



Department for the

Economy

An Roinn

Geilleagair

www.economy-ni.gov.uk

**DEPARTMENT FOR
THE ECONOMY
IRISH LANGUAGE
POLICY AND
GUIDANCE 2026**



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Policy

Réamhrá an Aire

Is cuid ríthábhachtach luachmhar dár n-oidhreacht chultúrtha chomhroinnte í an Ghaeilge. Baineann sí le achán duine inár sochaí, agus tá ról nach beag aici i múnú ár bhféiniúlachta, i saibhriú ár bpobal, agus inár nascadh lenár stair. Is ar mhaithe linne féin uilig atá an fhorbairt, an chosaint, agus an cur chun cinn ann don Ghaeilge, agus is cóir glacadh leis an Ghaeilge mar ábhar bróid agus aontachta dúinn.

Sa bheartas seo, leagtar amach fíis atá soiléir forásach don Ghaeilge – fíis lena bhféachfaidh muid fáil réitithe de na bacainní; dúshlán a thabhairt do na dearcthaí atá as dáta; agus deiseanna a chruthú d’aon duine ar mian leis an teanga a fhoghlaim, a úsáid agus a cheiliúradh. Tá an beartas bunaithe ar phrionsabail na hionchuimsitheachta, an mheasa, agus na hinbhuanaitheachta, agus béim aige ar an mhéadú i bhfoghlaim na Gaeilge, i ngnáthúsáid na Gaeilge ar bhonn laethúil, agus i stádas na Gaeilge sa tsaol poiblí.

I mBeartas Gaeilge na Roinne Geilleagair, bheirtear gealltanais phraiticiúla le tacú leis an fhíis seo. Tá sé mar aidhm aige, úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn, a chosaint, agus a fheabhsú, fríd sheirbhísí atá inrochtana agus ionchuimsitheach a chinntiú. Ina measc sin, beidh: soláthar dátheangach do na seirbhísí poiblí agus do na meáin shóisialta; tacaíocht don teanga i saoráidí na Roinne; agus aitheantas don cheart atá ag an duine na seirbhísí a fháil i nGaeilge.

Leis na huaimhianta sin a bhaint amach, beidh gá leis an chomhoibriú leanúnach ar fud an rialtais, in éineacht le páirtithe leasmhara, agus i measc na bpobal. Trí bheith ag comhoibriú lena chéile, féadann muid a chinntiú go leanfaidh an Ghaeilge uirthi de bheith faoi bhláth, agus go bhfanfaidh sí mar chuid bhríomhar luachmhar den tsaol anseo do na glúnta amach romhainn.





A Foreword from the Minister

The Irish language is a vital and treasured part of our shared cultural heritage. It belongs to everyone in our society and plays a meaningful role in shaping our identity, enriching our communities, and connecting us to our history. Its development, protection, and promotion are in all our interests and should be embraced as a source of pride and unity.

This policy sets out a clear and progressive vision for the Irish language—one that seeks to remove barriers, challenge outdated perceptions, and create opportunities for all who wish to learn, use, and celebrate the language. It is built on the principles of inclusion, respect, and sustainability, with a focus on increasing learning, everyday use, and the status of Irish in public life.

The Department for the Economy’s Irish Language Policy outlines practical commitments to support this vision. It aims to promote, protect, and enhance the use of Irish by ensuring that services are accessible and inclusive. This includes bilingual provision in public-facing services and social media, support for the language within departmental facilities, and recognition of the right to receive services in Irish.

Delivering on these ambitions will require continued collaboration across government, with stakeholders, and within communities. By working together, we can ensure that the Irish language continues to thrive and remains a vibrant and valued part of life for generations to come.





Who We Are

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is responsible for delivering the Economy Minister’s Economic Vision and contributing to the Executive’s Programme for Government. We do this by developing and implementing economic policy for Northern Ireland, working in close collaborative partnership with a wide array of Partner Organisations to ensure alignment of Partner Organisation strategies with the overall Departmental strategy.

