



**Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas**

**Tithe an Oireachtais
An Coiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid**

**Tuarascáil maidir le Buiséad EU agus maidir leis an gCreat
Airgeadais Ilbhliantúil**

**Houses of the Oireachtas
Committee on Budgetary Oversight**

**Report on EU Budget and
the Multiannual Financial Framework**

**Report
April 2018**

32CB0007

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CHAIRMAN'S PREFACE



The Committee on Budgetary Oversight considered the issue of EU Budget reform in the context of a new Multi-Annual Financial Framework, due to be presented in May 2018.

This report examined key themes and budgetary challenges facing the European Union, and it was informed by engagement with the EU Budgets Committee, and Parliamentary Budget Office analysis of the EU Semester, and the Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

This report makes a number of high level recommendations for consideration by the Dáil and the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Parliamentary Budget Office, which provided analysis and briefing material to the Committee, and to the Secretariat for their support.

I am pleased to present this report to the Dáil on behalf of the Select Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Colm Brophy'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Colm Brophy T.D.

Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee recognises the detrimental effect that reductions to CAP funding would have on the Irish agricultural sector and the economy as a whole. The Committee therefore strongly recommends that the new MFF gives priority to minimising the impact of EU budget reforms on CAP funding.
2. The Committee is acutely aware that Brexit presents a significant challenge for Ireland, given its close proximity and trading ties to the UK. As a small, peripheral country, Ireland will suffer the worst impacts of Brexit more so than any other Member State. The Committee recommends that new MFF includes funding and financial supports that offer a Brexit initiative to Ireland in order to counteract the impact of Brexit on the Border region in particular.
3. The Committee is deeply concerned that PEACE and INTERREG Programmes including the entire island of Ireland will be downgraded as a result of Brexit and believe strongly that such downgrading would be incompatible with the commitments received by Ireland to date.
4. One of the challenges facing the European Union is the need to respond to the migration crisis. The Committee recognises the need to support peripheral countries disproportionately impacted by the migration crisis and recommends that any increases in spending at an EU level be directed towards a positive action programme of both practical support for peripheral countries and integration and rehabilitation for migrants.
5. The Committee recognises the need for increased investment in transport infrastructure and regional development in Ireland, to deal with issue of regional imbalance and to combat Ireland's high level of youth unemployment and inactivity.
6. The Committee recommends that the Minister for Finance considers the possibility of supporting, at an EU level, general increases in contributions to the EU budget.

7. The Committee notes that the current methodology used to calculate the national contribution to the EU Budget, including reliance on GNI statistics, results in Ireland paying a disproportionate amount towards the EU Budget in comparison with its economic and fiscal capacity. The Committee recommends that any changes in methodology take account of, and rectify this issue.

8. The Committee recommends that the European Commission appears before the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee to discuss its initial proposal in relation to the MFF following its publication in May 2018.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is a Regulation which sets out a 7 year budget framework for the European Union budget. The MFF imposes an overall limit for annual spending under the EU budget. It sets out a high level breakdown of funding by policy area and the individual expenditure ceilings; however it does not constitute the EU budget. The EU budget is agreed on an annual basis by the European Council, the Parliament and the Commission. The current framework is due to conclude in the year 2020 and discussions are under way regarding the future of the MFF. It is expected that the European Commission will publish its proposal for the MFF post-2020 in May 2018.
2. Since commencement of its membership in 1973 Ireland has received net receipts of €41.9 billion from the European Union. An estimation of the total receipts from 2014 to 2017 indicates that over 80% of total receipts relate to the Irish agricultural sector.
3. In 2014 on the back of strong economic growth, Ireland became a net contributor and at present its relative contributions are among the largest of the 28 Member States.

THE CURRENT MFF

4. In 2013 the EU Commission put forward the current MFF (2014-2020) which was adopted by the Council and the Parliament. This proposal set out the Commissions ambitions for a modernised, simplified and performance focused financial framework. The Commission's proposal stated that;

“The Commission's ambition for the next EU budget is to spend differently, with more emphasis on results and performance, concentrating on delivering the Europe 2020” (Communication from the Commission, Budget 2020 Part I, 2011)¹.

