

Minister	Dates	Time in Office	Comment
1. John J. O Kelly (Sceilg)	26 Aug '21 – 9 Jan '22	4 ½ months	Non-Cabinet Minister / 2 nd Dail / 1 st Ministry (Pre-Treaty)
2. Michael Hayes	11 Jan '22 – 9 Sept '22	8 months (approx)	Non-Cabinet Minister / 2 nd Dail / 2 nd Ministry (Post Treaty). Note. Ministrial substitute for Finial Lynch. Provisional Gov. 14 Jan – 9 Sept '22
3. Francis Fahy	?		Non-Cabinet Minister / 2 nd Dail / 2 nd Ministry (Post Treaty) Ass. Min. of Education but never ratified by Dail: ? – 3 Feb 1922
4. Eoin MacNeill	30 Aug – 6 Dec 1922	3 months & 1 week	3 rd Dail / Provisional Gov. 9 Sept – 6 Dec 1922
5. Eoin MacNeill	6 Dec 1922 – 3 Oct 1923	10 months	3 rd Dail / 1 st Executive Council (C/1) 6 Dec '22 – 9 Aug '23
6. Eoin MacNeill	3 Oct 1923 – 24 Nov '25	2 years & 2 months	4 th Dail / 2 nd Executive Council (C/2) 19 Sept '23 – 23 May '27. MacNeill resigned over Boundary Commissions chaos.
1924 Ministers and Secretaries Act which officially sets up all the Ministries in the Free State, incl. the Department of Education.			
7. John M. O'Sullivan	28 Jan '26 – 23 June '27	1 year & 5 months	4 th Dail / 2 nd Executive Council (C/2) 19 Sept '23 – 23 May '27.
?			5 th Dail / 3 rd Executive Council (C/3) 23 June '27 – 12 Oct '27. / No Minister listed for this period on www site?
8. John M. O'Sullivan	12 Oct '27 – 3 April '30	2 ½ years	6 th Dail / 4 th Executive Council (C/4) 11 Oct '27 – 3 April '30.
9. John M. O'Sullivan	3 April '30 – 9 Mar '32	1 year & 11 months	6 th Dail / 5 th Executive Council (C/5) 11 Oct '27 – 29 Jan '32.
10. Thomas Derrig	9 Mar '32 –	11 months	7 th Dail / 6 th Executive

	8 Feb '33		Council (C/6) 9 Mar '32 – 2 Jan '33.
11. Thomas Derrig	8 Feb '33 – 21 July '37	4 years & 5 months	8 th Dail / 7 th Executive Council (C/7) 8 Feb '33 – 14 June '37.
12. Thomas Derrig	21 July '37 – 30 June '38	11 months	9 th Dail / 8 th Executive Council (C/8) 21 July '37 – 27 May '38. 29 th Dec '37: <u>New Constitution</u> came into operation and 8 th Exec. Council became the First Government . The title of President of Exec. Council was changed to <u>Taoiseach</u> and Vice-President changed to <u>Tánaiste</u> .
13. Thomas Derrig (1)	30 June '38 – 8 Sept '39	1 year & 2 months	10 th Dail / Second Government 30 June '38 – 26 June '43.
14. Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh (2)	8 Sept '39 – 27 Sept '39	19 days	
15. Eamon de Valera (3)	27 Sept '39 – 18 June '40	8 months & 22 days	Due to outbreak of European War the Cabinet was reorganised.
16. Thomas Derrig (4)	18 June '40 – 2 July '43	3 years & 2 weeks	
17. Thomas Derrig	2 July '43 – 9 June '44	11 months	11 th Dail / Third Government 1 July '43 – 7 June '44.
18. Thomas Derrig	9 June '44 – 18 Feb '48	3 years & 8 months & 9 days	12 th Dail / Fourth Government 9 June '44 - 12 Jan '48.
19. Richard Mulcahy	18 Feb '48 – 7 Mar '51	3 years & 3 weeks	13 th Dail / Fifth Government 18 Feb '48 – 13 June '51. Note: 1 April 1949 The Republic of Ireland Act declares Eire a Republic.
20. Sean Moylan	13 June '51 – 2 June '54	3 years approx.	14 th Dail / Sixth Government 13 June '51 – 24 May '54
21. Richard Mulcahy	2 June '54 – 20 March '57	2 years & 10 months	15 th Dail / Seventh Government 2 June '54 – 12 Feb '57. Note: Patrick J. Lindsay: Par.

			Sec. To Min.of Education until 24 Oct '56 when he became Min. for the Gaeltacht.
22. Jack Lynch	20 Mar '57 – 24 June '59	2 years & 3 months	16 th Dail / Eight Government 20 Mar '57 – 15 Sept '61 Note: De Valera retired from politics 23/6/ 59.
23. Patrick J. Hillary	24 June '59 – 11 Oct '61	2 years & 4 months	16 th Dail / Ninth Government Dev retired – FF remained in power – no need for election. Cabinet reshuffled.
24. Patrick J. Hillary	12 Oct '61 – 21 April '65	3 years & 6 months	17 th Dail / Tenth Government
25. George Colley	21 April '65 – 13 July '66	1 year & 3 months	18 th Dail / Eleventh Government
26. Donogh O'Malley	13 July '66 – 10 Nov '66	4 months	18 th Dail / Eleventh Government
27. Donogh O'Malley	10 Nov '66 – 10 Mar '68	1 years & 4 months	18 th Dail / Twelfth Government He died.
28. Jack Lynch	11 Mar '68 – 26 Mar '68	15 days	18 th Dail / Twelfth Government
29. Brian Lenihan	26 Mar '68 – 2 July '69	1 year & 3 months	18 th Dail / Twelfth Government
30. Pádraig Faulkner	2 July '69 – 3 Jan '73	3 years & 6 months	19 th Dail / Thirteenth Government Note: Robert Molloy Par. Sec to Min. of Ed 2 July '69 – 9 May '70 <i>Molloy appointed as Minister for Local Government on 9 May '70.</i> Michael O'Kennedy Par. Sec to Min. of Ed 9 May '70 – 3 Jan '73 <i>O'Kennedy appointed as Minister of Ed. on 3 Jan '73.</i> James Tunney Par. Sec to Min. of Ed 3 Jan '73 – 5 Feb '73 and after General Election

