na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh go traidisiúnta, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, má tá call leis toisc líon na ndaoine a úsáideann teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh, teagasc a dhéanamh sa teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh nó an teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a theagasc a cheadú, a chothú nó a chur ar fáil ag gach céim iomchuí den oideachas.

Airteagal 9 – Údaráis bhreithiúnacha

3. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh na téacsanna reachtúla náisiúnta is tábhachtaí agus na téacsanna sin a bhaineann ach go háirithe le húsáidirí na dteangacha sin a chur ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, mura gcuirtear ar fáil ar dhóigh eile iad.

Airteagal 10

Údaráis riarthacha agus seirbhísí poiblí

1. Laistigh de cheantair riarthacha an Stáit ina bhfuil call leis na bearta atá sonraithe thíos toisc líon mór na gcónaitheoirí a úsáideann na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh agus i gcomhréir leis an gcor ina bhfuil gach teanga, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, a mhéad is féidir sin go réasúnta:
- a. iv. a áirithiú go bhféadfaidh úsáidirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarratais i scríbhinn nó ó bhéal a chur faoina mbráid sna teangacha sin; nó

subjects of adult and continuing education;

- g. make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language;
- h. provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs (a) to (g) accepted by the Party ;
2. With regard to education and in respect of the territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the regional or minority language at all the appropriate stages of education.

Article 9 - Judicial authorities

3. The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.

Article 10

Administrative authorities and public services

1. Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible, to:
- a. iv. ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages
- c. allow the administrative authorities to draft



- c a cheadú do na húdaráis riarthacha doiciméid a dhréachtú i dteanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh.
2. I dtaca le húdaráis áitiúla agus réigiúnacha a bhfuil call ar a gcríoch leis na bearta atá sonraithe thíos toisc líon na gcónaitheoirí a úsáideann na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh:
- b. an chaoi a bheith ag úsáidirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarratais i scríbhinn nó ó bhéal a thíolacadh sna teangacha sin;
- e. údaráis réigiúnacha teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a úsáid i ndíospóireachtaí ina gcomhthionóil, gan úsáid theanga oifigiúil nó theangacha oifigiúla an Stáit a eisiáimh ar a shon sin;
- f. údaráis áitiúla teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a úsáid i ndíospóireachtaí ina gcomhthionóil, gan úsáid theanga oifigiúil nó theangacha oifigiúla an Stáit a eisiáimh ar a shon sin;
- g. foirmeacha traidisiúnta cearta de logainmneacha i dteangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a úsáid nó a ghlacadh in éineacht, más gá, leis an ainm sa teanga oifigiúil nó sna teangacha oifigiúla.
3. Maidir le seirbhísí poiblí arna gcur ar fáil ag na húdaráis riarthacha nó ag daoine eile ag gníomhú thar a gceann, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, ar an gcríoch ina n-úsáidtear teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, i gcomhréir leis an gcor ina bhfuil gach teanga, agus a mhéad is féidir sin go réasúnta:
- c. a cheadú d'úsáidirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarraidh a thíolacadh sna teangacha sin.
4. D'fhonn éifeacht a thabhairt d'fhorálacha mhíreanna 1, 2 agus 3 atá glactha acu, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh ceann amháin nó níos mó de na bearta seo a leanas a ghlacadh:
- a. aistriúchán nó teangaireacht de réir mar is gá;
5. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh úsáid nó glacadh sloinnte sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a cheadú arna iarraidh sin do na daoine i dtrácht.

documents in a regional or minority language.

2. In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:
- b. the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;
- e. the use by regional authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;
- f. the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;
- g. the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.
3. With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible, to:
- c. allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.
4. With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:
- a. translation or interpretation as may be required;
5. The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