5. The Commission's proposal also highlighted four main policy areas where funding should be focused such as:

- **Research and Innovation**

6. The Commission noted that the EU is facing an innovation gap and is lagging behind countries such as Japan and the US in patent registration and the number of medium and high-tech product exports. It prioritised funding for programmes such as Horizon 2020 as a way to improve the EU's performance in these areas and increase its competitiveness

- **Solidarity and Investment for sustainable Growth and Employment**

7. The Commission's proposal points out that one of the great success stories of the European Union has been the positive effect on living standards and the reduction of inequalities across the Member States brought about by its Cohesion policy. However the Commission noted that Cohesion spending had become more ad hoc and suggested a number of changes to make it more results focused. The Commission proposed the following changes;

*“tying cohesion policy more systematically to the Europe 2020 objectives. In addition, it proposes to introduce a new category of region – ‘**transition regions**’ to replace the current phasing-out and phasing-in system. This category will include all regions*

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/documents/fin_fw1420/MFF_COM-2011-500_Part_I_en.pdf

with a GDP per capita between 75% and 90% of the EU-27 average”
(Communication from the Commission, Budget 2020 Part I, 2011)².

- **Connecting Europe**

8. The Commission recognised the need for high quality infrastructure across Europe particularly in the areas of transport, energy and information and communication technologies. Investment in these areas would provide better access to internal markets and help to ensure a fully functioning single market. The Commission stated that:

“Europe-wide availability of high-speed ICT networks and pan-European ICT services will also overcome the fragmentation of the single market and would assist SMEs in their search for growth opportunities beyond their home market”
(Communication from the Commission, Budget 2020 Part I, 2011).

- **A resource efficient Common Agricultural Policy**

9. In its proposal the Commission stated that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was a truly EU common policies in that it fulfils the work of 27 individual national agricultural policies and the competitiveness of the European agricultural sector. In order to increase the efficiency of CAP the Commission put forward a number of changes including;

- Greening of direct payments,
- Convergence of payments,
- Capping the level of direct payments.

² http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/documents/fin_fw1420/MFF_COM-2011-500_Part_I_en.pdf

THE MFF BEYOND 2020

10. The current MFF is due to conclude in the year 2020, and at present the next MFF is being discussed. The EU Commission is due to publish its proposal for the post 2020 MFF in May 2018. The EU Parliament Budgets Committee has published a paper setting out the Parliament's position on the next MFF. In this position paper the Parliament recognises the need to improve the structure of the MFF and proposed the following expenditure headings:

- Heading 1: A stronger and sustainable economy
- Heading 2: Stronger cohesion and solidarity in Europe
- Heading 3: Stronger responsibility in the world
- Heading 4: Security, peace and stability for all
- Heading 5: An efficient administration at the service of Europeans (Draft report, Preparing Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020)³.

11. While these expenditure headings are in line with the priorities set out by the EU Commission in the current MFF it is important to note that the economic has changed quite dramatically since 2013 and a number of new challenges have arisen which the next MFF must address. Economic growth and performance across the EU has improved, with Ireland becoming one of the fastest growing economies of the EU28.

12. Several unforeseen events, mainly Brexit and the refugee crisis change the context in which the MFF is framed and these new challenges need to be addressed.

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef>

CHALLENGES FOR MFF BEYOND 2020

13. Brexit represents the biggest challenge in drafting the next MFF. In a recent briefing note the Parliamentary Budget Office explained that Brexit will impact the EU budget in two ways:

1. One-off effects – the Brexit Bill

14. This is the gap in the 2014-2020 that will arise as a result of the UK's exit from the EU and is made up of currently outstanding budget commitments and specific commitments that fall within the current MFF cycle. As yet, there is no agreed total estimate for this.

2. Structural effects – the Brexit Gap

15. This is the structural shortfall that will be left in the EU budget after 2020. In a recent meeting with the Committee the EU Parliament Budgets Committee estimated this to be between €12 and €14 billion⁴.

