

Invisibilisation of the Gael in their own Country - The Uninfluenced Gaelic Voice

i) Introduction

Irish is the first official language of this State. Those who speak it find unnecessary obstacles in their way. A sample of what was faced by Irish speakers mainly in 2020-2021 indicates the suppression endured. Older events still relevant are noted. Fresh events occur all the time.

A) When dealing with State services, almost invariably, people must use English. The Celts, an innovative people, brought Irish here from the Ukraine area c5,000 years ago. Irish is a special treasure, a still unhybridised Indo-European language. Not to see that Irish culture is a powerful motivator is to bypass what culture can mean - and to dissociate from Irish history and identity. Yet there are many who fully adopt the bland path of least resistance to cultural pressures, with lip service to native ways.

Whilst individual public officials who cannot speak Irish, are not to blame, issues may be noted to **An Coimisinéir Teanga** – the Language Commissioner (091-504006 - eolas@coimisineir.ie) or to Naomi Ní Chéireabháin, Riarthóir Oifige, **Conradh na Gaeilge** (00353 1 4757401 - glacleis@cnag.ie). Complaints are infrequently lodged. Difficulties are frequently suffered.

Gaelic identity is perforce a secondary identity for Irish-speakers in the Gaeltacht and is even of less standing for English-speakers in the Gaeltacht. Gaelic identification in the Gaeltacht is not a *politically organising force*, research in 2016 concluded. Those who identify themselves as Gaels **lack collective representation**. Young Irish-speakers especially, may suffer mental health issues, in an increasingly ‘progressive’, political environment, where all vulnerable human life is a target.

<https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/bitstream/handle/10379/6013/TRACHTAS%20FINAL%202020.pdf?sequence=1>; www.all-lives.institut
<https://peig.ie/en/using-irish-state-services/> https://zims-en.kiwix.campusafrika.gos.orange.com/wikipedia_en_all_nopic/A/Urheimat

B) Irish was a compulsory requirement for employment in the public sector until 1974. The government then decided that Irish and English would be put on an equal footing in the entrance examinations for the Civil Service. Candidates could use Irish or English, or both, in competitions. Recognition was to be given for competence in both languages. Richie Ryan, the then Fine Gael Minister for Finance, said that it would be possible for a candidate speaking only Irish to be successful. He added that such a person would **likely be a king**.

The stated aim of the **Official Languages Act, 2003**, was to improve *over time* the services to the public through Irish, by public bodies. The Office of the Language Commissioner (An Coimisinéir Teanga) was established under the Official Languages Act (An t-Acht um Chosaint Sonraí), as an independent statutory office, operating as an ombudsman service and as a compliance agency.

<https://www.coimisineir.ie/faoin-acht?lang=EN>

ii) One Particular Experience: from 2015 until today

C) In a letter, in Irish, Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) on 14/12/2015 (with a copy going to the Irish Language Commissioner) was told a customer was being bombarded with bills in English, for a property he had not registered. The Company did not reply nor explain how they had the address in question, under GDPR procedures. By telephone - when the Irish-language choice for service was taken - an Electronic Voice said there would be a waiting period of up to two days before the call was answered. The customer was forced to speak English to the Company (and to no avail).

The Language Commissioner replied on 17/12/2015, saying he was not responsible for Uisce Éireann. On 3/3/2016, the customer approached the **Ombudsman**, who also said that Irish Water did not come under his remit. His referral to An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnuimh (the Energy Regulation Commission – CER) was hard to understand. The **Data Protection Commissioner** (An Coimisinéir Cosanta Sonraí) was therefore approached and he said (in Irish) that certain private data legalities had been *set aside* so Irish Water could find people to charge. He said customers had a right to know who (wrongly) gave such addresses to Irish Water.

In Irish, on 23/3/2016, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (An Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil – the DoE), was asked why the customer was still receiving bills. The Department, noting the date of the letter incorrectly and ignoring all the issues, referred the matter to (26/4/2016) to CER and forwarded the letter to Irish Water for a direct response (one never came).

