



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Bia agus Muir

Clár Oibre 2023

Márta 2023

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Work Programme 2023

March 2023

Membership

The following Deputies and Senators are members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine of the 33rd Dáil Éireann and the 26th Seanad Éireann.



Sen. Victor Boyhan
Independent



Sen. Lynn Boylan
Sinn Féin



Martin Browne T.D.
Sinn Féin



Jackie Cahill T.D.
Fianna Fáil
[Cathaoirleach]



Matt Carthy T.D.
Sinn Féin



Michael Collins T.D.
Independent



Sen. Paul Daly
Fianna Fáil



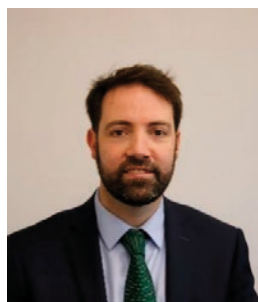
Michael Fitzmaurice
T.D. Independent



Joe Flaherty T.D.
Fianna Fáil



Paul Kehoe T.D.
Fine Gael



Brian Leddin T.D.
Green Party



Sen. Tim Lombard
Fine Gael [Leas-
Chathaoirleach]



Sen. Denis O'Donovan
Fianna Fáil



Michael Ring T.D.
Fine Gael

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1. Introduction

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('the Joint Committee') was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann on 30 July 2020 and of Seanad Éireann on 18 September 2020. Standing Orders 100(4) Dáil Éireann and 77(4) Seanad Éireann require that *"as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann"*.

2. Select Committee

The function of the Select Committee is to consider Bills, Estimates and other business referred to it by Dáil Éireann which relate to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

A. Legislation (Bills) (Please see 3(c) also)

The Government Legislative Programme for 2023 indicates that one Bill is expected to undergo Pre-Legislative Scrutiny in the spring session of 2023:

- Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill

B. Estimates and other Financial Matters

Select Committees are tasked with consideration of annual Estimates for Public Services that fall within their remit. The Estimates for Public Services are Ministers' spending plans for the coming financial year. When Estimates are referred to Select Committee for consideration, the Committee will have a valuable opportunity to question the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on financial allocations and associated output targets for the coming year. A Supplementary Estimate may also be considered if additional monies are required by the relevant Government Department. **Note:** The Select Committee is required to consider the Estimates but is **not** empowered to amend them.

It is the Committee's intention to focus on:

- what the Department has committed to achieving,
- how monies are allocated between services, and

- (iii) exploring the policy issues underpinning the various spending provisions as well as to consider these matters as fully as possible.

In keeping with a whole of year approach, it is the Committee's intention to have an exchange of views with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine later in the year on the emerging position on the proposed financial allocation for 2024. In addition, the examination of the Annual Output Statements (AOS) including performance, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public monies and Value for Money (VFM) Reviews is another important part of scrutinising Government expenditure.

C. Referrals of Motions and Other Matters

From time to time, matters may arise and may be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil. It is not possible to say in advance what those matters might be or when they might arise. Currently there are three Bills referred to the Select Committee for Committee Stage:

- Island Fisheries (Heritage Licence) Bill 2017
- Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Veterinary Medicinal Products, Medicated Feed and Fertilisers Regulation Bill 2023

3. Joint Committee

The Work Programme of the Joint Committee is not an exhaustive statement of the matters which the Committee will consider during 2023. The work which is listed is what the Joint Committee considers at this point will require its attention during the year. The Committee will review its priorities on a continuous basis in response to events.

The Joint Committee notes that it has explicit responsibility under Standing Orders for considering a wide range of matters under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department. The Joint Committee will pay particular attention to the following during 2023:

A. EU Business

A.1. Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals

The scrutiny of draft EU legislative proposals will continue to be a standing agenda item of the Joint Committee. Draft proposals will be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee in line with the 2013 mainstreaming model as agreed by the Working Group of Committee Chairs (WGCC) by setting out priority (Schedule A) and non-priority (Schedule B) items (see Appendix 1).

A.2. Engagement with Ministers

The Joint Committee will engage with the Minister(s) in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as appropriate, in advance of their attendance at EU Ministerial Council meetings. Engagement with the Minister provides the Joint Committee with a valuable opportunity to influence the Irish position on EU legislation, prior to negotiation at Ministerial Council and is therefore an essential element of Parliamentary scrutiny of draft EU legislation and policy initiatives.

A.3. Engagement on the Statutory Departmental EU Scrutiny Report

There is a requirement under S.2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 for Ministers to report twice yearly to both Houses on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Communities and the European Union in relation to which he/she performs functions. The Joint Committee intends to consider such reports with the Secretary General of the Department.