16. This gap will need to be addressed and the Commission has indicated that member states will need to decide between cuts in EU spending or increased contributions. Commissioner Oettinger put forward an opening position that the gap could be filled 50/50 by cuts in spending and increases in contributions made by Member States. This position was reiterated in a meeting between the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Taoiseach and Commissioner Oettinger in March 2018.

17. One of the suggested cuts in spending which would have a particularly negative impact on the Irish economy is a cut in the level of CAP expenditure. However it should be noted that cuts to Cohesion spending would also have a negative impact on Ireland, particularly the regional areas that suffer from high youth unemployment and poor transport and technological infrastructure.

⁴ It should be noted that EU budget figures fluctuate due to a number of reasons but taking 2017 as a basis, Britain's total contribution after the rebate was €15.12 billion (at current exchange rates). The UK received €4.74 billion in direct public sector receipts and an estimated €1.16 - €1.73 billion in EU managed funding. Taking these figures into account the Committee is of the view that an estimation of the net shortfall in the EU budget may be in the order of €8.5 to €10.3 billion (House of Commons Library, March 2018)..

18. Brexit is not the only challenge that needs to be addressed in the next MFF. Fighting racism, migration, terrorism, and youth unemployment and solidarity with countries receiving immigrants are all areas that require on going funding. In its recent meeting with the Committee, the EU Parliament Budgets Committee emphasised the fact that increasing Member State contributions from 1% to 1.3%, as proposed by Parliament, would be needed just to maintain funding for current programmes on the basis of an EU 28 but as Britain leaves this level would actually equal an increase for the EU 27. Any new programmes to deal with these new challenges would require new money or a reduction in other areas like Defence and military spending.
19. This meeting with the EU Parliament Budgets Committee was one of a number of meetings regarding the future MFF between the Finance and Budgetary Oversight Committees and Commissioners Dombrovkis and Oettinger. The future MFF was also discussed at length in the EU Parliament during the EU Parliamentary Week 2018. A number of key messages came out of these meetings which the Committee examiner as part of its consideration of its position in relation to reform of the EU Budget, and the future MFF.

Key messages from meetings with EU Commission & EU Parliament

20. On 13th February 2018 the Committee met with the EU Parliament Budgets Committee to discuss various budget issues. The Committee was also invited to a meeting on the MFF between the Finance Committee and EU Commissioner for Budgets Gunther Oettinger. Committee representatives also attended the EU Parliamentary conference in Brussels on 19th and 20th February 2018 which included significant discussion of the next the next MFF. The following key messages emerged from these meetings:

- **More or less Europe?**

21. Member States need to decide if they want more or less Europe.

Both the EU Parliament and the Commission have stated that there needs to be recognition among the Member States that the EU budget is getting smaller as a result of the UK withdrawal from the Union and therefore if there is a reluctance to increase contributions, responsibility for tackling new challenges will shift from an EU to a national level. In other words the European Union will become smaller. This issue was probably best expressed by Jean Claude Juncker, EU Commission President:

"Budgets are not bookkeeping exercises – they are about priorities and ambition. So let's first discuss about the Europe we want⁵."

- **How do we bridge the Brexit Gap?**

22. A decision needs to be made by the Member States on whether to make cuts to Cohesion and CAP spending or introduce tax measures to increase own resources for example a plastics tax.

The Brexit Gap must be filled and there are a limited number of options available to achieve this. From Ireland's viewpoint, increasing own resources through tax measures such as a plastics tax may be preferable to cutting either CAP or Cohesion spending.

