An Garda Síochána

The current recruitment campaign for An Garda Síochána, which is nearing completion, has a specialist Irish language stream for fluent Irish speakers. This specialist stream will ensure that up to 10 per cent of intakes in the Garda College will consist of fluent Irish speakers. Candidates who succeed in this stream will be allocated to Gaeltacht areas for a period of time as determined by the Garda Commissioner.

Irish language in-service training is continuing to be delivered in the Galway, Kerry and Donegal Divisions. In addition, An Garda Síochána has continued to provide intensive Irish language immersion Gaeltacht courses for its members. Four courses are to be delivered by the end of 2014.

An Garda Síochána is currently preparing a draft second language scheme under the Official Languages Act. It is intended to submit the draft scheme to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for confirmation in the near future.

Department of Justice and Equality

The Department is currently proof-reading the Irish language version of the third and final major collection of court rules, the Rules of the Superior Courts 1986, which is due to be published in the near future. It is also continuing to translate other Rules of Court and amendments to Rules of Court and publish the Irish versions of those Rules.

The Department currently has one post, that of translator, where it is a requirement for the holder to be functionally bilingual in Irish and English. It will, as part of its continuing workforce planning framework, identify those areas of the Department where bilingual fluency would be desirable, or would contribute better to realising business goals. In accordance with Government policy, future language schemes of the Department under the Official Languages Act will specify the posts that have an Irish language competency requirement.