

Opening Remarks of the Minister of State for Higher Education

Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D.

To the Joint Committee on Education and Skills

on Thursday 4 October 2018

In relation to

Draft Ministerial Order

For the Appointed Day of Establishment of

Technological University Dublin

Speaking Points

Chair, Deputies, Senators,

- I am pleased to present this draft Ministerial order entitled Technological Universities Act 2018 (Section 36) (Appointed Day) Order 2018 to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for its consideration.
- The draft order relates to appointing the day for the establishment of the first technological university in the State.
- Under Section 3 of the Technological Universities Act 2018 the draft Order must be approved by resolution by each House of the Oireachtas.
- A key element of the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 is to consolidate the institute of technology sector and establish technological universities of increased scale and capacity.
- Technological universities will have an emphasis on the social and economic development of their regions through the provision of programmes at Levels 6 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. They will also provide programmes to qualify people at post-graduate Levels 9 and 10.
- They will develop and use new knowledge through industry-focused research.
- Technological universities will enhance the pivotal regional and national role traditionally played by Institutes of Technology in facilitating the widest possible access and progression by students of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds through a multiplicity of full-time, part-time, blended and on-line learning approaches.

- I don't think it is overstating matters to say that the TU Act 2018 is a seminal piece of legislation for Irish higher education.
- Last November, I re-introduced the Technological Universities Bill at Committee Stage in the Dáil and took the Bill, with your informed assistance and support, through the legislative process to its signing into law by the President on 19 March 2018.
- Shortly thereafter, the first application for designation as a technological university under the new Act was made by a consortium comprising Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and Institute of Technology, Tallaght in late April.
- On 17 July 2018, my colleague, Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton, granted the consortium's application following a comprehensive international expert advisory panel assessment and the supporting views of the Higher Education Authority.
- Under Section 36 of the 2018 Act, an appointed day for the establishment of the technological university is now required to be made by Ministerial order.
- The order shall also specify the name by which the new TU will be known in both the English and Irish languages.
- The order must be approved by resolution of each House of the Oireachtas.
- The draft order laid before the Houses and which is before the Joint Oireachtas Committee today provides that 1 January 2019 shall be

the appointed day for the establishment of a new technological university.

- It also provides that from the appointed day of establishment the new TU shall be known as Technological University Dublin in the English language and as Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath, as Gaeilge.
- When established, Technological University Dublin will be Ireland's largest Higher Education Institution with almost 28,000 students and more than 3,000 staff.
- The establishment of Technological University Dublin, the first ever technological university in the history of the State, on 1 January 2019, if the draft Order is approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas, will be a milestone date and event in the evolution of the Irish higher education sector.
- I hereby commend the draft Order to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for its consideration and approval.
- Thank you all, colleagues, for your kind attention.