



Submission to Sarah Havlin

An Coimisinéir um Theorainneacha Rialtais Áitiúil

Local Government Boundaries Commissioner

2021 Review of Local Government boundaries and names

Submission on treaty-based duties regarding use and adoption of Irish placenames with reference to the names of districts and wards

April 2021

Background:

Part IV of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 provides for the periodic appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner to review and make recommendations as to the *names* of NI district Councils and Wards, (as well as their boundaries and number). The last review took place in 2009, the current review was launched with an invitation for proposals in February 2021 with the Commissioner planning to publish provision recommendations for consultation by June 2021.

Following the opening of the review the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), a human rights NGO and Conradh na Gaeilge, as representatives of the Irish speaking community, wrote to the Commissioner jointly on the 17 February 2021, to put forward the proposal that the traditional and correct forms of placenames in Irish (and Scots where applicable), be adopted alongside the English language names of districts and wards. In doing so the correspondence set out relevant treaty-based duties entered into by the UK with reference to the Irish language that provide the basis of the overarching legal framework for the request.

This formal submission to the review further details the treaty-based standards and also provides further evidence as regards growing usage and demand in relation to the Irish language.

CAJ is an independent human rights organisation with cross community membership, established in 1981, that works to ensure compliance with obligations under international human rights law.

Conradh na Gaeilge, founded in 1893, is an Irish language non-governmental organisation with extensive links to the community and a core interest in the protection and the promotion of the Irish language.

Both organisations engage regularly with the Council of Europe treaty bodies.

The content of this submission is as follows:

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Part 1: Treaty-based duties and the broader legal framework regarding the Irish language in NI.

Further to treaty-based obligations the overall legal framework in relation to placenames has changed from the monolingual 'English-only' policy of the old Stormont Administration, to that, further to the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and Council of Europe treaties, to one of a specific duties on public authorities to use and adopt the traditional and correct forms of place-names in Irish (alongside English).

The main provision in question is found in the European Charter for Regional and Minority languages (Council of Europe Treaty no. 148), as applied to Irish in the UK.

Under Article 10(2)(g) the UK has entered into specific undertakings regarding:

“...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 Irish.”

The Charter was ratified by the UK further to commitments in the GFA, which itself contained treaty-based obligations to *inter alia*, 'take resolute action' to promote the Irish language and to 'seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language.' Both these provisions are reflected in the Charter, the latter under Article 7(2) whereby there are undertakings to eliminate “*any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Irish and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it.*” The former commitment is found under Article 7(1) as a duty to base policies, legislation and practice on the objectives and principles of “*the need for resolute action to promote Irish in order to safeguard it*” in relation to the territories in which Irish is used. Article 7(4) provides a framework whereby public authorities in the State Party are to “*take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed*” by the groups representing Irish language speakers in determining policy with regards Irish.

The provisions under Article 7 also apply to Ulster Scots in NI, the duty under Article 10(2)(g) on the use of adoption of place names only applies to Irish in NI.

In relation to the reference to the 'territories in which Irish is used' qualification of the 'resolute action' duty under Article 7(1) of the Charter this has been interpreted as a reference to the whole of NI. With the reference to Scots (including its Ulster variant) it applies to the parts of Scotland and NI in which it was traditionally spoken.

The duty as regards the adoption and use of Irish language placenames under Article 10 is linked to 'those administrative districts of the State in which the number of persons who are speakers of Irish justifies' such usage and adoption and also to the broader 'situation of Irish'.

In relation to the context of the 'situation of Irish' the overwhelming majority of placenames in NI are derived from the Irish language, this includes the placenames within all 11 Council names and the vast majority of wards. A small number of placenames are also derived from Scots.