While the Economy Minister sets our strategic priorities and policy direction, the Permanent Secretary, Ian Snowden, is the Departmental Accounting Officer and is responsible for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department, as well as the regularity, propriety and value for money of all public funds entrusted to us.

Further details of the Department’s role, budget, statutory responsibilities, structure and governance arrangements can be found at: [DfE website](#).

The Department’s Economic Vision was set out by the Economy Minister in February 2024 and focuses on four key Priorities:

- To increase the proportion of working-age people in **Good Jobs** so that working families enjoy a decent standard of living;
- To raise **Productivity**, which is the fundamental driver of economic growth and overall living standards;
- To promote **Regional Balance**, ensuring that everyone shares in the benefits of prosperity; and
- To reduce **Carbon Emissions**, in order to safeguard the planet for future generations.

Policy Need

The purpose of this Language Policy is to set out the ways in which Department for Economy (DfE) will fulfil its commitment to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) defined in the Good Friday Agreement as ‘resolute action’ regarding the Irish language and to give a clear indication of the specific steps the Department will take to promote the Irish language within its own work and to support the growing community of Irish speakers in Northern Ireland.

Policy Purpose and Aims

The aim of this Policy and Guide is to set out how DfE will promote and protect the use of the Irish language within DfE by issuing clear guidance to staff in relation to providing services in Irish. DfE recognises that a person requesting a service through the medium of Irish is entitled to the same standard of service as they would receive were they to request the service in English and that they should be treated no less favourably as a result of their choice.



Therefore this policy will:

- Provide staff with practical advice when engaging with a person requesting a service or assistance through the medium of Irish;
- Ensure a person requesting a service or assistance through the medium of Irish from the Department receives the same standard of service, as they would receive by request in English;
- help staff when engaging with Irish language communities to address language barriers and promote equality of opportunity for Irish speakers; and
- remove the barriers to use of Irish in public life.

Scope

This policy applies to the general public and external organisations that engage with or contact the department. It outlines the guidelines and procedures for interactions between the department and these external parties.

This policy is **not** extended to internal staff communication or interactions within the department, which are governed by separate internal communication policies.

Policy Background

Linguistic diversity must be regarded as a common cultural wealth. Everyone is entitled to respect and courtesy, which extends to their language. Every effort should be made to convey this respect even if it is not possible to deal with the person in the language of their choice.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) is the European convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional minorities. Implementation of the Charter's legal obligations require us to take positive measures to protect and promote minority languages. The Department also commits to including recommendations made by the ECRML Committee of Experts (COMEX) in their periodical monitoring reports on the ECRML where applicable.

The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 (the [Language Act](#)) was given Royal Assent on 6 December 2022, and determines that "A public authority must, in carrying out functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the national and cultural identity principles". A person's national and cultural identity is considered to be their religious belief, political opinion or racial group. This document takes this into account by fulfilling the requirement to develop standards of best practice relating to the use of the Irish language.

The Department is a member of the Cross Departmental Working Group on the development of an [Irish Language Strategy](#). This policy guide will run alongside that development and will be reviewed in line with the final Strategy as required.



Officials whose work frequently involves the use of Regional or Minority Languages will familiarise themselves with the provisions of the ECRML and the Language Act. These provisions are available on the [Department for Communities](#) website.

Responsibility and Review

Oversight and implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of the Permanent Secretary and Senior Management Team of the Department. However, each business area is expected to play its role in supporting the delivery of this Policy.

Managers of areas where staff are frequently involved with the use of Regional or Minority Languages should ensure staff are aware of this Irish Language Policy and the need to promote the Irish language by the Department.

The Equality Unit will review this Policy one year after it receives Ministerial Approval. However, as this policy runs alongside the development of an Irish Language Strategy for Northern Ireland together with the appointment of an Irish language commissioner under the Identity and Language Act (2022), it will be reviewed accordingly in line with the Strategy and legislation as required. Hereafter, the policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary, every 4 years.