Looking at yet another incorrect ‘Overdue Account’ statement from Irish Water, dated 31/5/2016, the customer finally wrote, on 13/6/2016, to CER, enclosing explanatory documentation. In 7/2016, CER, in a *pro-forma* letter of four pages of small print, set out (in Irish), the detailed legal requirements to be met before it could engage. This letter had every appearance of being a *pro-forma roadblock*, for any Irish speakers seeking help. In the event, water charges faced growing political backlash and were scrapped before a solicitor, who could speak Irish, had to be hired. Irish Water had never read, nor been required to read, the letter written to them in Irish back in 2015.

The questions raised remain unanswered.

The example of Minimalism, detailed here, has been lauded as the epitome of public service procedure. In Psychology, however, it is called **Cognitive Sloth** and leads inevitably to the suboptimal outcomes in administration, which **consistently features in the News**.

iii) Any Irish Speaker may have to resist Discrimination

D) The National University of Ireland – (UCD, UCC and NUI Galway) is to keep the condition that applicants must have a pass in Leaving Certificate Irish. There is a growing number of applicants to the colleges from outside the country, who have had an exemption from Irish in 2nd level education. To refer to ‘diversity’ here is to use a racially biased word.

For citizenship tests internationally, immigrants must first attain basic language skills and civics knowledge. To set Irish aside as unimportant is to miss a basic feature of Irish identity. The number of students with exemptions from Irish, for entry into the NUI, is on the rise. Not enough for some - who should anyway have known the rules beforehand.

The NUI has acknowledged that its Irish policy has proven ‘controversial and divisive’ but has not explained the reasons for it. The University says some students and parents (none of them educationalists) do not see the value of studying Irish. ‘Securing points’ for the CAO, they say, would be easier without Irish. The NUI Senate will keep the position of Irish ‘under review’. **The Latin ‘educare’** means to ‘lead forth’, to ‘draw out’: a rounded syllabus is needed to educate - rather than just train. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/nui-to-maintain-requirement-for-mandatory-irish-1.3778001> 1/2/2019 <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-10-15/could-you-pass-test-international-citizenship-tests-are-often-more-interested> 13/8/2013

E) Some 67% of third-level students, recently out of second-level education, wished Irish to be a compulsory school subject (a Union of Students in Ireland survey - 15/03/2021). Whilst saying that

the language should be compulsory, only 5% of students said it was taught as a spoken language (**nemo dat quod non habet**, as the Romans said).

The report aims to assess the effectiveness of Irish-language education in creating proficient Irish speakers. <https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/majority-of-third-level-students-support-irish-remaining-a-compulsory-subject-1096298.html>

F) In total, 95% of Pupils taking the Leaving Certificate in 2021 could choose between sitting the exams, receiving calculated grades ('accredited grades') or both. Some 40% registered to take Irish chose not to sit the examination but to get an 'accredited grade'. Irish had the highest proportion of students choosing not to sit the exam.

German, French, and Spanish, saw 27%, 26%, and 21% of the pupils choosing only to get an 'accredited grade'. It may be deduced, with **E)** above, that people have their own attachment to the language but **are not taught** about its background nor its truly engaging features. <https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/gaeilge/leaving-certificate-irish-l1-consultation/> <https://www.thejournal.ie/leaving-cert-2021-accredited-grades-choice-irish-5407270-Apr2021/> **12/4/2021**

G) Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil suim dá laghad ag an Stát sa nGaeltacht, i bpobal na Gaeltachta ná i gcultúr na tíre faraoir, caith cúpla pingin acu agus coinneoidh sé sin sásta iad' = I don't think the State has the slightest interest in the Gaeltacht, in the Gaeltacht community or in the culture of the country, alas, just spend a few pennies and that will keep them happy. **An Seanadóir Pádraig Ó Céidigh** <https://www.rte.ie/gaeilge/2020/0423/1134291-gaeltacht-2020-an-mairfidh-si/> **23/4/ 2020**

H) **Cork County Council** did not publish a version of the Draft County Development Plan 2021 in Irish, not meeting the obligations under the Official Language Act, 2003. The Council claimed no one applied to translate it. The plan will be published bilingually when finalised. Translators, it is (incorrectly) implied, prefer to work on the finished job. <https://www.96fm.ie/news/96fm-news-and-sport/frustration-as-no-irish-version-of-draft-county-development-plan-2021-published/> **24/4/2021**

I) **An Coimisinéir Teangain**, again in his 2011 annual report, outlined two cases in which the **An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí** had not complied with its obligations to award bonus marks to applicants for promotion who were proficient in Irish.

