

**LANGUAGE SECTOR**  
**THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY**  
**(IRISH LANGUAGE AGENCY AND ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY)**

**REMUNERATION OF STAFF AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR  
FORAS NA GAEILGE**

**RECORD OF DECISION IP/LAN 17**

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing a North/South Ministerial Council done at Dublin on 8 March 1999, the Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing Implementation Bodies done at Dublin on 8 March 1999 and to the supplementary Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland constituted by the exchange of letters dated 18 June 1999, as amended by the supplementary Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland constituted by the exchange of notes dated 19 November 2002, Ms. Angela Smith, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Mr. Eamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs have given consent to the decision in **Paper IP/LAN 17**, set out below. The effective date of this decision is 4 November 2004.

**Decision Sought in Paper IP/LAN 17**

Ministers are invited to approve:

- (i) the determinations made by the Language Body in respect of Foras Na Gaeilge; and
- (ii) that the relevant Sponsor Departments, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, may approve determinations of starting salaries for staff recruited to the Foras na Gaeilge other than the Chief Executive within the defined framework in the Annex to this paper; and that Sponsor Departments may permit

the Language Body to make such determinations in respect of Foras Na Gaeilge without that approval if they (the Departments) are content.

**FRAMEWORK FOR DETERMINATION OF STARTING SALARIES OF  
STAFF IN NORTH/SOUTH IMPLEMENTATION BODIES/TOURISM  
IRELAND (EXCEPT CHIEF EXECUTIVES)**

- determination of the above starting salaries may be approved by Sponsor Departments;
- Departments may permit the Bodies/Tourism Ireland to decide on the appropriate salary at appointment without prior approval from the Department. The operation of this responsibility by the Sponsoring Departments and the Bodies/Tourism Ireland shall be within the context of the agreed Financial Memorandum;
- the Sponsor Departments will be responsible for monitoring starting salaries and will submit to the Finance Departments a joint report on an annual basis at which time Finance Departments may consider if any action is necessary;
- the determination of the starting salary will be governed by public sector recruitment policy North and South and best practice and should draw heavily upon the “Checklist” as previously agreed and issued to Sponsor Departments and Bodies/Tourism Ireland. Where possible the starting salary should be at the minimum unless there are compelling reasons for doing otherwise;
- an appropriate explanatory note should be included in the “Information to Applicants” which outlines the recruitment policy and states that *“Starting salary would normally be at the minimum. Consideration of a higher starting salary may be given to applicants with exceptional relevant experience and/or skills”*.