

Association of Irish Local Government

To: the Clerk the Oireachtas Committee on Gaeltacht Affairs

Dear Clerk and Committee,

The Association of Irish Local Government represents the 949 elected councillors in the state distributed across 31 local authorities and embracing all Gaeltacht areas.

Regarding the Heads of the Bill under consultation the Association would protest against the exclusion of local authority elected members from being members of the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta. This prohibition is proposed Part 2 Head 3 (1) of the Bill.

Previously there was a long and effective practice of local authority members from Gaeltacht areas also being elected to the board of Údarás.

Such memberships proved beneficial in linking the activities of the local authority with those of Údarás to their mutual benefit. This will be even more the case in the future given the additional Community Development roles and funding streams assigned to local government following the 2014 Local Government reforms.

The AILG would therefore request that your Committee recommends the deletion of this prohibition from the Bill so that local authority members, if elected, could bring their local knowledge to bear on the board of Údarás.

“Níor cheart stop a chur le Comhairleoirí Contae a bheith ar Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta. Dhéanfaidh sé seo lagú ar Rialtas Áitiúil agus ar Údarás na Gaeltachta.”

The Association would appreciate an acknowledgement of this representation.

Le dea-mhéin,
Liam Ó Cionnaigh | Liam Kenny

Director

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