

**Reference No:** E109/254/74; **Date:** 03/04/81

**Circular 17/1981:- Proficiency in Irish for promotion purposes: Civil Service Commission tests**

A Dhuine Uasail

1. I am directed by the Minister for the Public Service to refer to the arrangements governing Irish in the context of promotion - Circular 43/75 refers and in particular to the means by which credit for proficiency in Irish and English can be established for promotion by way of confined interview competition, or departmental selection. As indicated in paragraph 5(i) of Circular 43/75, candidates for such promotion are accepted as proficient in Irish if they have passed a relevant test conducted by the Civil Service Commission or completed an appropriate course at Gaeleagras na Seirbhise Poibli.

2. Arising from recent discussions at General Council concerning the Civil Service Commission testing arrangements, it is desired to bring to general attention that the Irish paper at a competitive written examination (confined to established officers) for promotion to Clerical Officer is accepted as the equivalent of the periodic promotion tests (written and oral) conducted by the Civil Service Commission. Accordingly, an officer who secures the qualifying pass mark in that paper will be accepted as proficient in Irish for the purposes of promotion through selection board competitions, or through less formal Departmental selection procedures.

3 It should be noted that a pass in the qualifying written tests in Irish held in, conjunction with (a) certain confined interview Competitions for promotion to Clerical Officer (e.g. competitions confined to Paperkeeper), or (b) competitions for the establishment of temporary staff does not establish proficiency in Irish for the purposes of further promotion.

Mise le meas  
K Murphy