Partner Organisations

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages applies to Government and its 'associated bodies'. DfE Partner Organisations will develop their own language policy based on this one. This Irish Language Policy will be used as a baseline, against which subsequent Partner Organisation Irish language policies will be measured and built upon. Partner Branches will draw this policy to the attention of their Partner Organisations / associated bodies.

Enquiries

For further advice and guidance on any aspect of Irish Language, requests, translations, etc. please contact the Equality Unit:

- Equality Unit email: equalityunit@economy-ni.gov.uk

The Department for Communities has put in place a [framework](#) for the provision of interpretation, translation and transcription, sign language and lip speaking services for the NI public sector, providing access to a number of suppliers who can provide these services.



DfE Irish Language Guidance

1. Communications

The Department will adopt a dual language approach to communications, as much as possible. The Department will respond to and provide services in the form received and requested. The timescale for a DfE response in Irish is expected to be similar to that of the timeframe for correspondence received in English where possible.

Communication takes on many formats for example:

Addressing people

- A person will be addressed using their Irish name if they have indicated this desire, subsequently the Irish version must be used in all official business. Every effort will be made to spell and/or pronounce a person's name correctly irrespective of derivation. If you are dealing with a person and have difficulty in spelling or pronouncing their name, please ask for clarity in **a courteous and respectful manner**.
- Irish names should be used in official business if they have indicated this desire. When a person is known by both the Irish and English names the records should retain both versions.

Telephone calls

- If a caller begins the conversation in Irish this will be reciprocated if possible. If this cannot be facilitated, the caller should be offered the choice of continuing the call in English or transfer to an Irish speaking colleague.
- When an Irish speaking colleague is unavailable advise that you are transferring the call to the NICS Irish Language voicemail on extension 75252 or 02890 515 252 to allow the caller to leave a message in Irish and a call-back in Irish will be scheduled as soon as possible.
- Following this you can remind the caller that, additionally, written correspondence is also accepted through Irish.
- Finally after the above have been exhausted, you can suggest to the caller to continue through English, if they wish to do so.
- In instances where no member of Irish-speaking staff is available, the service user will be offered a alternatives for dealing with the call. The following form of words may be helpful:

"I am sorry I cannot answer you in Irish. But I can offer you the following options for dealing with your call. You may:

- *continue the call in English;*
- *write to us in Irish;*
- *transfer to the NICS voicemail where you can leave a message in Irish [see 4.3 - 4]".*





The Department will keep a record of the number of calls received in Irish, those dealt with immediately and those which required a call back.

Meetings

On request, meetings should be carried out in Irish or an interpreter should be arranged by the policy area. If a meeting is arranged, double-check beforehand that the interpreter is available. Never promise a service that the Department cannot deliver. If this cannot be facilitated the person should be offered the choice of:

- drawing on the assistance of Irish speaking staff if available;
- making their point in English;
- giving written views in Irish; and
- making an appointment when an interpreter is present.

It is the responsibility of the Business Area to arrange an interpreter for those wishing to engage through the medium of Irish.

If no notice has been given and attendee(s) begin speaking in Irish during the meeting, explain staff present do not speak Irish and offer attendee(s) the choice of:

- seek available Irish speaking staff to assist in facilitating the meeting in Irish;
- re-arrange the meeting to include an interpreter; and
- continuing the interview/meeting in English.

Written Correspondence

The ECRML Charter obliges departments to accept written correspondence in Irish and as such:

- All correspondence received in will be responded to in Irish;
- Irish language correspondence will be translated and have a response issued in Irish;
- Through an SLA with the DfC Central Translations Hub and working with internal DfE officials who have indicated a high degree of competency in Irish, DfE will issue responses to Irish correspondence in the same manner as correspondence in English. Departmental deadlines for responding to correspondence will be the same for both languages. If it seems that it will not be possible to provide a substantive reply in Irish by the relevant deadline, an acknowledgement should be issued in the usual way in Irish, explaining that the letter is being translated and that a substantive reply will follow.

Street Addresses

On receipt of correspondence using Irish language street name, staff should use the Irish form in replying to the correspondence. There are no restrictions on using Irish versions of other parts of an address e.g. townland, town, county, country. Both Irish and English versions of an address should be noted on the official record.