As further detailed later the Northern Ireland Place-Names (NIPN) project at Queens University in association with Land and Property Services, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Foras na Gaeilige, has fortunately for some time researched the

linguistic origins of NI place names in Irish and Scots and has built up a detailed database.¹

In relation to the number of users (speakers) of Irish it should be recalled that Irish is a minority (or strictly speaking minoritized) indigenous language. Indicators are therefore to focus on speakers of a minority language – that by definition will be in the minority – rather than seeking majority support as a prerequisite for the use of a place name in Irish. UN Guidance on Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities in reference to locality names (as well as street names and topographical indicators) stresses their importance and also sets out that the threshold should be as low as 5% where indigenous languages are concerned. The Guidance states:

While national legislation varies, the low threshold where it is considered practicable and reasonable to provide such signs tends to vary between 5 per cent and 20 per cent of the local population, with the lowest threshold usually associated with the use of a minority language that also has some kind of official status or for traditional, historical reasons.²

There are also related duties relating to linguistic minorities under the Framework Convention for National Minorities (Council of Europe Treaty no. 157), to which the UK is also a state party, in particular a duty under Article 11(3) to endeavour, within the framework of legal systems, to display local placenames in the minority language. The fulfilment of this duty can be assisted by the official bilingual adoption of placenames.

At present however official naming in NI is often limited to English transliterations of the original name in Irish, without concurrently adopting the tradition and correct form of the placename.

We consider past policy in this area to have been one of deliberate unjustified exclusion, restriction and preference intended to discourage and endanger the maintenance and development of the Irish language, and hence have constituted, and where steps are not taken to eliminate same, an ongoing breach of the Article 7(2) of the Charter.

The recent assessment by the Council of Europe Committee of Experts (COMEX- who monitor compliance with duties under the treaty) has found that the Article 10(2)g duties to adopt and use Irish language placenames are yet to be complied with.³

Partial fulfilment of this undertaking has been found in the context of legislation lifting, in the early stage of the peace process, the Stormont-parliament era legislation banning Irish in *street signage*, and the consequent progress by some NI Councils on this issue.⁴ However, COMEX and the Framework Convention Committee have recorded that there has been no progress in progressing policies in other areas of official provision and in their most recent assessment the Council of Europe consequently made the further recommendation for compliance:

¹ <http://www.placenamesni.org/>

² OHCHR Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities: A Practical Guide for Implementation, 2017, page 28. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/SRMinorities/Pages/SRminorityissuesIndex.aspx>

³ Fifth report of the Committee of Experts in respect of the United Kingdom, CM(2019)84-final, paragraphs 2.2; 2.2.1. & 2.2.2 https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680948544

⁴ Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, Section 11 of which provided for Councils to erect bilingual street signage with subsection 11(12) repealing a series of previous provisions, including the Public Health and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1949, which bound Councils to an ‘English only’ street signage policy.

“Facilitate the adoption and use, by local and regional authorities as well as public service providers, of place names in Irish.”⁵

We consider that the primary legislation under which the review operates does not contain any restriction as to the Council and ward names having to be recommended in English only, or otherwise monolingually. It is our view therefore that the statute does not prevent the Commissioner from recommending the naming of districts and wards bilingually as is done in many other Council of Europe states. We also note that there is no restriction to this end on the Ministerial Order under section 50(10) of the primary legislation that will ultimately set out names of districts and wards. We therefore consider that the domestic legal framework does not contain any impediment to compliance with the duties under the Charter. Rather fulfilment can be achieved by a recommendation from the Review, and its subsequent adoption by the Department and Assembly, that the traditional and correct forms of placenames in Irish (and Scots where applicable), are provided alongside the English language names of districts and wards.

The current review being undertaken by the Commissioner should include consideration to the current status of the Irish language in local council areas. This consideration should be reviewed in parallel with international obligations, domestic legislation, commitments made in recent agreements, alongside best practice models for dealing and implementing a satisfactory language policy when dealing with a Regional Minority Language, in this case, Irish in Northern Ireland. The next section of this submission outlines a number of sources that we consider of particular relevance.

⁵ Fifth report of the Committee of Experts in respect of the United Kingdom, CM(2019)84-final, para 2.2.2. Recommendation K https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680948544

Part 2: Statistics

2.1 The 2011 Census and 2018 Local Government Irish language usage profiles

The **2018 Local Government Irish language Profiles**, as compiled per council area by Conradh na Gaeilge (attached in appendix)⁶, gives a snapshot of the number of speakers per council area as published in the most recent Census for which results are available (2011). It is worth remembering, however, the 2011 Census was carried out prior to the Review of Public Administration (RPA) which seen 11 new Council boundaries. The 2011 Census has, however, been filtered by new Local Government Districts as per 2014 (LGD2014, NISRA).

