MINCEIRS WHIDEN
" TRAVELLERS TALKING "

Tender for Commissioned Research

Development of a Digitisation and Preservation Strategy for the Irish Traveller Language Gammon / Cant

Minceirs Whiden wishes to appoint a suitable researcher to undertake preliminary research and mapping of the Irish Traveller language as part of a wider Gammon/Cant mapping and revitalisation research project, funded by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (mapping phase) and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Limerick (workshop phase). **Submissions due by Tuesday 24 November by 5:00 PM;** work to begin as soon as practicable.

Minceirs Whiden

Minceirs Whiden was established in 2004 by a group of Travellers to promote an understanding and recognition of Travellers as a minority ethnic group in Irish society who are proud and confident of their identity. Minceirs Whiden seeks full participation and inclusion of Travellers in the economic, social, political, and cultural life of Ireland. Minceirs Whiden (Cant for "Travellers talking") is a Traveller only forum, open to all Travellers in Ireland, where Travellers can come together as a community to talk about the issues faced and create ways for the community to overcome exclusion within Irish society.

Commissioning organisation: Minceirs Whiden (maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com)
Project partners: Exchange House; International Traveller Movement; Involve; Irish Traveller Movement; Minceirs Whiden; National Museum of Ireland; National Traveller Women's Forum; Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre; University of Limerick.

Funding: Department of Children, Disability and Equality; Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick
Duration: 6(-7) months
Indicative research budget: €10,000 for the mapping phase (DCDE); €2,000 for the regional workshops (Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick)

Closing date for submissions: Tuesday 24 November 5:00 PM
Timeline: December 2026 through May 2027 (consultative phase 6 months)
Submission email: maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com
Enquiries: maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com

We welcome applications from individual researchers, consultants or research teams with relevant experience in community-based research, language research, cultural heritage or related fields. Applicants should demonstrate:

- Relevant research experience, including qualitative and participatory research methods;
- Experience of working with marginalised and/or minority ethnic groups
- Experience of consultation, focus groups, and the importance of participatory approaches;
- The ability to review and synthesise literature and existing resources;
- Experience of analysing findings across intersections;
- An understanding of research ethics, informed consent, GDPR;
- The ability to produce clear, accessible and practical research outputs and recommendations.

Experience working with Travellers or work related to Gammon/Cant, minority languages, language transmission/analysis or language revitalisation would be an advantage. Applicants should also demonstrate an ability to work in partnership with the different organisations involved and to complete the work within the proposed timeframe and budget.

1. Project Overview

Minceirs Whiden wishes to commission a researcher to undertake a 6-month exploratory mapping of the Irish Traveller language Gammon/Cant, examining its historical and contemporary use across regions and social contexts. This project builds on the longstanding work of Traveller organisations to promote, protect and revitalise Traveller language (Gammon/Cant). The project will be implemented through a National Oversight Committee which was established in 2025 to explore the documenting of Traveller language. The Committee consists of a number of local Traveller organisations, academics, and a Traveller curator of national Traveller collections. It will centre Traveller knowledge, experiences and perspectives, and will inform future work to further document, understand and support the language. The project is designed, implemented and interpreted by the Traveller community.

The commissioned researcher will work with Minceirs Whiden and the National Oversight Committee to map the language and produce a Traveller-proofed, practical language resource, as well as recommendations and roadmap for future research. The research will establish a foundation for more extensive heritage and language research at a later stage. Mapping will be undertaken of the language that exists,

how it is used today in comparison with historical usage, and the regional and social variations in its use, transmission and preservation.

2. Background and Context

Gammon/Cant is an important part of Traveller culture and linguistic heritage. Understanding its historical development, contemporary use and variation across communities is an important starting point for future work on its documentation, preservation and revitalisation. Exploratory work is needed to map existing knowledge and resources, identify gaps, and understand how the language is used and understood in different regional, social and generational contexts. The first Traveller Heritage Strategy (2026-2030) addresses the urgent need to safeguard Traveller language as one of its key commitments.

The researcher will provide an initial and culturally sensitive review of the existing literature and documentation of Gammon/Cant, alongside consultation with Travellers and Traveller organisations, language users and relevant organisations, and write up a final report inclusive of practical recommendations for future work, and develop a Traveller-proofed language resource.