⁵ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-745_en.htm

- **Strengthen the role of Parliaments in the EU budget process**

23. The Commission is eager to hear the views from the various national parliaments across Europe regarding the future MFF. It has set out its goal for a stronger, more united and more democratic union and a big part of this is increased involvement and input from national parliaments, particularly in relation to issues such as reform of the EU Budget, and the future of the MFF. As part of its budget scrutiny role the Budgetary Oversight Committee has considered the budget implications for Ireland, and offered a number of recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS

24. The Committee concluded that Europe faces a number of challenges in drafting the next MFF, chief among them the shortfall left by Brexit and that careful consideration should be given to the kind of budget that is needed to address these challenges.
25. The Committee concluded that cuts to both CAP and other social programmes would have a very negative impact on the Irish economy and therefore due consideration should be given to the possibility of increasing contributions.
26. The Committee is deeply concerned that PEACE and INTERREG Programmes including the entire island of Ireland will be downgraded as a result of Brexit and believe strongly that such downgrading would be incompatible with the commitments received by Ireland to date.
27. The Committee acknowledges the Commission's request for its input into the MFF negotiation process and has given careful consideration to the key messages that came out of the various meetings with representatives from the EU Commission and the EU Parliament.
28. The Committee notes that budget choices will have to be made.

APPENDIX ONE: BIBLIOGRAPHY

EU Commission, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: A Budget for Europe 2020*, COM (2011) Final. [Available here](#)

EU Commission, *Press release, EU long-term budget after 2020: European Commission sets out options – and their consequences*, 2018. [Available here](#)

European Parliament, *Draft Report on the next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020* (2017/2052(INI)), Committee on Budgets, 2018. [Available here](#)

House of Commons Library, *The UK's Contribution to the EU Budget*, 23 March 2018. [Available here](#)

APPENDIX TWO: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Go ndéanfar, de réir mholadh an Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála faoi Bhuan Ordú 107(1)(a), Buan-Orduithe Dháil Éireann i dtaobh Gnó Phoiblí a leasú tríd an mBuan-Ordú seo a leanas a ghlacadh:

‘186A. (1) Beidh arna bhunú, a luaithe is féidir i ndiaidh ationól na Dála tar éis Olltoghcháin, Buanchoiste, dá ngairfear an Coiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid, chun scrúdú a dhéanamh agus, más cuí leis é, chun tuarascáil a thabhairt don Dáil—

- (a) ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán, lena n-áirítear—
 - (i) an staid chomhiomlánaithe maidir le hioncam agus caiteachas agus larmhéid Ginearálta an Rialtais, lena n-áirítear spriocanna struchtúracha;
 - (ii) réamh-mheastacháin mheántearma don airgeadas poiblí;
 - (iii) réamhaisnéisí agus forbairtí maicreacnamaíocha; agus
 - (iv) rialachas fioscach ginearálta, lena n-áirítear rialacha agus priacail fhioscacha a fheidhmiú maidir leis an staid fhioscach;
- (b) ar an mbeartas maidir le caiteachas poiblí, lena n-áirítear—
 - (i) an staid chaiteachais ag féachaint don Uasteorainn Caiteachais Rialtais agus don tslat tomhais chaiteachais faoin gComhaontú Cobhsaíochta agus Fáis; agus
 - (ii) na hUasteorainneacha Caiteachais Aireachta a bhfuil feidhm acu maidir le Meastacháin ar leith nó grúpaí Meastachán i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí i gcás go bhféadfadh athruithe suntasacha ar an bpróifíl chaiteachais tionchar a bheith acu ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán;
- (c) ar an mbeartas maidir le fáiltais an Státchiste.

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the sub-Committee on Dáil Reform under Standing Order 107(1)(a), the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended by the adoption of the following Standing Order:

‘186A. (1) There shall stand established as soon as may be, following the reassembly of the Dáil subsequent to a General Election, a Standing Committee, to be known as the Committee on Budgetary Oversight, to examine and, where it considers it appropriate, report to the Dáil on—

- (a) the overall fiscal position, including—
 - (i) the aggregated position on revenue and expenditure and the General Government Balance, including structural targets;
 - (ii) medium-term projections for the public finances;
 - (iii) macro-economic forecasts and developments; and
 - (iv) general fiscal governance including the application of fiscal rules and risks to the fiscal position;
- (b) public expenditure policy, including—
 - (i) the expenditure position having regard to the Government Expenditure Ceiling and the expenditure benchmark under the Stability and Growth Pact; and
 - (ii) Ministerial Expenditure Ceilings applying to individual Estimates or groups of Estimates for the Public Services where significant variations from the expenditure profile could potentially impact on the overall fiscal position;
- (c) Exchequer receipts policy.