The data range for information relating to “Knowledge of the Irish language” can be found online and is referenced below⁷. In total 184,898 (10.65%) Census respondents aged 3+ indicated they had some ability of the Irish language across NI.

This figure is broken down as per new Council districts, ranging from 22,984 (17.41%) in Mid-Ulster, to the lower range of 4,760 (3.15%) in Ards and North Down.

The **2018 Local Government Irish language Profiles** (CnaG) compliment these data sets with council per council breakdown of local provision, including Irish Medium Education providers (from Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Third / Further Level), alongside local Irish language groups, community groups operating through Irish, Youth, Cultural and Sporting Organisations, Cultural Centres, Festival Providers, Literary, Theatre and Arts groups operating through Irish, and community educational providers and summer schemes. Combined with the 2011 Census date (as per LGD 2014), this provides the most recent snapshot of user groups within each Council area, and a combined regional picture of Irish language use.

The 2021 Census also included questions on Irish language use, and for the first time, also allowed respondents to fill in their form in Irish both online and via post.⁸ Whilst the results from this census will however not be yet available to inform the provisional proposals of the Review, it should be noted that the decade since the 2011 census has been one of significant growth in the usage and learning of Irish. Some indicators of this are included below.

2.2 The DCAL consultation on the Irish language bill and strategy

The 2006 St Andrew’s Agreement committed the UK Government to “Introduce an Irish language Act based on the experience of Ireland and Wales.” The draft legislation proposed by DCAL in 2015 was put out for public consultation (see attached).⁹

PART 8 reads as follows:

PART 8 PLACE-NAMES

8. (a) Definition of “place-name”.

(b) Provision locating responsibility for placenames, in the Irish Language Commissioner’s Office.

⁶ 2018, Conradh na Gaeilge: Language Profiles: <https://peig.ie/images/Proifili-na-gComhairli-1.pdf>

⁷ 2011/14, NISRA: Knowledge of Irish: KS209NI (administrative geographies): <https://bit.ly/2OKTQXW>

⁸ CENSUS 2021 / NISRA: <http://bit.ly/gaeilge21>

⁹ DCAL / DfC, 2015: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dcal/12-consultation-document--proposals-for-an-irish-language-bill-february-2015-bilingual.pdf> pg 15

(c) Provision for place-names in Irish to be given official and legal recognition.

(d) Provision obliging Land & Property Services to give recognition to Irish language place-names in its maps, publications, etc.

(e) Provision for bilingual roadsigns to have the Irish content on a par with English.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) carried out a consultation on Proposals for an Irish Language Bill over a 12 week period from 10 February to 5 May 2015. The consultation was conducted with the aim of encouraging a wide range of responses on the proposals. The Department received almost 13,000 responses.¹⁰

DCAL received 12,911 responses to the consultation, from organisations and individuals; a list of organisations and politicians/political parties that responded is included at Annex B. The consultation attracted huge support for Irish language legislation with 94.7% (12,233) of responses indicating support for the legislation.

Specifically, regarding PART 8 of the consultation document on “Place-names”, 7,416 expressed an opinion in this part, with 7,112 (95.9%) agreeing with the proposals in full (DCAL, 2015: pg 6). This shows huge demand for the provisions for bilingual placenames, in particular “obliging Land & Property Services to give recognition to Irish language place-names in its maps, publications”.

Additionally, the 1998 NI Act sets out in Section 28D that the Executive will adopt an Irish language strategy to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language, following a commitment in 2006 at St Andrew’s.¹¹ Having failed to adopt a Strategy to date, following the publication of a draft Irish language strategy 2015-2035 (DCAL, 2015)¹², Conradh na Gaeilge successfully took a Judicial Review against the Northern Ireland Executive. This Strategy contains recommendations around enhancing, promoting and protecting the Irish language in public, community and family life and includes fundamental principals of language promotion, placenames recognition, implementation of agreements and charters, and provisions relating to public services, placenames and visibility of the language. In March 2017, Justice Maguire ruled that the Executive had failed to implement Section 28d of the NI Act.