2. Translation

What to translate

A person requesting a DfE service through the medium of Irish is entitled to the same standard of service as they would receive were they to request service in English. The Department will take a proactive approach to the provision of dual-language publications, documents and forms, along the following lines:

- All Ministerial forewords to DfE Corporate Plans, Reports and Consultation documents will all be routinely translated into Irish and provided at the same time;
- All new and revised front-facing Departmental information leaflets will be printed bilingually. All formats (Irish and English) of widely used application forms will be hosted and promoted bilingually on the Department's website/online platforms, and where requests are made for print/specific formats, the department will respond accordingly to requests.
- In instances where consultations are being conducted and the subject matter has the potential to impact the use of the Irish language or the Irish language community themselves, consultation questionnaires, engagement sessions and associated documents will be conducted proactively through the medium of Irish. Consultation events will also be scheduled in Gaeltacht areas where possible.
- All correspondence from the Department to organisations, groups and schools who operate through the medium of Irish and with Irish medium schools will be conducted through the medium of Irish.

Requests for translations:

A person requesting a DfE service through the medium of Irish is entitled to the same standard of service as they would receive were they to request service in English where possible. This includes:

- Information leaflets and application forms, electronic versions of the Irish translation will be made readily available as Word documents / pdfs when required;
- The Department will provide translations of other documents on request, including publications or executive summaries;
- Business Areas must give priority to providing translations of documents into Irish when they are requested in Irish and:
 - are likely to be of particular relevance to Irish speakers
 - are likely to be read and used generally; and
 - will contribute to promoting, maintaining and safeguarding the Irish language.





3. Translation Services

Irish Language Voicemail

If a caller contacts the central switchboard or an individual department indicating that they wish to conduct their business in Irish, if an officer cannot converse with the caller in Irish, or if another member of staff with competent spoken Irish is not available, the caller should be diverted or directed to the NICS Irish language voicemail phone on extension 75252 or 02890 515 252 and a call-back in Irish will be scheduled.

The voicemail is monitored by officials in Languages Branch, Department for Communities – email translationhub@communities-ni.gov.uk (028 9051 5114). Messages received will be translated or forwarded to an interpreter for translation.

4. Advertising

Greater use will be made of Irish in advertising and presenting Departmental business. This includes the use of bilingual headings in the advertising of all public notices. This will include notices about equality issues, policy consultations, public appointments and major recruitment exercises.

DfE Irish Language Speakers

If required, you can contact the Equality Branch (equalityunit@economy-ni.gov.uk) in the first instance to avail of any available DfE Irish speaking officers to assist with telephone calls.

They will speak to the caller and, afterwards, pass the message to the relevant business area for follow-up action.

How to Obtain Translations / Interpreters

All requests for translations, or interpreters, should be obtained through policy areas. Public sector officials can access the (translationhub@communities-ni.gov.uk)



5. Communications and Correspondence

In instances where correspondence requires translation and Irish-speaking officers are unavailable, a comparative timeframe for completion will be sought from Foras na Gaeilge’s translation helpline and the Central Translation Hub located within DfC. Whichever can provide the service quicker should be utilised. The timescale for a response from the department in Irish is expected to be similar to that of the timeframe for correspondence received in English where possible. If it seems that, taking translation into account, it will not be possible to provide a substantive reply by the relevant deadline, an acknowledgement should issue in the normal way, explaining that the letter is being translated and that a substantive reply will follow.

- Any correspondence received in Irish will be replied to in Irish (if an answer is required) and will be handled in a timely and effective manner, just as is the case with correspondence received in English. The following standard acknowledgement in Irish will be sent to members of the public who email in Irish:

Go raibh maith agat as do ríomphost. Is mian linn a dhearbhu go bhfuair muid do chomfhreagras agus go bpléifidh muid leis de réir mar is cuí.

Thank you for your email. We wish to inform you that we have received your correspondence and that we will deal with it accordingly.