In a farewell nod to **Aithbheochan na Gaeilge** (the 'Revival of Irish'), this system of awards had been introduced in the mid-1970s. Before this all applicants were required to have a proficiency in Irish. The 'Revival' policy had always been **aspirational**.

In the two cases, the Department of Social Protection said it had proposed to award bonus marks after candidates were progressed to the 'final stage' of selection - by which time each of the two candidates had been eliminated. The excuse suggests An Coimisinéir **did not know** his job.

In 2020, a new Irish Language Scheme for the Department of Social Protection, as required under the Official Languages Act, 2003, was announced. Responsibility for confirming the Scheme lies with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. (There used to be a Minister for the Gaeltacht). The scheme adheres to the principles of Quality Customer Service and the Department's Customer Charter. It has been formulated with the intention of ensuring that all relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act by the Department will be fully addressed, on an *incremental basis*, through this and future schemes. The Department's language policy remains **diaphanous**. <https://www.thejournal.ie/only-1-of-9-officers-in-gaeltacht-garda-station-spoke-irish-report-427481-Apr2012/> **24/4/12**
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6c829e-irish-language-scheme-2019-2022/> **4/3/2020**

J) The Health Service Executive apologised to Irish speakers who tried to book an appointment for a Covid-19 vaccine but were unable to do so in Irish. Some Irish speakers sought to register their appointment in Irish over the telephone instead. However, some callers complained afterwards that there was no Irish-speaking operator. The HSE claimed that creating a booking system with multiple languages would have meant that deadlines for the portal to be up and running would not have been met. A multiplicity of languages is **not the issue**. <https://www.thejournal.ie/hse-apologises-irish-speakers-covid19-vaccine-portal-5421257-Apr2021/> **28/4/2021**

K) The Irish Language Commissioner disclosed that eight of the nine **Gardaí**, in the Gaoth Dobhair Station, did not have sufficient Irish to engage with members of the public, in 2010 and 2011. He is tasked with ensuring, with **moral suasion** (completely insufficient), that public bodies comply with the provisions of the Official Languages Act (a bit like the Canadian Indian Act, 1876-1985). His investigation resulted in Gardaí making staffing reassignments, so that three officers could conduct business through Irish by April 2011, at which point the investigation was relaxed.

With no effective progress made by the summer of 2011, ‘investigation’ was revived. Meanwhile, the complainant had experienced the same difficulties ‘several times’ in the. Forward to 2021:

L) The Cabinet had approved changes, in 2005, in the entry requirements for An Garda Síochána so non-national applicants no longer had to be qualified in Irish or English, but prove they were competent in two languages (incl. one of either English or Irish). Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Michael McDowell, did not suggest a brief induction course in the Irish culture and language. An estimated 10 % of people living in Ireland were born outside the country at the time. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/irish-no-longer-a-requirement-to-join-an-garda-1.1182163> Wed, Sep 7, 2005.

M) Many Gaelscoileanna have reported acute difficulties in finding qualified Irish teachers. An analysis of schools advertising for permanent positions shows Gaelscoileanna are significantly over-represented.

Scoil Mobhí in **Drumcondra**, Dublin, advertised a vacant teaching post on four occasions from July 2018 to September, without a single applicant. Around this time, Gaelscoil Mhainistir Na Corann in **Midleton**, Co Cork, was seeking to fill three such posts.

The Irish National Teachers’ Organisation (**INTO**) just said it was ‘alarming’ to see Gaeltacht schools and Gaelscoileanna struggling to secure qualified teachers for permanent roles. **14/9/2018**
<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/gaelscoileanna-report-acute-difficulties-finding-qualified-irish-teachers-1.3628640>

N) Ireland ranks last of 36 developed countries for investment in education as a proportion of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to 2021 OECD data. Economists say that multinationals distort the GDP figures. Education Unions say they confirm under-investment in schools.

From the 1970s on, parents demanded that Governments establish Irish-medium schools. The growth of all-Irish schools (Gaelscoileanna) outside of the Irish-speaking regions confirmed the positive attitude of the parents of Ireland in relation to the Irish language.

