**Gaeilge Advanced Braille Codes 2014**

The proposed new Gaeilge/Irish Braille Code has been finalised. The following changes are used in the Braille examples which follow. The text extracts use the original AND FOR OF THE WITH symbols for the accented vowels.

**Letters of the Alphabet:**

The same as the English Alphabet of 26 letters as the Gaeilge Alphabet has increased from its original 18 letters i.e.

**a b c d e f g h i l m n o p r s t u**

in the last 50 years to include all the English Alphabet i.e.

**a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z**

**Accented vowels** (*fada*):

The current AND FOR OF THE WITH symbols in the Irish Braille Code represent the accented vowels: **á é í ó ú**

& = ( ! )

**Numbers:**

The numbering system in Gaeilge Braille is the same as used universally.

**Punctuation Signs:**

All punctuation signs and special symbols will conform to the rules of UEB.

**Alphabetic Wordsigns:**

**Single letters**

A the word a a

B the word bíonn b

C the word cathain c

D the word déanamh d

E the word eile e

F the word féidir f

G the word gach g

H the word halla h

I the word i i

J …

K …

L the word leis l

M the word maith m

N the word nuair n

O the word oíche o

P the word píosa p

Q …

R the word raibh r

S the word agus s

T the word tabhair t

U the word uaireanta u

V the word véarsa v

W …

X …

Y …

Z …

**Accented vowels as wordsigns:**

Á the word á &

É the word é =

Í the word í (

Ó the word ó !

Ú …

**Aspirated consonants**

The original Irish alphabet consisted of 18 letters, the 5 accented vowels and the 9 aspirated consonants (B C D F G M P S T) which were denoted by a superdot over the letter. These were replaced in the mid-20th century by substituting the lenition (*séimhiú*) with the letter H following the letter.

These aspirated consonants will represent wordsigns as follows:

BH the word bhíonn bh

CH the word chuaigh \*

DH the word dhéanamh dh

FH the word fhéidir fh

GH the word gheobhaidh <

MH the word mhaith MH

PH the word phíosa ph

SH the word shampla %

TH the word tháinig ?

Note: The 9 aspirated consonants above include 4 of the strong groupsigns e.g.

CH GH SH and TH which are contracted.

**Strong Groupsigns used in the new code:**

AND FOR OF THE WITH are used for accented vowels only.

Only THE ?e will appear contracted in Irish, very occasionally as a word, or as part of a word ?eip while AND FOR OF are spelt out. WITH rarely occurs.

CH GH SH TH WH ED ER OU OW ST ING AR are used where they occur

Note: AR > is retained as a wordsign .

**Lower Groupsigns used in the new code:**

EA CON DIS EN IN

The lower groupsigns for BB CC FF and GG are not used, nor the lower wordsigns BE WERE HIS WAS as none of them are common in Gaeilge.

Note: IN 9 is retained as a wordsign.

No further Lower Groupsigns or Composite Signs are used.

**Special shortform:** BRL represents the word braille as in English. Brl