A.4. Engagement with European Bodies

The Committee will engage with European bodies such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament, its committees, MEPs and the Council during 2023 as envisaged under the Lisbon Treaty and will seek to develop further this engagement.

A.5. Priority European Policy Areas

The following are EU policy matters prioritised for consideration by the Committee for 2023:

- Common Agriculture Policy
- Common Fisheries Policy
- Fishing opportunities for 2023 and beyond

- The European Union's Green Deal

B. Key Policy & Governance Priorities

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider policy issues within its terms of reference. During 2023, in addition to core business such as legislation, it should be possible to focus on one or two major topics within the remit of the Department, with the aim of producing well-researched reports to the Houses by the end of 2023.

The following are key policy issues for examination:

- Animal Welfare
- Carbon Emissions & Sequestration
- Climate Change & Challenges facing the Agriculture Sector
- Forestry Sector
- Hemp Sector Development
- Horticultural Peat
- Issues impacting the Fisheries Sector
- Sheep Sector
- Technology & Innovation in Farming
- Water Quality

Issues not considered by end of 2023 can form part of the Work Programme for 2024.

C. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny/Post-enactment

In addition to this core work, the Joint Committee is also empowered to consider the examination of the general scheme or draft heads of Bills and to consider any post-enactment report on any Bill enacted by the Houses of the Oireachtas in respect of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

C.1. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny

In the Government Legislative Programme for **Spring 2023** under 'Agriculture, Food and the Marine' there is one Bill identified as 'Legislation for Priority Drafting' during this session:

- Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill

There are **two** Bills identified as ‘other legislation’ for this session where the status is ‘preparatory work is underway’:

- Fishery Harbour Centres Amendment Bill
- Bill to update the Control of Horses Act

D. Pre-Committee Stage Scrutiny of Private Members’ Bills

Pre-Committee Stage scrutiny under Dáil Standing Order 178, shall be conducted from a policy, legal and financial perspective, and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Dáil and the Government and laid before Dáil Éireann.

E. Engagement with Chairperson designates

The Joint Committee is also empowered to engage with the Chairpersons designate of a body or agency under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, prior to their appointments, to discuss their strategic priorities for the role. It is anticipated that the Joint Committee will meet with the Chairpersons designate, as the nominations arise.

4. Agreement of Work Programme

This Work Programme for 2023 of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 21 March 2023. In accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas and placed on the Oireachtas website.



Jackie Cahill T.D.
Cathaoirleach
March 2023

Appendix 1: EU Work Programme

1. Role and Remit of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('the Joint Committee') is required, in line with its Orders of Reference, to consider draft EU legislative Acts; other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues; non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters and matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.

The Joint Committee shadows the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('the Department'). The remit of the Department, in the European context, forms the basis of the Joint Committee's remit in terms of scrutiny of European matters. Under S.2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 a report must be laid to both Houses twice-yearly on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Union in the area that the Department has responsibility over. The Joint Committee can discuss these reports with the Secretary General of the Department.

The Department also services the **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** (AGRIFISH). The Joint Committee's remit extends, therefore, to the relevant agenda items of this Council.

2. EU Commission Work Programme 2023 – COM(2022)548

On 18 October 2022, the European Commission published its Work Programme (CWP), setting out its priorities for the coming year. 'Commission Work Programme 2023 – Making Europe stronger together' can be found [here](#).

This work programme gives an indication of the legislative proposals, initiatives and communications that will be pursued in 2023. The CWP contains four annexes.

These are:

- **Annex I** contains a list of 43 new legislative and non-legislative initiatives that the Commission intends to take forward in 2023.

- **Annex II** lists 8 REFIT initiatives, where the Commission screens the EU's regulatory acquis and identifies necessary corrective action. These actions include legislative initiatives to simplify and reduce regulatory burden, the repealing of legislation no longer needed, the withdrawal of proposals without a realistic chance of adoption or where the initial objectives can no longer be achieved, evaluation and 'fitness checks' to assess relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and EU added value of EU legislation and identify further opportunities for simplification and burden reduction.
- **Annex III** lists 116 priority pending proposals.
- **Annex IV** lists 1 pending proposals that the Commission intends to withdraw.
- **Annex V** lists 1 envisaged repeal (in relation to transport policy area).

2.1. Priority Items (Schedule A)

The Joint Committee will list priority items as they arise.

2.2. Non-Priority Items (Schedule B)

Schedule B items are those deemed non-priority. However, the Joint Committee has the option of re-classifying any draft legislative or non-legislative proposal as a priority proposal at any time, taking account of the Department's Information Note regarding its significance.