The DfE Corporate signature will include the following statement:

Cuirimid fáilte roimh chumarsáid trí Ghaeilge;

We welcome correspondence in Irish;

- Additionally, any member of staff who has a high level of competency can add a further email signature welcoming correspondence in Irish, in the same manner as current LGBTQIA+ banner signatures carried by DfE employees.
- Departmental resources and announcements which relate to families, parents, children, whether the subject matter relates specifically to the Irish language or not, will automatically be published bilingually.





6. Branding and Departmental signage

The Department will display a corporate bi-lingual logo (Irish and English) on all aspects of its business, for example:

- letterheads;
- logos on its internal and external web sites;
- advertising for public notices and significant Departmental announcements;
- signage within Departmental buildings; and
- building name plaques.

The Department will adopt a dual-language approach to all signage in all Departmental-branded or owned facilities, including any Departmental signage which is erected in the public realm / public spaces.

The background features a vibrant watercolor design. On the left, there's a large, textured wash of orange and red. To its right, a purple wash transitions into a blue wash. Further right, there's a yellow wash. The colors are layered and blended, creating a soft, artistic feel. The word "Annexes" is printed in a bold, dark blue font over the orange and purple areas.

Annexes



Annex 1 - European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages ('ECRML')

The [ECRML](#) is a European treaty (CETS 148) adopted in 1992 under the auspices of the Council of Europe to protect and promote regional and minority languages in Europe. The Irish language is included in the Charter, which was ratified by the UK Government in 2001. The UK Government included the Irish language as one of three languages (Scottish Gaelic and Welsh being the other two) registered under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The UK Government signed up to specific undertakings for measures in areas including education, administrative authorities, media, culture, economic and social life and transfrontier exchanges.

Article 10 of the ECRML refers specifically to Administrative Authorities which includes Local Councils and sets out those provisions within the ECRML to which councils must adhere. The obligations under the ECRML include the following:

- To ensure that users of Irish may submit oral or written applications in Irish to the administrative authority;
- To allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in Irish;
- To use Irish in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State; and
- To use or adopt, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of place-names in Irish. To ensure that users of Irish can submit a request for public services in Irish. To allow the use or adoption of family names in Irish upon request. In order to comply with the above councils are obliged to provide translation or interpretation as required.

Article 12 details the following obligations:

With regard to cultural activities and facilities, especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas as well as literary work and film productions, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the cultural 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 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;
- to 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 languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;





- to 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;
- to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

The European Charter is based on a concept of non-discrimination, that is, the majority language group is not discriminated against by the implementation of actions designed to promote and protect the minority indigenous languages.

“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 it. 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”.

Annex 2 - Belfast/Good Friday Agreement

Strand three of the [Belfast/Good Friday Agreement](#) contains a series of commitments in respect of economic, cultural and social issues, including a general provision relating to minority languages:

“All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland.”

The Agreement commits the British Government to take resolute action to promote the language, to facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand and to seek to remove restrictions which would work against the maintenance and development of the language.



Annex 3 - St. Andrew's Agreement 2006

The St. Andrews Agreement included a commitment to an Irish Language Act “based on the experience of Wales”. The introduction of this Act has been significantly delayed, however, the 2020 New Decade, New Approach agreement does include a commitment to legislate for the Irish language.

Annex 4 - NI Human Rights – ‘Minority Language Rights: The Irish language and Ulster Scots, Briefing paper on the implications of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, European Convention on Human Rights and other instruments’

“... the Commission has drawn attention to the fact that there is no “right to be (sic) offended” by another party exercising a right. This is a general principle of freedom of expression (European Convention on Human Rights -ECHR Article 10, which must be read in conjunction with ECHR Article 14 on non-discrimination on grounds that include language). The Commission is aware of arguments that there are ‘sensitivities’ regarding the Irish language. In general restricting use or promotion of Irish to accommodate the ‘sensitivities’ of others would be incompatible with freedom of expression.”