Estimates for public expenditure on Irish has caused dissension. Costs of up to €1.2bh pa have been ‘guesstimated’ - designed more to provoke anti-Gaelic outrage against the national commitment to the language. That some people will turn towards the colonial culture, to the exclusion of their own, is psychologically interesting. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/ireland-ranks-in-last-place-in-oecd-for-investment-in-education-1.4675156> <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1085869.pdf> <https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/fake-facts-irish-language-debate-3220676-Feb2017/>

O) Máire Treasa Ní Cheallaigh is a well known person, who works in Irish and English on radio and television, eg on Raidió na Gaeltachta, Newstalk, TG4, RTÉ, Eir Sport and Sky Sports. In the

printed media, she writes for the Irish times. She is a podcast host and sports psychologist as well. She has been studying medicine now for three years in the Coláiste Ríoga na Máinlianna (Royal College of Surgeons). And she has been working to help to combat the Coronavirus.

In an interview on **Newstalk**, on 18 September, 2021, Maire Treasa said that the State belittles her, in her communications with it, because of her name. This is always a cause of distress for her.

P) 20% of new recruits to the Civil Service will have to be proficient in Irish, from 2030, following approval of a series of amendments to the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill, proposed by the *Minister* of State for the Gaeltacht. Irish speakers, as indicated, have long had difficulties when trying to access State services in Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht areas.

The amended Bill, signed into law on 22/12/21, proposes to identify ‘**language gaps**’ in the public service. Public bodies will have to use the correct spelling of names and addresses and use the síne fada to give the correct Irish pronunciation. Currently, State and other bodies use the English (England) keyboard. Getting the ‘long sign’ with the English (Ireland) keyboard or Unicode is apparently too hard for them, without a push. The name of the Department of Social Protection - **An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí** in Irish – *still* has no síne fada over the last ‘i’ on the official website below. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/one-in-five-recruits-to-civil-service-to-be-proficient-in-irish-1.4374680> 7/10/2020 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6c829e-irish-language-scheme-2019-2022/> 4/3/2020

Q) Both **ESB Networks**, and their contractor **MDE Installations**, have written out bilingually about the Smart Metering programme. It is no complaint against their staff, always polite, that customers cannot do business through Irish with either body. 1/5/2021

R) Má eascraíonn fadhb le **Currency Card** ó Oifig a' Phoist, ba chóir glaoch ar 1800535564. Tabharfaidh MasterCard rogha idir leathdosaen teangacha, diomaite den Ghaedhilg. Labhróchaidh cailín i Lárionad Ghlaonna - sna hOileáin Philipíneacha, is dócha, i mBéarla. Ní cinnte go sárófar aon fhadhb a mbeadh ann, ámh.

S) The father of 12 year-old Callum Geary said his family are absolutely burnt out from fighting for his right to education. The Ballyhooly boy is deaf but he has been unable to get a Irish Sign Language translator to assist him in school. His father, Andrew, told RedFM News that despite Callum’s intelligence and the efforts of his teachers, Callum had been unable to progress to secondary school. <https://redfm.ie/post/father-of-12-year-old-callum-geary-says-his-family-are-absolutely-burnt-out-from-fighting-for-his-basic-right-to-education/> **September 25th, 2021**

T) An Taoiseach was requested to try to withdraw an appeal by the State, against a High Court Ruling which says that citizens have a right to obtain documents for **planning applications** in Irish. The Honourable Judge Bronagh O’Hanlon ruled that the State will have to provide an Irish version of the Statutory Instruments being sought by Siobhán Denvir-Bairéad, Gleann Mór Céibh Teoranta and GleannMór Cuan Teoranta, as what they are building may be contrary to Uisce Éireann regulations.

Irish will attain full working status in the EU on 1, January, 2022. Will this and the new Official Languages Act, give any confidence to Gaelic people in the **Rule of Law**?

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/call-for-taoiseach-to-stop-challenge-to-irish-language-ruling-1.4679788?fbclid=IwAR2UQnHREQFuBj5E0SjzJQ9Ei56NGl6zqE0dzseMdTT07Sp3MBZv9pirXsBl> **21/9/2021**

U) Uisce Éireann (Irish water) has apologised for not communicating with Irish speakers ‘in their own language’. Following a report, on this site, that G. Ó Máille, owner of Tigh Mholly, a guesthouse in the Aille in Indreabhán, had paid no bill to the company since 2014, as the bills were always in

English. Mr Ó Máille said he was not refusing to to pay his bills but that he would pay no bill until it was provided in Irish.

