

**Interdepartmental Charter Implementation Group  
Twenty Ninth Meeting  
Thursday, 31 January 2013**

**Attendance:**

Jerome Dawson, (Chair) DCAL  
Kay Wilshin, DCAL  
Michael Willis, DCAL  
Ursula Uí Dhonnaile, DCAL  
Niall McRory, DCAL  
Jackie Gregg, DRD  
Brian Patterson, DEL  
Clare Walsh, DE  
Michael McGivern, DE  
Norah McCorry, OFMDFM  
Sally Johnson, DHSSPS  
Mark Higgins, DOJ  
Carolyn Barr, DFP  
Sharon Smyth, DETI

**Apologies:**

Laura McAleese, DOE  
Gabrielle Kerr, DRD  
Jon Donaghy, NIO  
Marion Magill, DEL  
Tony Verran, HMRC

Item No.	Description
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
1.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 July 2012 were agreed.
<b>2</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
2.1	No matters were raised.
<b>3</b>	<b>Staffing Update</b>
3.1	Don Morris has now been replaced by Niall McRory.
3.2	Ursula Uí Dhonnaile is going on maternity leave and a new Líofo Officer; Ian Malcolm will be starting on 11 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>4</b>	<b>Development of the Irish Language and Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategies</b>
4.1	Michael Willis spoke on the consultation exercise, which ran from 11 July to 27 November 2012 on the Irish and Ulster-Scots language strategies.
4.2	He stated that responses to both the Irish and Ulster-Scots consultations are currently being analysed. 100 + were received in relation to Ulster Scots and 270 to the Irish Language strategy. Some of these were quite lengthy and had to be translated.

4.3	Michael offered to meet with ICIG members to discuss comments received from the consultation exercise in relation to their individual departments.
5	<p><b>Brief updates from Departments on Minority Language matters</b></p> <p>5.1 Most departments reported minimal activity in language matters apart from a few minor enquiries.</p> <p>5.2 DE said it was currently reviewing it's language policy</p> <p>5.3 A review of the NI Assembly Language Policy is being undertaken and will be included in the Good Relations policy.</p> <p>5.4 There was discussion around individual department's responsibility for translating Ulster- Scots documents. It was noted that the European Charter does not oblige government departments to undertake translations although they may do so. It is for individual Departments to determine whether or not to provide a translation in accordance with their own Department's Policy</p>
6	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Periodical Report for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages - Update</b></p> <p>6.1 The position remains unchanged from the last meeting.</p>
7	<p><b>Líofa 2015 Initiative</b></p> <p>7.1 Ursula Uí Dhonnaile the Líofa Development Officer in DCAL briefed the group.</p> <p>7.2 Ursula detailed a list of events that Líofa had been involved in, including Líofa's own birthday fun day which took place at Custom House Square on September 22nd 2012, having a stall at Oireachtas na Gaeilge (An annual Irish language festival) and being present at the various fresher weeks at Queens, Jordanstown and Magee. Líofa also will also be involved in the upcoming Bliain na Gaeilge, which is a celebration of the Irish language in 2013.</p>

7.3	To date Líoifa has signed up over 3,500 members and a e-newsletter is being sent out to members on a monthly basis. DCAL is also organising Irish language classes in the department and DE proposes to provide this same facility soon.
7.4	Ursula has also made presentations on Líoifa to a number of departments at Permanent Secretary and senior management level. If any other departments wish to avail of this service they can contact Niall McRory ext: 75055.
8	<b>Tendering of NICS Translation contract</b>
8.1	The NICS Translations Contract is due to expire in May 2013 and DCAL is taking forward the re- tendering exercise with CPD. Members confirmed that they were content for DCAL to proceed to re- tender and were asked to provide comment on the level of service received to <a href="#">Kay Wilshin</a> .
9	<b>Any Other Business</b>
9.1	No other business was raised.
10	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
10.1	TBC