The duty to adopt the strategy has been revived by the reestablishment of the NI Executive and a new commitment for the Irish language strategy was issued in New Decade New Approach, 2020. A full list of the language commitments made in NDNA can be found within the agreement and the accompanying language legislation (which will see an Irish language Commissioner design and implement “Best Practice Standards” on each public authority, to include visibility and recognition of the language, based on the Welsh model).¹³ The adoption of local government district and ward names in Irish (alongside English) as part of the present review will therefore sit compatibility with the broader strategic framework that the NI Executive should adopt as a result of this domestic legal obligation.

¹⁰ DCAL, Report on Consultation, December 2015:

<http://monarcacht.weebly.com/uploads/1/9/1/0/19101681/report-of-the-consultation-on-proposals-for-an-irish-language-bill.pdf>

¹¹ Section 28(d), NI Act 1998: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/section/28D>

¹² DCAL, 2015, Draft Irish language Strategy 2015-2035: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dcal/The%20Irish%20Language%20Strategy%202015%20to%202035.pdf>

¹³ New Decade New Approach, 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deal-to-see-restored-government-in-northern-ireland-tomorrow>

2.3 UN, COMEX, & Foras na Gaeilge Guidance

Most recently, COMEX, the Committee of Experts overseeing the implementation of the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional and Minority languages, recommended the adoption of a comprehensive language policy and strategy as an area for immediate action by the UK Government (COMEX Report, July 2020 and March 2021)¹⁴. The Department for Communities has also published a guidance document for public authorities regarding the full implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and should be considered and consulted as a core policy document within this consultation, in the context of language policy, language rights, bilingual signage, non-discrimination, and non-retrogression.¹⁵ It is recommended this document be considered as part of the consultation process.

As alluded to in the earlier section in 2017, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues published 'Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities: A Practical Guide for Implementation'.¹⁶ This guide deals directly with provision for indigenous minority language signage and visibility. This document should be considered in its entirety for the purposes of this consultation process. Specifically Part 4.4 Minority Languages and Identity deals with issues relating to signage, placenames and language.

Where practicable, the use of minority languages on street signs and topographical designations should also be added, particularly where they have historical significance or where minorities are concentrated. [pg 27].

The 2017 UN report continues to address issues of language use on public signage and cites several policy examples of best practice when designing procedures and indicators / measures for gauging "support" and "demand". These ideals are based on minority language issues being codified internationally in treaties and human rights instruments simply as minority rights and should be viewed through the prism of minority support measures and mechanisms. As alluded to earlier the UNSR therefore indicated appropriate thresholds for the number of speakers could be around 5%-20%, with the lower level appropriate for indigenous languages such as Irish. This UN Guide has become a main point of reference in the latest street signage policies to recently pass through Belfast City Council, Derry and Strabane District Council, and Fermanagh and Omagh Council, with the above thresholds being referenced and quoted in all policy documents.

Additionally, we note that, pursuant to the Good Friday Agreement, Foras na Gaeilge has a unique power to advise the Stormont Executive and public authorities on Irish language matters (pursuant to its functions set out at Schedule 1, Annex 1, Part 5 of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (NI) Order 1999). Foras na Gaeilge has issued a Guidance Document for Local Councils regarding the Irish language (see attached).¹⁷

¹⁴ COMEX (CoE): <https://rm.coe.int/0900001680948544> and <https://rm.coe.int/ukevaliria5-en/1680a1f0b1?fbclid=IwAR1-77KpZg0Sg5lck0d3H7ogC4ysUXY6phFbuaXqS1JJ5pFovMTYNJrWTgM>

¹⁵ DCAL: April 2016: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-guidance-on-european-charter-regional-minority-languages.pdf>

¹⁶ UN, 2017:

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/SR/LanguageRightsLinguisticMinorities_EN.pdf