<https://tuairisc.ie/leithsceal-gafa-ag-uisce-eireann-as-gan-teagmhail-a-dheanamh-le-cainteoiri-gaeilge-ina-dteanga-fein/3/11/2021>

V) The High Court quashed a planning permission granted for 30 houses and a guesthouse in the Ráth Chairn Gaeltacht in Co Meath by An Bord Pleanála, in June 2020.

Justice Bronagh O’Hanlon quashed the decision on grounds that she was not satisfied that the proposed development complied with requirements to show that it would enhance the use of the Irish language in the area. The action was brought against for the planned development, on a site between the local primary school and community centre.

The challenge was brought by Comharchumann Ráth Chairn, a local development co-operative charged with implementing a language plan to increase the amount of Irish in the area. Conradh na Gaeilge said the ruling is an important victory that will inspire the whole Gaeltacht community.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/planning-permission-meath-gaeltacht-high-court-5598795-Nov2021/?fbclid=IwAR0-73UzszMv8gut3hMmx2zhWsQTyJZWXyhPhS8n1mgviNDzkse9ge7rLKnc> Wednesday 17 November 2021

W) “**About the Irish Health Service**” The online guide is in three parts (for everyone except Irish-speakers):

Part 1 gives information on how to access different types of health care, the services that are free and how the GP, Pharmacy and hospital systems work.

Part 2 gives information about specialist services (dental treatments, eye tests, hearing aids, vaccinations) and some of the staff you may meet in the health system, and

Part 3 advises what to do in an emergency.

The guide is available in: [English](#), [English/Albanian](#), [English/Arabic](#), [English/Bulgarian](#), [English/Farsi](#), [English/French](#), [English/Georgian](#), [English/Kurdish](#), [English/Pashto](#) , [English/Polish](#), [English/Portuguese](#), [English/Romanian](#), [English/Somali](#), [English/Spanish](#), [English/Urdu](#).

Irish-speakers are especially poorly served in the Coronavirus Pandemic.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/about-social-inclusion/translation-hub/multilingual-resources-and-translated-material/>

The report in 1/2022 on damage done to children in South Kerry Mental Health Services, by the HSE, refers to attention to duty up and down the line. .

<https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2022/0126/1275914-kerry-review/>

iv) Gaelic Community Displacement

X) Local authorities are obliged to protect and promote Irish as an everyday language in Gaeltacht regions. Many houses in **Gaeltacht na nDéise**, near Dungarvan, however, are bought as holiday homes. Locals who want to set up house are outbid.

Population displacement, effectively legalised invasion, is recorded in the seven Gaeltacht areas, which have a population of 96,090. The proportion of daily Irish speakers is falling, with an 11% drop

between 2011-2016 from 23,175 to 20,586. Housing policies are removing Irish as an everyday language.

Only two-thirds of the Gaeltacht people have a competence in Irish, said Dr John Walsh, a senior lecturer in Irish at NUI Galway. The daily speakers of Irish - outside of education (the key statistic) – number c 21%. **A Department of the Gaeltacht report** ‘The Comprehensive Linguistic Study of the use of Irish in the Gaeltacht’ found that, if the proportion of active Irish speakers in a Gaeltacht falls below 67%, the use of Irish as a community and family language becomes increasingly unsustainable. In this existential crisis, little effective attention is paid to this.

Councils can attach language conditions to planning permission, to reserve a percentage of homes in new developments for buyers who have fluent Irish. 30% of buyers in some areas are tested for fluency and 80% in others. Sham tests are common. In 2020, Language Commissioner found Kerry County Council had failed to meet the language condition. <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/holiday-homes-in-gaeltacht-refused-25957789.html> <https://www.rte.ie/news/primetime/2021/1007/1252390-housing-crisis-gaeltacht/?fbclid=IwAR0Ywrc6ld1ecYiTRKvWfl-gYvyqrqJFSVLW1zalOrsvOdJs02QCgqWSPzQ>

Conradh na Gaeilge (Irish language campaigners) in the wake of the Department’s report, which outlined the drop in the use of Irish, in all Gaeltacht areas, noted that housing provision had played a key role in this. Many young people must leave the Gaeltacht as they are unable to buy a site or a home. Conradh na Gaeilge called for a common development policy for every Gaeltacht area, such as would have been expected to have been in place. <https://www.pressreader.com/ireland/the-irish-mail-on-sunday/20201108/281818581352270>

Y) The **20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030** is the cornerstone of the government's policy on the Irish language. The strategy contains a range of recommendations (**but no requirements**) relating to: Education; the Gaeltacht; Early Intervention of the Language by the Family; Administration; Services and Communities; Media and Technology; Dictionaries; Legislation and Status; Economic Life and Broad Initiatives.

