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*Number 2 of 2007*

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**CITIZENS INFORMATION ACT 2007**

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

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  2. Amendment of section 2(1) of Principal Act.
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  4. Amendment of section 7 of Principal Act.
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ACTS REFERRED TO

Comhairle Act 2000	2000, No. 1
Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993	1993, No. 8
Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003	
Disability Act 2005	2005, No. 14
Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851	14 & 15 Vic., c. 93
Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005	2005, No. 26



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*Number 2 of 2007*

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**CITIZENS INFORMATION ACT 2007**

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMHAIRLE ACT 2000 TO CHANGE THE NAME OF COMHAIRLE, SO THAT IT SHALL BE KNOWN, IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AS THE CITIZENS INFORMATION BOARD OR, IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE, AS AN BORD UM FHAISNÉIS DO SHAORÁNAIGH, TO AMEND AND EXTEND ITS FUNCTIONS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO CONFER A FUNCTION ON IT TO PROVIDE, OR ARRANGE FOR THE PROVISION OF, A PERSONAL ADVOCACY SERVICE TO CERTAIN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES TO ITS MEMBERSHIP AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

[21st February, 2007]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—In this Act “Principal Act” means Comhairle Act 2000.

Definition.

2.—Section 2(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

Amendment of section 2(1) of Principal Act.

(a) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “Board”:

“ ‘Board’ has the meaning assigned to it by section 6, as amended by *section 3* of the *Citizens Information Act 2007*;”

(b) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “voluntary body”:

“ ‘voluntary body’ means—

(a) a body corporate, or

(b) an unincorporated body of persons,

other than a statutory body, and includes a body commonly known as a Citizen Information Service or a Citizen Information Centre;”

and

(c) by the insertion of the following definitions:

“ ‘deciding officer’ has the meaning it has in section 2(1) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005;

‘the Director’ has the meaning assigned to it by section 7A;

‘disability’, in relation to a person, means a substantial restriction in the capacity of the person to carry on a profession, business or occupation in the State or to participate in social or cultural life in the State by reason of an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment;

‘Personal Advocacy Service’ has the meaning assigned to it by section 7A;

‘personal advocates’ has the meaning assigned to it by section 7A;

‘qualifying person’ has the meaning assigned to it by section 7A;

‘social service’ means any service provided by a statutory body or voluntary body that is available or accessible to the public generally or a section of the public pursuant to statute or otherwise and includes, but is not limited to, a service in relation to any of the following, namely, health, social welfare, education, family support, housing, taxation, citizenship, consumer matters, employment and training, equality, asylum and immigration;”.

Change of name of Board.

**3.—(1)** The name of Comhairle is hereby changed and, following the passing of this Act, it shall be known, in the English language, as the Citizens Information Board or, in the Irish language, as An Bord um Fhaisnéis do Shaoránaigh.

(2) References in the Principal Act to the Board shall, following the passing of this Act, be construed as references to the body established by section 6 of that Act whose name is changed by *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 7 of Principal Act.

**4.—**Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of the following paragraphs for paragraphs (b) and (c):

“(b) to support the provision of or, where the Board considers it appropriate, to provide directly, advocacy services to individuals, in particular those with a disability, that would assist them in identifying and understanding their needs and options and in securing their entitlements to social services,

(bb) to provide, or to arrange for the provision of, a Personal Advocacy Service to qualifying persons and, in so doing, the Board shall take account of the following:

(i) the financial resources of the Board; and

(ii) whether qualifying persons can obtain advocacy services otherwise than under this Act,

(c) to support, promote and develop—

(i) greater accessibility, co-ordination and public awareness of social services, and

(ii) the provision and dissemination of integrated information in relation to such services by statutory bodies and voluntary bodies.”;

and

(b) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (1):

“(1A) The Board shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, determine the terms on which and the conditions subject to which it may—

(a) support the provision of information, advice or advocacy services under subsection (1), and

(b) provide financial or other resources to a voluntary body under subsection (1)(e) or to a body specified by the Minister under subsection (1)(h),

and different terms and conditions may apply under paragraphs (a) and (b) and in relation to different types of bodies.

(1B) The Board shall, in determining the terms and conditions under subsection (1A), have regard to the objective of it promoting the provision of an integrated, reliable and comprehensive information service of the highest quality.

(1C) The Board may, for the purpose of providing the support referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1A) or the financial or other resources referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection, request the body or person concerned to furnish it with information in such form and at such times as it may require.

(1D) The Board may refuse to provide the support referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1A), or the financial or other resources referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection, if the body or person concerned does not comply with the terms and conditions determined under that subsection or if it fails or refuses to furnish the Board with any information requested of the body or person concerned under subsection (1C).

(1E) The Board, in performing the functions conferred on it by or under this section, shall have regard to the need for it to co-operate with statutory bodies and voluntary bodies.”.