

An Chomhairle um Oideachas
Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta

23 Windsor Place

Dublin 2

Phone +353 1 634 0831

E-mail eolas@cogg.ie

Website www.cogg.ie

Submission

to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority

Education and training of legal practitioners

In accordance with the Legal Practitioners (Irish Language) Act 2008, a high-quality course and qualification in the Irish language, covering both written and spoken language, was established and was to be made available to those wishing to undertake the course in order to enable themselves to operate through the medium of Irish in the courts. It was recommended that an official policy be put in place in relation to the appointment of judges to the various courts in order to ensure, among judges in the various court departments, that there would always be some judges that are qualified under the course and examination mentioned above or that possess a qualification in the Irish language equivalent to the standard achieved under that course and qualification.

Pursuant to the 2008 Act, King's Inns – as the training centre for barristers – and the Law Society – as the training centre for solicitors – must reasonably seek to ensure that there are a sufficient number of barristers and solicitors competent in the Irish language. No policy has been implemented in relation to the appointment of a sufficient number of Irish-speaking judges to the various courts.

An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta recommends that the Irish-language courses and the awarding of this qualification be maintained in order to ensure that barristers and solicitors are available for those wishing to conduct their business through the medium of Irish. This would also provide recognition to those with a high standard of Irish acquired from the home or school and give them an opportunity to use the language professionally.

An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta also recommends that a policy be implemented in relation to the appointment of a sufficient number of Irish-speaking judges to the various courts.

Muireann Ní Mhóráin

Chief Executive

27 January 2020