(2) Féadfaidh an Coiste breithniú a dhéanamh ar ní a bhaineann le beartas poiblí agus a bhfuil tionchar suntasach aige ar an staid bhuiséid nó ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán: Ar choinníoll go rachaidh Cathaoirleach an Choiste, roimh thosach an bhreithnithe sin, i gcomhairle leis an gCoiste earnála iomchuí arna bhunú de bhun Bhuan-Ordú 84A.

(3) Féadfaidh an Coiste freisin breithniú a dhéanamh ar an gcreat foriomlán do rannpháirtíocht pharlaiminte le linn an timthrialla buiséid agus féadfaidh sé moltaí i ndáil leis an gcéanna a dhéanamh don Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála, is moltaí a bheidh le breithniú ag an gCoiste sin faoi Bhuan-Ordú 107(1)(b): Ar choinníoll, le linn dó é sin a dhéanamh, go rachaidh an Coiste i gcomhairle—

(a) leis na Coistí arna mbunú de bhun Bhuan-Ordú 84A maidir le haon mholtaí a bhfuil tionchar acu, i dtuairim an Choiste, ar ról nó ar chúram na gCoistí sin; agus

(b) leis an Aire nó leis na hAirí iomchuí maidir le haon mholtaí a bhfuil tionchar acu, i dtuairim an Choiste, ar ról nó ar chúram Roinne nó Ranna,

agus tabharfaidh sé fógra i dtaobh thorthaí na gcomhairliúchán sin don Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála.

(4) Beidh na cumhachtaí seo a leanas ag an gCoiste:

(a) an chumhacht chun fios a chur ar dhaoine, ar pháipéir agus ar thaifid mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(2A) agus 88;

(b) an chumhacht chun fianaise béil agus fianaise scríofa a ghlacadh agus chun aighneachtaí a ghlacadh mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(1) agus (2);

(c) an chumhacht chun Fochoistí a cheapadh mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(3);

(d) an chumhacht chun sainchomhairleoirí a fhostú mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(8);

(e) an chumhacht chun taisteal mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(9).

(5) Déanfar gach tuarascáil a bheartóidh an

(2) The Committee may consider a matter of public policy with significant impact on the budgetary position or on the overall fiscal position: Provided that prior to the commencement of such consideration, the Chairman of the Committee shall consult with the relevant sectoral Committee established pursuant to Standing Order 84A.

(3) The Committee may also consider the overall framework for parliamentary engagement throughout the course of the budgetary cycle and may make recommendations thereon to the sub Committee on Dáil Reform for that Committee's consideration under Standing Order 107(1)(b): Provided that, in so doing, the Committee shall consult with—

(a) the Committees established pursuant to Standing Order 84A on any recommendations which, in the opinion of the Committee, impact on their role or remit; and

(b) the relevant Minister or Ministers on any recommendations which, in the opinion of the Committee, impact on the role or remit of a Department or Departments,

and shall notify the results of such consultations to the sub-Committee on Dáil Reform.

(4) The Committee shall have the following powers:

(a) power to send for persons, papers and records as defined in Standing Orders 85(2A) and 88;

(b) power to take oral and written evidence and submissions as defined in Standing Order 85(1) and (2);

(c) power to appoint sub-Committees as defined in Standing Order 85(3);

(d) power to engage consultants as defined in Standing Order 85(8);

(e) power to travel as defined in Standing Order 85(9).

(5) Every report which the Committee proposes

Coiste a thabhairt, arna glacadh ag an gCoiste, a leagan faoi bhráid na Dála láithreach agus as a aithle sin beidh cumhacht ag an gCoiste an tuarascáil sin, mar aon le cibé doiciméid ghaolmhara is cuí leis, a chlóbhualadh agus a fhoilsiú.