			2 Mar '73 – 14 Mar '73
31. Richard Burke	14 Mar '73 – 2 Dec '76	2 years & 11 months	20 th Dail / Fourteenth Government Burke resigned.
32. Peter Barry	2 Dec '76 - 5 July '77	7 months	20 th Dail / Fourteenth Government (14 Mar '73 – 5 July '77)
33. John P. Wilson	5 July '77 – 11 Dec '79	2 years & 5 months	21 st Dail / Fifteenth Government - 5 July '77 – 11 Dec '79 James Tunney Par. Sec to Min. of Ed 5 July '77 – 1 Jan '78. Post changed to Minister of State on 1 Jan '78. Then J. Tunney : MoS 1 Jan '78 – 11 Dec '79
34. John P. Wilson	12 Dec '79 – 30 June '81	1 year & 6 months	21 st Dail / Sixteenth Government 11 Dec '79 – 30 June '81 James Tunney MoS 12 Dec '79 – 30 June '81
35. John Boland	30 June '81 – 9 Mar '82	8 months & 2 weeks	22 nd Dail / Seventeenth Government James Tunney MoS 30 June '81 – 9 Mar '82
36. Martin O'Donoghue	9 Mar '82 – 6 Oct '82	7 months	23 rd Dail / Eighteenth Government Maire Geoghegan-Quinn MoS: 23 Mar '82 - 14 Dec '82
37. Charles Haughey	6 Oct '82 – 27 Oct '82	3 weeks	O'Donoghue resigned! / Haughey interim Minister
38. Gerard Brady	27 Oct '82 - 14 Dec '82	1 month & 18 days	
39. Gemma Hussey	14 Dec '82 – 14 Feb '86	3 years & 2 months	24 th Dail / Nineteenth Government George Birmingham MoS: 15 Dec '83 – 13 Feb '86 Hussey moved due to Gov. reshuffle
40. Patrick Cooney	14 Feb '86 - 10 Mar '87	1 year & 3 weeks	Sean Barrett MoS: 13 Feb '86 - ?

			Enda Kenny MoS: (dates unknown)
41. Mary O'Rourke	10 Mar '87 – 12 July '89	2 years & 4 months	25 th Dail / Twentieth Government Francis Fahey MoS: 12-3-87 – 12-7-89
42. Mary O'Rourke	12 July '89 – 14 Nov '91	2 years & 4 months	26 th Dail / Twenty-First Government Francis Fahey MoS: 19 July '89 – 11 Feb '92
43. Noel Davern	14 Nov '91 – 11 Feb '92	3 months	26 th Dail / Twenty-First Government
44. Seamus Brennan	11 Feb '92 – 12 Jan '93	11 months	26 th Dail / Twenty Second Government Liam Aylward MoS: 13 Feb '92 – 12 Jan '93
45. Niamh Bhreathnach	12 Jan '93 – 17 Nov '94	1 year & 10 months	27 th Dail / Twenty Third Government 12 Jan '93 – 15 Dec '94 Liam Aylward MoS: 12 Jan '93 – 15 Dec '94 Bhreathnach resigned on 17 Nov '94.
46. Michael Smith	18 Nov '94 – 15 Dec '94	27 days	Change of Gov. 15 Dec '94 without dissolution of Dail!
47. Niamh Bhreathnach	15 Dec '94 – 26 June '97	2 years & 6 months	27 th Dail / Twenty Fourth Government 15 Dec '94 -26 June '97 Bernard Allen MoS: 20 Dec '94 - ? Austin Currie MoS: 20 Dec '94 - ?
48. Micheál Martin	26 June '97 – 27 Jan '00	2 years & 7 months	28 th Dail / Twenty Fifth Government 26 June '97 – 6 June '02 Name change from 30 Sept '97 to Department of

			Education and Science. Cabinet reshuffle on 27 Jan '00.
49. Dr. Michael Woods	27 Jan '00 – 6 June '02	2 years & 4 months	1. Michael Smith MoS: 1 July – 8 Oct '97 2. Willie O'Dea MoS: 8 July '97 - ? 3. Noel Tracy MoS: 9 Oct '97 - ? 4. Frank Fahey. MoS: 21 Jan '98 – 27 Jan '00 5. Mary Hanafin MoS: 1 Feb '00 - ?

Source: Department of the Taoiseach. History of the Government.
<http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/> (Site accessed 13 & 14 January 2004).

Note:

Longest Serving Minister of Education (not consecutively):

Thomas Derrig 7 terms of Office 15 years – 30s + 40s Fianna Fáil

Shortest Serving Minister of Education:

Jack Lynch 2 terms of Office 15 days – March 1968 Fianna Fáil