This project is intended as a foundational piece of research rather than a comprehensive survey. It will identify what is currently known, where further research is needed, and how future work might be developed in a meaningful and community-led way. It will consider how Gammon/Cant is used in public settings versus at home or in private spaces, recognising that language use may differ depending on context, relationships and circumstances. Likewise, it will take into consideration the significance of gender, age and intergenerational transmission, including the experiences of young people and older people. The research will also consider regional and social/family variation and the relationship between Gammon/Cant and Irish-language approaches, including relevant questions of language maintenance and revitalisation.

Minceirs Whiden will retain ownership and hold the intellectual property rights of the resulting research resource, with the final arrangements to be reflected in the research contract. Minceir Whiden leads the tendering process with project partners contributing to the research through the Oversight Committee and related engagement.

3. Aims and Objectives

The overall aim is to undertake an exploratory mapping of Gammon/Cant and create a Traveller-proofed language resource that will support future heritage research and inform appropriate approaches to its documentation, understanding and revitalisation.

Specific objectives include:

1. *Initial mapping stage:*

- Map and review existing literature and relevant research relating to Gammon/Cant;
    - This will involve gathering, reviewing, classifying and archiving any existing resources in relation to the Traveller language as well as sources that have in the past recorded parts of the language. This mapping exercise will result in a detailed overview and report.
- Develop a survey instrument appropriate to overall research project to collect and document language from across Ireland, reflecting geographic, gender and age balance

2. *Data collection (consultative phase):*

- Undertake 4 regional consultation workshops (in partnership with local Traveller organisations and Oversight Group), gathering data;
    - The second phase involves engagement with Travellers and Traveller organisations across Ireland, reflecting geographic, gender and age balance. Four regional workshops will be held for the purpose of collecting further information on the language and to gather perspectives on language preservation and digitisation strategies, using a participatory approach. Specific objectives of this phase include:
        - Examining regional variation in the language and its use across different locations and contexts;
        - Exploring how language use varies between public spaces, home and private spaces, and other social settings including variations among different family groups;
        - Considering the influence of gender, age, intergenerational relationships and other relevant intersecting factors on language use, knowledge and transmission;
        - Examining contemporary use of Gammon/Cant in comparison with historical usage.
    - Analysis of data and report write-up;
        - Considering relevant Irish-language approaches and approaches to language maintenance, rejuvenation and revitalisation.

3. *Dissemination*

- Agree on and create a Traveller-proofed resource on Gammon/Cant
- Produce a Traveller-proofed resource on Gammon/Cant to support broader dissemination in line with good practice, owned by Minceirs Whiden;

- Produce a final report inclusive of practical recommendations and a roadmap for future research, documentation and related heritage and language initiatives.

The researcher will work with Minceirs Whiden and the Oversight Group to develop and undertake a research project that addresses the objectives outlined above.

4. Methodology and approach

Applicants should propose a clear and achievable methodology for delivering the research within the six-month timeframe and available budget. The proposed approach may include:

- A literature review and mapping of existing resources;
- Initial scoping and planning with Oversight Group;
- Identification of relevant regional and social stakeholders and consultation participants;
- Regional workshops, focus groups, or other targeted consultations;
- Analysis of findings across regional, social, generational, gender and other relevant dimensions;
- Development of a final resource, recommendation, roadmap.

Proposals should clearly set out how the contractor plans to meet the stated objectives. Proposals should also include anticipated timelines for activities and number of days of work anticipated as part of this project, and costs. The methodology should also recognise the importance of community control over the documentation and dissemination of cultural and linguistic knowledge, as well as incorporating a note on cultural sensitivity. Any proposed recording, reproduction or publication of language materials should be discussed and agreed with the Oversight Group. Applicants should identify any limitations to the proposed approach and explain how they will prioritise activities within the available resources.

5. Expected Outputs

The successful researcher will be expected to produce the following outputs:

- An agreed **research plan** setting out the proposed methodology, research questions, consultation approach, timeline and key deliverables;
- A structured **overview of relevant literature**, historical and contemporary documentation, existing language resources and other relevant research;
- **Regional workshops and a synthesis of findings** from these consultations;
- An **interim report** on initial findings;
- A **final report** inclusive of of **practical recommendations and a roadmap** identifying priorities and considerations for future work;
- A final **language resource** incorporating the results of the mapping, which should be accessible and useful to Travellers, providing a clear foundation for future research;

- The researcher will **present the findings and proposed roadmap** to the steering group and, where agreed, relevant project partners.