(6) Maidir leis an gCoiste cúig Chomhalta dhéag a bheidh air, nach comhalta den Rialtas ná Aire Stáit aon duine acu, agus ceathrar acu sin is córam dó: Ar choinníol—

(a) go mbeidh an Coiste agus aon Fhochoistí a cheapfaidh sé comhdhéanta ar chuma go ndéanfaidh sé nó siad ionadaíocht chothrom don Dáil; agus

(b) go mbeidh feidhm ag forálacha Bhuan Ordú 95 maidir leis an gCoiste.

(7) Go dtí go gcuirfear a mhalairt in iúl sa 32ú Dáil, leanfaidh an Roghchoiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid, a bunaíodh le hOrdú an 21 Iúil 2016 ón Dáil, ar marthain mar an Buanchoiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid, agus dá réir sin, bainfidh comhaltas reatha, Cathaoirleach, páipéir agus clár oibre an Roghchoiste leis an mBuanchoiste.'

to make shall, on adoption by the Committee, be laid before the Dáil forthwith, whereupon the Committee shall be empowered to print and publish such report, together with such related documents it thinks fit.

(6) The Committee shall consist of fifteen Members, none of whom shall be a member of the Government or a Minister of State, and four of whom shall constitute a quorum: Provided that—

(a) the Committee and any sub-Committees which it may appoint shall be constituted so as to be impartially representative of the Dáil; and

(b) the provisions of Standing Order 95 shall apply to the Committee.

(7) Until further notice in the 32nd Dáil, the Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight, established by Order of the Dáil of 21st July, 2016, shall continue in being as the Standing Committee on Budgetary Oversight, and accordingly, the current membership, Chairman, papers and work programme of the Select Committee shall be those of the Standing Committee.'

—*Ríona Uí Dhochartaigh, Aire Stáit ag Roinn an Taoisigh*

APPENDIX THREE: USEFUL LINKS

European Parliamentary week 2018. [Available here](#)

APPENDIX FOUR: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Seán Barrett TD
Fine Gael



Richard Boyd-Barrett TD
Solidarity – People
Before Profit



Colm Brophy TD
Fine Gael



Thomas P. Broughan TD
Independents 4 Change



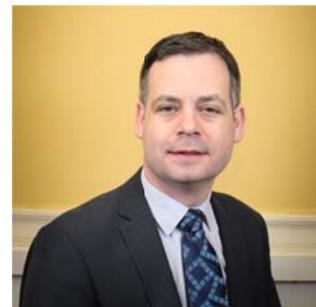
Joan Burton TD
Labour



Barry Cowen TD
Fianna Fáil



Lisa Chambers TD
Fianna Fáil



Pearse Doherty TD
Sinn Féin



Stephen Donnelly TD
Fianna Fáil



Martin Heydon TD
Fine Gael



John Lahart TD
Fianna Fáil



Michael McGrath TD
Fianna Fáil



Jonathan O'Brien TD
Sinn Féin



Eamon Ryan TD
Green Party

Notes:

1. Committee established by order of the Dáil of 21 July 2016
2. Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil of 21 July 2016.
3. Deputy Marc Mac Sharry was discharged from the Committee and Deputy John Lahart was appointed to Committee in replacement for him by order of the Dáil on 31 January 2017.
4. Deputy Kate O'Connell was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Pat Deering was appointed to Committee in replacement for her by order of the Dáil on 9 February 2017.
5. Deputy John Paul Phelan was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Josepha Madigan was appointed to the Committee in replacement for him by order of the Dáil on 11 July 2017.
6. Deputy Pat Deering was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Martin Heydon was appointed to the Committee in replacement for him by order of the Dáil on 13 July 2017.
7. Deputy David Cullinane was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Jonathan O'Brien was appointed to the Committee in replacement for him by order of the Dáil on 3 October 2017.
8. Deputy Josepha Madigan was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Colm Brophy was appointed as Chairman of the Committee by order of the Dáil on 12 December 2017.
9. Deputy Dara Calleary was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Barry Cowen was appointed to the Committee in replacement of him by order of the Dáil on 18 April 2018.