¹⁷ Foras na Gaeilge, 2015: <https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Foras-A4-Council-Guidelines-English-Prf10-1.pdf>

2.4 Placenames: a Corpus for informing new & existing policy

As alluded to in the UNSR guidance, the onus to adopt placenames is magnified when the minority language and local areas in question have historical significance. The <http://www.placenamesni.org/> project¹⁸, as delivered by LPS, Queen's University Belfast, Foras na Gaeilge, and AHRC, has already compiled a huge corpus of information relating to placenames here.¹⁹ This work is extensive and academically to a very high international standard. It informs many of the placename policies in our local councils. It is estimated that 95% of our placenames derive directly from Irish in Northern Ireland, with Placenames NI and the Ulster Street Name Database, www.logainm.ie and other academic resources providing a huge wealth of knowledge to inform this consultation. This is complimented by the PRONI Historic Maps viewer.²⁰ For a further academic appraisal, Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig's article, *Placename Policy and Its Implementation* charts the historical, linguistic and contemporary context of this issue in Northern Ireland.²¹

2.5 Statistics on demand for Irish medium education and classes

As a real-time indicator of demand and growth within NI Irish Medium Education should be included as a barometer of linguistic status and provision. The Department of Education²² reported another increase in enrolment figures with over 7,000 children and young people attending Irish medium schools with over 5,500 pupils educated in dedicated Irish medium schools and pre-school settings and almost 1,500 pupils educated in Irish medium units attached to English-medium Schools. The total number of pupils in funded Irish medium education has steadily risen over time, increasing by over 1,500 pupils since 2015/16 and nearly 250 pupils since last year. Most of this increase is coming from greater enrolments in Irish medium schools rather than units. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta says there is a continued projected growth in the years to come highlighting the ever increasing growth of the Irish Medium Education but also the significant growth of the Irish speaking population within Northern Ireland. IME is the only growing sector within the wider education sector. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta published in November 2020 their IME Sectoral Development Plan which includes a section on current enrolment and project growth.²³ This provides a clear snapshot of the sector, demand per local council area and the projected enrolments in coming years. This can be included as an indicator for demand and language use within this consultation process.

¹⁸ See: <http://www.placenamesni.org/landunits.php> and <http://www.placenamesni.org/map.php>

¹⁹ Further information: <https://impact.ref.ac.uk/casestudies/CaseStudy.aspx?Id=38415>

²⁰ PRONI: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/search-archives-online/proni-historical-maps-viewer>

²¹ Mac Giolla Easpaig, D.: <https://www.logainm.ie/Eolas/Data/Brainse/placenames-policy-and-its-implementation.pdf>

²² Department of Education 2021 <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Revised%2019%20March%202021%20-%20Annual%20enrolments%20at%20schools%20and%20in%20funded%20presc....pdf>

²³ See Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta: <https://www.comhairle.org/english/about/publications/> (see part 1.6.1, pgs 15-18).

3. Recommendations:

We therefore propose that the Commissioner place within her provisional recommendations the adoption of the traditional and correct forms of placenames in Irish (and Scots where applicable), alongside the English language names of districts and wards. We consider 'the situation of Irish' in NI –whereby the overwhelming majority of placenames are derived from Irish, including the placenames in the names of all 11 Councils- prompts the consideration of this measure across the whole jurisdiction, with an additional onus on adoption in those local government districts where there are members of the Irish speaking minority in greater numbers. It is in keeping with international treaties, best practice and guidance, alongside the historical tapestry of all 11 council districts, and the principles of the Good Friday Agreement and NDNA, that this policy be inclusive across the region.