The final outputs should be submitted in an editable digital format suitable for future use, subject to the agreed arrangements for ownership, access and publication.

6. Timeline

The anticipated duration of the commission is 6 months. The following schedule is indicative and will be finalised with the successful applicant:

Period	**Activity**
November	Issue tender, allow approximately three weeks for submissions, assess applications and select researcher.
Before Christmas	Agree and sign the research contract.
December-January	Develop the research plan; undertake the literature review and existing resource mapping; prepare for consultations.
February	Finalise the consultation approach, confirm regional workshop dates and identify participants with the steering group.
March-May	Undertake regional workshops, focus groups and targeted consultations; analyse findings and develop emerging recommendations.
May	Finalise the language resource, recommendations and roadmap; present findings to the steering group. Launch of resource.

Applicants should provide a realistic work plan showing how the research will be delivered within this period. Any proposed changes to the schedule should be clearly identified and justified.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Minceirs Whiden will lead the tendering process in collaboration with the Oversight Group, who will support with the appointment and oversight of the commissioned research. The Oversight Group will also assist with relevant background information, introductions and access to appropriate contacts and resources, where available and agreed.

Minceirs Whiden will retain the ownership and intellectual property rights of the resulting language resource, subject to the arrangements agreed in the research

contract. Minceirs Whiden will oversee the development and future use of the resource in collaboration with the project partners.

The Oversight Group will guide the research methodology and support the identification of appropriate people, organisations and locations for regional engagement. It will provide input on the research questions, consultations, emerging findings and final recommendations.

The commissioned researcher will be responsible for delivering the agreed research activities and outputs within the available budget and timeframe. This will include developing the methodology, undertaking the literature review and consultations, analysing findings, preparing the final resource and roadmap, and reporting to the Oversight Group. The researcher will be expected to work collaboratively with the participating organisations and stakeholders throughout the commission.

8. Budget and Payment

Minceirs Whiden and the Oversight Group is keen to commence the work as soon as is practicable and asks that tenderers specify how soon they would be in a position to commence the work. The budget (not exceeding €10,000) must include all expenses and VAT. 50% of the budget will be paid on project commencement and the remaining 50% will be paid on satisfactory completion of the project.

Minceirs Whiden office the right at any time before the tender deadline to update, cancel or amend the information contained in this document and/or to extend the tender deadline.

9. Tender Submission Requirements

Applicants should submit a proposal in Word or PDF format by email to maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com with the subject line **Tender: Exploratory Mapping of Gammon/Cant**. The closing date for submission is **Tuesday 24 November by 5 PM.**
The submission should include the following sections:

a) Researcher or organisation profile, including:
   i) Name and contact details;
   ii) Relevant professional background;
   iii) Details of any proposed research team.
b) Relevant experience, including:
   i) Examples of relevant research or consultation projects;
   ii) Experience in community-based research, language, heritage or related areas;
   iii) Short CVs for the lead researcher, and where applicable, any relevant team members.

c) Proposed methodology:
   i) Proposed research approach and methods;
   ii) How the work will address the research objectives;
   iii) Approach to regional engagement and intersectional considerations;
   iv) Ethical approach.
d) Work plan and timeline:
   i) Proposed stages of work and estimated time commitment for each stage;
   ii) Approach to working with stakeholders and Oversight Group;
   iii) Confirmation of availability to undertake the work within the proposed timeframe.
e) Budget, including:
   i) Total proposed cost;
   ii) Daily rates and estimated days for each main activity;
   iii) Breakdown of expenses and any additional costs

Applicants should declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest and identify any other information relevant.

Minceirs Whiden does not bind itself to accepting the lowest price of any tender.

10. Closing Date and Enquiries

Completed proposals must be submitted by email to maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com by **Tuesday 24 November by 5:00 PM**. The subject line should read: **Tender: Exploratory Mapping of Gammon/Cant.** For queries about the tender and project, please contact Maureen Ward (maureen.minceirswhiden@gmail.com).