

Reference No: E109/32/39 ; **Date:** 29/08/1929

Circular 28/1929:- Use of the Irish language for official purposes.

A Dhuine Uasail,

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to state that he has had under consideration the advancement of the use of the Irish language for official purposes. The Minister, of course, appreciates that the use of the language in the Service must largely depend on the rate at which the further recruitment of staff possessing a knowledge of Irish progresses. He is satisfied, however, that, under present conditions, there are certain respects in which Irish can be used exclusively. He accordingly directs me to convey the following instructions on the subject:

(1) All letters in Irish received in Government offices from members of the public should be replied to in Irish. Similarly, the Irish forms of surnames and addresses, if supplied by correspondents, should be used in the replies.

(2) Advertisements of vacant posts should not be sent for publication bi-lingually in the Press. All advertisements relating to posts for which a competent knowledge of Irish is prescribed as essential should appear in Irish only.

(3) Forms used for the acknowledgement of communications should be printed in Irish only. Other common forms issued by Government Departments, with the nature of the contents of which the public are by custom acquainted, e.g., receipts for money payments, should, as far as practicable, also be in Irish only.

(4) All officers located in Irish-speaking districts should, so far as practicable, use Irish when communicating, whether verbally or in writing, on official business with members of the public who know Irish.

(5) Modern Roman lettering should be used in all documents issued in Irish.

The Minister feels it necessary to stress the duty devolving on every officer of the service, whether he himself possesses a knowledge of Irish or not, of co-operating in the steps which are being taken with a view to the spread of the use of Irish in the Civil Service. He is particularly desirous that persons recruited through competitions in which a knowledge of Irish was prescribed should not only retain what knowledge they already have of the language, but endeavour to improve it, and should appreciate the importance which a competent knowledge of Irish may possess as affecting their future careers in the Civil Service.

I am to request that steps will be taken to convey the instructions contained in this Circular to each officer in your Department.

Mise, le meas,

H.P. Boland