Appendix: Sources, Reports and Guidance documents for consideration:

Name of Report Body	Name of Report	Date of Publication	Context / Theme	Link	Specific Data Range for Attention
Conradh na Gaeilge	Language Profiles - Local Councils	2018	Snapshot of Irish language communities in each of the council areas.	https://peig.ie/images/Proifili-na-gComhairli-1.pdf	Full document
CAJ / Conradh na Gaeilge	Local Council Language Obligations: A Framework for Compliance	2019	Local Council Obligations & Compliance	https://peig.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019_Tuairisc_Creatlach-Comhairli%CC%81_Deireadh.pdf	Full document
NISRA (KS209NI)	Irish language: 2011 Census LGD2014	2014	Language use per 2014 LGD / 2011 Census	https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=7476&lh=73&yn=2011&sk=136&sn=Census+2011&yearfilter=2037	Full data range LGD2014 KS209NI
Department of Education	Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland	2021	Irish language School Enrolment figures	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Revised%2019%20March%202021%20-%20Annual%20enrolments%20at%20schools%20and%20in%20funded%20presc....pdf	Full document
Foras na Gaeilge	Guidance document: IRISH LANGUAGE SERVICES IN THE NEW COUNCILS	2015	Guidance Document	https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Foras-A4-Council-Guidelines-English-Prf10-1.pdf	Full Document
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta	Breakdown of IME Schools	2020	School breakdown for each county.	https://www.comhairle.org/english/schools/	Data of IME in each county
Council of Europe, Committee of Experts (COMEX)	Fifth report of the Committee of Experts in respect of the United Kingdom	1st July 2020	Fifth report of the Committee of Experts in respect of the United Kingdom	https://rm.coe.int/0900001680948544	Full Report

Council of Europe, Committee of Experts (COMEX)	Information Document on the implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action based on the 5th monitoring cycle	5th January 2021	British Government Response	https://rm.coe.5th/ukiria5rev-en/1680a0eef6	Full Report
Council of Europe, Committee of Experts (COMEX)	Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on the UNITED KINGDOM and ISLE OF MAN	1st April 2021	Recommendations for Immediate Action	https://rm.coe.int/ukevaliria5-en/1680a1f0b1?fbclid=IwAR1-77KpZg0Sg5lck0d3H7ogC4ysUXY6phFbuaXqS1JJ5pFovMTYNJrWTgM	Full Report
DCAL (Department for Communities)	2015 DCAL Draft Irish language bill	2015	Proposals for an Irish Language Bill	https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dcal/12-consultation-document--proposals-for-an-irish-language-bill-february-2015-bilingual.pdf	Full document, see Part 8 on NISRA / LPS & Placenames
DCAL (Department for Communities)	Irish Language Strategy 2015-35	2015	Draft Irish Language Strategy	https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dcal/Th e%20Irish%20Language%20Strategy%202015%20to%202035.pdf	Legal Framework; Placenames; ECRML
High Court, Judiciary NI	2017 Justice Maguire Ruling on Irish language Strategy	2017	High court ruling on the application by Conradh na Gaeilge for Judicial review on s28D	https://www.judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary/files/decisions/Conradh%20Na%20Gaeilge's%20Application%20and%20In%20the%20Matter%20of%20a%20Failure%20by%20the%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Northern%20Ireland%20Assembly%20to%20Comply%20wit	High Court Ruling Document

				h%20its%20Duty%20Pursuant%20to%20Secti on%2028D%20of%20the%20Northern%20Irela nd%20Act%201998.pdf	
Department for Communities	Guidance on European Charter for Regional Minority Languages	2015	DFC Guidance on ECRML	https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-guidance-on-european-charter-regional-minority-languages.pdf	Departmental guidance document
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Minority language rights and the Irish language	2010	Briefing paper on the implications of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, European Convention on Human Rights and other instruments	https://www.nihrc.org/uploads/publications/briefing-paper-minority-language-rights-and-ecrml-june-2010.pdf	Full report
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Irish Language Provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 2)	2020	Summary of recommendations on Irish language legislation	https://www.nihrc.org/uploads/publications/NIHRC_Amendment_No_3_Irish_Language_FINAL.PDF	Full report
Department of Finance	GUIDANCE ON MEETING UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS IN RESPECT OF IRISH AND ULSTER SCOTS	2005	DFP guidance on ECRML	https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/dfp-minority-languages.pdf	Departmental guidance document
UN	Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities; A Practical Guide for Implementation	2017	UN guidance on International Best Practice	https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/SR/LanguageRightsLinguisticMinorities_EN.pdf	Full report, see also pgs 27-8