



The Role of the President



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- * The Office was established by the Irish Constitution in 1937
- * The President is the highest office-holder in the country
- * The functions of the President are performed on the advice of the Government
- * The President is not answerable to either House of the Oireachtas or to any court in the performance of his or her functions

Powers of the President



- * The formal powers and functions of the President are laid out in ***Bunreacht na hÉireann*** (the Constitution).
- * Many of the powers of the President can only be exercised on the advice of the Government, but the President has absolute power in other areas.

Head of State



- * As the Head of State, the president represents the country at official functions both at home and abroad
- * As our Head of State, the President meets other world leaders on our behalf

Sign Bills into Law



- * Bills which have been passed by the Oireachtas (Dáil & Seanad) can be signed into law by the President
- * In some circumstances, he/she can also refuse to sign the Bill into law
- * The President can refer a Bill to the Supreme Court to make sure it is in agreement with the Constitution

Head of Defence Forces



* As the Head of State, the President is also the Head of the Defence Forces (Army, Navy, Air Corps)

* As the Head of the Defence Forces, he/she has the power to appoint officers to the Defence Forces (on the advice of the Government)

Appointing the Government

- * As the Head of State, the President has the power to dissolve (end) the Dáil
- * After an election, the President appoints the new Taoiseach and the other Members of the Government
- * The Taoiseach and Ministers receive their Seals of Office from the President in a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin

Other Appointments



* Other office holders appointed by the President, on the advice of the Government, include Judges, the Attorney General, the Comptroller and Auditor General, Ambassadors for our Embassies abroad and Commissioned Officers of the Defence Forces.

Accreditation of Foreign Ambassadors



- * When another country wishes to appoint a new Ambassador to Ireland, the Government must agree to that appointment.
- * An accreditation ceremony takes place at Áras an Uachtaráin where the new Ambassador presents a “letter of credence” to the President

Visits to Áras an Uachtaráin



* The President regularly receives visitors to Áras an Uachtaráin. These may include other Heads of State or International dignitaries, or individuals/groups of people who have excelled in sporting/artistic/social/personal achievements

Removal from Office



There are two situations where a President may be removed from office.

1. If five Supreme Court judges or more decide that a President has become permanently incapacitated (too ill to hold office), the President's term of office will come to an end.
2. The President may also be impeached by either House of the Oireachtas for "stated misbehaviour". Stated misbehaviour might include a criminal offence or a misuse of the President's powers.

Did You Know?



- * The first Irish President was Douglas Hyde
- * The President is the highest office-holder in the country
- * The President is not answerable to either House of the Oireachtas or to any court in the performance of his or her functions
- * The new President takes the oath of office at an inauguration ceremony in Dublin Castle

Did You Know?



- * The President must get the permission of the government to leave the country, even for a private holiday
- * The Term of Office of the President is seven years
- * The salary of the President is €249,014 per year
- * There are 92 rooms in the President's residence, Áras an Uachtaráin

More Information



For more information on the Irish Presidency visit:
<https://president.ie/en> (English section) or
<https://president.ie/ga/> (Leagan Gaeilge)

Check out the Children's Section of the President's website: <https://president.ie/en/childrens-section> (English section) or <https://president.ie/ga/rannog-na-bpaisti> (Leagan Gaeilge)