Airteagal 11 – na Meáin

1. Gabhann na Páirithe ar láimh, i dtaca le húsáidí na dteangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ar na críocha ina labhraítear na teangacha sin, i gcomhréir leis an gcor ina bhfuil gach teanga, a mhéad atá na húdaráis phoiblí inniúil go díreach nó go hindíreach, atá cumhacht acu nó a imríonn siad ról sa réimse seo, agus prionsabal neamhspleáchas agus uathriail na meán á urramú:
 - a. a mhéad a chuireann raidió agus teilifís cúram seirbhís phoiblí i gcrích:
 - iii. forálacha leormhaithe a dhéanamh chun go gcuireann craoltóirí cláir ar fáil sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh;
 - b. ii. craoladh cláir raidió go tráthrialta sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chothú agus/nó a éascú;
 - d. léiriúcháin agus dáileacháin saothair fuaimne agus closamhairc sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chothú agus/nó a éascú;
 - e. i. cur ar bun agus/nó cothabháil nuachtáin amháin ar a laghad sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chothú agus/nó a éascú; nó
 - f. ii. bearta um chabhair airgeadais atá ann cheana a chur i bhfeidhm ar léiriúcháin chlosamhairc freisin sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh;
 - g. tacú le hiriseoirí agus foireann eile a thraenáil do na meáin a úsáideann teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh.

Article 11 - Media

1. The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power to play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:
 - a. to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:
 - iii. to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in regional or minority languages;
 - b. ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;
 - d. to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in the regional or minority languages;
 - e. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages;
 - f. ii. to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in regional or minority languages;
 - g. to support the training of journalists and other staff for media using regional or minority languages.



2. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh saoirse a ráthú maidir le glacadóireacht dhíreach de chraolacháin raidió agus teilifíse as tíortha comharsanacha i dteanga a úsáidtear i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil le teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh, agus gan cur i gcoinne atarchur craolacháin raidió agus teilifíse as tíortha comharsanacha sa teanga sin. Gabhann siad ar láimh freisin a áirithiú nach gcuirfear aon sriantaí ar an tsaoirse friotail agus ar shaorchúrsaíocht faisnéise sa phreas scríofa i dteanga a úsáidtear i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil le teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh. Féadfaidh feidhmiú na saoirsí thuasluaite, toisc go bhfuil dualgais agus freagrachtaí ag gabháil leis, a bheith faoi réir foirmiúlachtaí, coinníollacha, sriantaí nó pionóis de shaghas atá forordaithe le dlí agus atá riachtanach i sochaí dhaonlathach, ar mhaithe leis an tslándáil náisiúnta, iomláine chríochach nó sábháilteacht an phobail, chun mí-ord nó coiriúlacht a sheachaint, nó sláinte nó moráltacht a chosaint, chun clú nó cearta daoine eile a chosaint, chun nochtadh faisnéise arna fáil faoi rúndacht a chosc, nó chun údarás agus neamhchlaontacht na mbreithiúna a chothabháil.

Airteagal 12 – Gníomhaíochtaí agus saoráidí cultúrtha

1. Maidir le gníomhaíochtaí agus saoráidí cultúrtha – go háirithe leabharlanna, físeabharlanna, lárionaid chultúrtha, iarsmalanna, cartlanna, acadaimh, amharclanna agus pictiúrlanna, chomh maith le saothar liteartha agus léiriúchán scannán, foirmeacha coiteanna den fhriotal cultúrtha, féilte agus tionscail chultúir, lena n-áirítear inter alia teicneolaíochtaí nua a úsáid – gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, ar an gcríoch ina n-úsáidtear teangacha den sórt sin agus a mhéad atá na húdaráis phoiblí inniúil, atá cumhacht acu nó a imríonn siad ról sa réimse seo:
 - a. saghsanna friotail agus tionscnaimh is sonrach do theangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chothú agus taobhú leis na meáin éagsúla chun rochtain ar shaothair arna ndéanamh sna teangacha sin;
 - d. a áirithiú go ndéantar lamháltas iomchuí ag na comhlachtaí atá freagrach as gníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha de chineálacha éagsúla a eagrú agus as

2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the re-transmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and facilities

1. With regard to cultural facilities and activities—especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – the parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field, to :
 - a. encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;
 - d. ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority

tacú leo d'fhonn an t-eolas ar theangacha nó cultúir réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh agus a n-úsáid a ionchorprú sna gnóthais a thionscnaíonn siad nó a gcuireann siad tacaíocht ar fáil dóibh;