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has overall responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the Strategy. The **Action Plan 2018-2022** sets out what the Department and other stakeholders ‘intend’ to do, to oversee the implementation of the **Strategy** over the five year period to 2022. [gov.ie - The Gaeltacht \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie) <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/beba3-gaeltacht/>

Z) Many people in a Gaeltacht would see vacant properties as holiday homes. However, there are other reasons for vacancies. The lack of jobs and emigration (with the high standard of education) see people leave. They do not come back. The bungalow blitz saw them move out of older houses in the 1970s and 80s, to build bungalows. Holiday homes are not ideal to have but help to generate cash in an area. <https://www.friendsoftheireishenvironment.org/papers-today/36-planning/12812->

v) Na Gardaí

→ **Garda Commissioner Drew Harris** told an Oireachtas Committee, in May 2021, that there had been a 12% increase in the past 10 years in Gardaí who can speak Irish in Gaeltacht areas. He said he would chair an Irish *Language Governance Group*, to underscore the importance of the language. He also said An Garda Síochána needed to attract Irish speakers. **3 out of 600 new members** sworn in, in 2020, had Irish. He accepted the frustration of the Language Commissioner and that what the Force had

done ***had failed.*** <https://www.rte.ie/news/2021/0512/1221212-gardai-gaeltacht/> **12/5/2021** <https://www.thejournal.ie/only-1-of-9-officers-in-gaeltacht-garda-station-spoke-irish-report-427481-Apr2012/> **24/4/2012**

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/low-numbers-of-irish-speaking-gardaiin-gaeltacht-must-be-addressed-ombudsman-40354953.html>



Stock photo Lorna Siggins April 26 2021 02:30 AM

The State's Irish-language ombudsman has called on the Government to take action over the low number of Irish-speaking Gardaí assigned to stations in Gaeltacht areas. An Coimisinéir Teanga (Irish Language Commissioner) Rónán Ó Domhnaill has taken the unusual step of laying a report before both houses of the Oireachtas today, highlighting his concern.

Na Gardaí (ii)

Just over one in three Gardaí stationed in the Gaeltacht is proficient in Irish, meaning the force is in breach of its own statutory obligations. Mr Ó Domhnaill's report outlines how the recommendations of an investigation carried out by his office in 2011 have "not been implemented by An Garda Síochána". "An Coimisinéir Teanga was unable to undertake any additional measures to impress upon An Garda Síochána to do so," his report to the Oireachtas explains.

The Commissioner's 2011 investigation had found that An Garda Síochána "did not comply with its statutory language obligations to station members of the force who are sufficiently proficient in Irish in the Donegal Gaeltacht". It arose after a native Irish speaker who visited Bunbeg Garda station in Gaath Dobhair on November 24, 2010 was told by the Garda on duty that he did not have sufficient Irish to be able to conduct business in that language.

When the Language Commissioner's office tried to resolve the issue informally, Garda authorities indicated that only one of nine members assigned to that station had sufficient Irish. A formal investigation ensued. It recommended that An Garda Síochána should examine staffing throughout the Gaeltacht to ensure compliance with the statutory language obligations in the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and An Garda Síochána's Language Scheme 2009-2012.

Between January 2012 and March 2021, the Language Commissioner monitored implementation of his investigation's recommendations. His office found that only 35 Irish-speaking Gardaí, out of a total of 95, are assigned to Gaeltacht stations. "It is now very clear that the investigation's recommendations have not been implemented by An Garda Síochána," Mr Ó Domhnaill says in his report to the Oireachtas. "It now falls to the Houses of the Oireachtas to take whatever additional measures they deem appropriate," he says.