Annex 5 - New Decade New Approach (2020)

The [New Decade, New Approach Agreement](#) was reached in 2020 in order to restore power sharing at Stormont. One of the key components of this was an agreement to bring forward legislative protection for the Irish language. This included a provision for the appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner who will develop a set of best practice language standards which will apply to public authorities in relation to the promotion of Irish and the use of Irish in their services.

Annex 6 - Expert Advisory Panel Recommendations for an Irish Language Strategy

The New Decade, New Approach Agreement also committed to the development of an Irish Language Strategy, as distinct from an Irish Language Act. The aim of the Strategy would be to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language over the next twenty years

The Expert Advisory Report makes a range of recommendations about the Irish language and public services including:

- That Irish speakers are available to avail of government services through the medium of Irish and that these should be of the same standard as the service provided in English;
- That all public bodies take resolute action to promote Irish internally in their work and to maximise the amount of services available through Irish;
- That publicly available forms are available in Irish;
- That public bodies have bilingual Irish/English corporate identity;
- That public buildings have bilingual Irish/English signage inside and outside the building; and
- That key corporate documents are made available in Irish.



Annex 7 - Useful links

- Gaeilge.ie
- [Guidance on ECRML](#)
- [DFC Language policy and strategy](#)

[Framework for interpretation, translation and transcription services | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)





Annex 8 - Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM) is a multilateral treaty of the Council of Europe aimed at protecting the rights of minorities within Europe. The United Kingdom is a signatory nation to the Framework.

Article 10 of the FCPNM requires signatories to recognise the right of national minorities to use their language in private and in public and to ensure that these rights are reflected in the provision of administrative authorities. Furthermore, Article 11 of the FCPNM requires the state to facilitate the display of traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications in the minority language.

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities monitors the compliance of signatory nations with the Framework. The UK Government have consistently been criticised by the monitoring body, who have issued a series of recommendations as they pertain to the Irish language.

In their 3rd monitoring report on the UK's implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM) in 2013, they outlined the following:

“The Advisory Committee was disconcerted to hear that some representatives of the authorities consider that promoting the use of the Irish language is discriminating against persons belonging to the majority population. Such statements are not in line with the principles of the Framework Convention... It also reiterates that... implementation of minority rights protected under the Framework Convention [is] not be considered as discriminating against other persons.”

“The Advisory Committee has been informed that, in some instances, the need for keeping good relations has been used as justification for not implementing provisions in favour of persons belonging to minorities, such as the erection of bilingual signs... Additionally, it finds it problematic that the official policy is to limit the erection of such signs to certain areas where the issue would not raise controversies. The Advisory Committee is concerned that this approach is not in line with the spirit of the Framework Convention... the aim of which is to value the use of minority languages... with a view to promoting more tolerance and intercultural dialogue in society.”

Their 5th monitoring in 2022 outlined the following:

“...bilingualism in signposts should be promoted as it conveys the message that a given territory is shared [...] by various population groups.”



Annex 9 - Guidance from the Equality Commission NI

ECNI Practical guidance on equality impact assessment (2005)

“a policy intended specifically to address the needs of a particular community may well be justifiable, indeed necessary, in order to promote equality of opportunity for that group”

ECNI Guidance on Promoting a Good and Harmonious Working Environment (2009)

‘The use of languages other than English, for example in corporate logos and communications, will not, in general, constitute an infringement of a good and harmonious working environment.’

ECNI Response to Belfast City Council’s draft screening report: Council decision to erect bilingual/multilingual signage in Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore Leisure Centres (2020)

‘Our response had made the point that the notion that providing equality or protection for one group limits their availability for another is both unfounded in itself and acts to the detriment of all who seek to live in a society that is fair and equitable and should be avoided in the drafting of public policy.’

ECNI Response to the Education Authority’s public consultation into draft corporate Irish language policy (2022)

“The speaking or use of any language in Northern Ireland should be a neutral act and should not be perceived as a threat to any individual or group, nor should it be intended in such a manner.”

“The Commission considers that the use of minority languages, particularly Irish [...] for common or official purposes would normally and objectively be considered to be a neutral act that would not be discriminatory.”