- e. bearta a chur ar aghaidh chun a áirithiú go bhfuil ag na comhlachtaí atá freagrach as gníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha de chineálacha éagsúla a eagrú foireann a bhfuil láneolas acu ar an teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh i dtrácht mar aon le láneolas ar an teanga/na teangacha atá ag an gcuid eile den phobal;
 - f. ionadaithe do na húsáidí de theanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a chothú chun bheith rannpháirteach go díreach i saoráidí a sholáthar agus i ngníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha a phleanáil;
 - h. más gá, seirbhísí aistriúcháin agus seirbhísí um thaighde téarmaolaíoch a chur ar bun agus/nó a chur ar aghaidh agus a mhaoiniú, go háirithe ar mhaithe leis an téarmaíocht iomchuí a chothabháil agus a fhorbairt i gach teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh sna réimsí riarthach, tráchtálach, eacnamaíoch, sóisialta, teicneolaíoch nó dlí.
2. I dtaca le críocha seachas na cinn ina n-úsáidtear go traidisiúnta na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, má tá call leis toisc líon úsáidí teanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh, gníomhaíochtaí agus saoráidí cultúrtha iomchuí a cheadú, a chothú agus/nó a chur ar fáil i gcomhréir leis an mír roimhe seo.
3. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh forálacha iomchuí a dhéanamh, agus a mbeartas ar an gcoigríoch á shaothrú acu, le haghaidh teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh agus na gcultúr a bhfuil siad ina bhfriotal orthu.

languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;

- e. promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;
 - f. encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;
 - h. if necessary create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in each regional or minority language.
2. In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.
3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.



Airteagal 13 – Saol eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta

1. Maidir le gníomhaíochtaí eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta, gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh, laistigh den tír ar fad:
 - a. aon fhoráil a dhíochur óna reachtaíocht a thoirmisceann nó a theorannaíonn gan cúiseanna inchosanta úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh i ndoiciméid a bhaineann leis an saol eacnamaíoch nó sóisialta, go háirithe conarthaí fostaíochta, agus i ndoiciméid theicniúla amhail treoracha mar gheall ar tháirgí nó suiteálacha a úsáid;
 - b. toirmeasc a chur ar aon chlasál a chur isteach sna rialacháin inmheánacha de chuid comhlachtaí agus i ndoiciméid phríobháideacha a eisiann nó a shrianann úsáid teangacha réigiúnach nó mionlaigh, ar a laghad idir úsáidí na teanga céanna;
 - c. cleachtais a chomhrac arb is aidhm dóibh úsáid teangacha réigiúnach nó mionlaigh a dhíspeagadh i ndáil le gníomhaíochtaí eacnamaíocha nó sóisialta;
 - d. úsáid teangacha réigiúnach nó mionlaigh le meán seachas na cinn atá sonraithe sna fómhíreanna roimhe seo a éascú agus/nó a chothú.

Airteagal 14 - Comhar trasteorann

1. Gabhann na Páirtithe ar láimh:
 - a. comhaontuithe déthaobhacha agus iltaobhacha atá ann cheana agus atá ina gceangal orthu a chur i bhfeidhm leis na Stáit ina n-úsáidtear an teanga chéanna i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil, nó más gá, féachaint le comhaontuithe den sórt sin a thabhairt i gcrích d'fhonn taobhú le tadhail idir úsáidí na teanga céanna sna Stáit i dtrácht i dtaca le cultúr, oideachais, faisnéis, gairmoiliúint agus buanoideachas;
 - b. ar mhaithe le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, chun an comhar trasteorann a éascú agus/nó a chur ar aghaidh, go háirithe idir údarais réigiúnacha nó áitiúla a n-úsáidtear an teanga chéanna i bhfoirm chomhionann nó comhchosúil ar a gcríoch.

Article 13 - Economic and social life

1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country, to:
 - a. eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;
 - b. prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between users of the same language;
 - c. oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities;
 - d. facilitate and/or encourage the use of regional or minority languages by means other than those specified in the above sub-paragraphs.

Article 14 - Transfrontier exchanges

1. The Parties undertake:
 - a. to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;
 - b. for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.