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference

Scope and context of activities of Select Committees (DSO 94 and SSO 70)

DSO 94

- (1) The Dáil may appoint a Select Committee to consider and, if so permitted, to take evidence upon any Bill, Estimate or matter, and to report its opinion for the information and assistance of the Dáil. Such motion shall specifically state the orders of reference of the Committee, define the powers devolved upon it, fix the number of members to serve on it, state the quorum, and may appoint a date upon which the Committee shall report back to the Dáil.
- (2) It shall be an instruction to each Select Committee that—
 - (a) it may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders;
 - (b) such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Dáil;
 - (c) it shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Joint Committee on Public Petitions in the exercise of its functions under Standing Order 125(1) ¹; and
 - (d) it shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
 - (i) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
 - (ii) the principal office-holder of a State body within the responsibility of a Government Department or
 - (iii) the principal office-holder of a non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

Provided that the Committee may appeal any such request made to the Ceann Comhairle, whose decision shall be final.

- (3) It shall be an instruction to all Select Committees to which Bills are referred that they shall ensure that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day, unless the Dáil, after due notice to the Business Committee by a Cathaoirleach of one of the Select Committees concerned, waives this instruction.

¹ Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions.

SSO 70

- (1) The Seanad may appoint a Select Committee to consider any Bill or matter and to report its opinion for the information and assistance of the Seanad and, in the case of a Bill, whether or not it has amended the Bill. Such motion shall specifically state the orders of reference of the Committee, define the powers devolved upon it, fix the number of members to serve on it, state the quorum thereof, and may appoint a date upon which the Committee shall report back to the Seanad.
- (2) It shall be an instruction to each Select Committee that—
 - (a) it may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders;
 - (b) such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Seanad;
 - (c) it shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Joint Committee on Public Petitions in the exercise of its functions under Standing Order 108 (1) ¹; and
 - (d) it shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
 - (i) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
 - (ii) the principal office-holder of a State body within the responsibility of a Government Department, or
 - (iii) the principal office-holder of a non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

Provided that the Committee may appeal any such request made to the Cathaoirleach, whose decision shall be final.

¹ Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions

Functions of Departmental Select Committees (DSO 95 and SSO 71)

DSO 95

- (1) The Dáil may appoint a Departmental Select Committee to consider and, unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders or by order, to report to the Dáil on any matter relating to—
 - (a) legislation, policy, governance, expenditure and administration of—
 - (i) a Government Department, and
 - (ii) State bodies within the responsibility of such Department, and
 - (b) the performance of a non-State body in relation to an agreement for the provision of services that it has entered into with any such Government Department or State body.
- (2) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall also consider such other matters which—
 - (a) stand referred to the Committee by virtue of these Standing Orders or statute law, or
 - (b) shall be referred to the Committee by order of the Dáil.
- (3) The principal purpose of Committee consideration of matters of policy, governance, expenditure and administration under paragraph (1) shall be—
 - (a) for the accountability of the relevant Minister or Minister of State, and
 - (b) to assess the performance of the relevant Government Department or of a State body within the responsibility of the relevant Department, in delivering public services while achieving intended outcomes, including value for money.
- (4) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall not consider any matter relating to accounts audited by, or reports of, the Comptroller and Auditor General unless the Committee of Public Accounts—
 - (a) consents to such consideration, or
 - (b) has reported on such accounts or reports.
- (5) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann to be and act as a Joint Committee for the purposes of paragraph (1) and such other purposes as may be specified in these Standing Orders or by order of the Dáil: provided that the Joint Committee shall not consider—
 - (a) the Committee Stage of a Bill,
 - (b) Estimates for Public Services, or

- (c) a proposal contained in a motion for the approval of an international agreement involving a charge upon public funds referred to the Committee by order of the Dáil.
- (6) Any report that the Joint Committee proposes to make shall, on adoption by the Joint Committee, be made to both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- (7) The Cathaoirleach of the Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall also be Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee.
- (8) Where a Select Committee proposes to consider—
 - (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 133, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,
 - (b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action,
 - (c) non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, or
 - (d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant Council (of Ministers) of the European Union and the outcome of such meetings,

the following may be notified accordingly and shall have the right to attend and take part in such consideration without having a right to move motions or amendments or the right to vote:

- (i) members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland,
 - (ii) members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
 - (iii) at the invitation of the Committee, other members of the European Parliament.
- (9) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may, in respect of any Ombudsman charged with oversight of public services within the policy remit of the relevant Department consider—
 - (a) such motions relating to the appointment of an Ombudsman as may be referred to the Committee, and
 - (b) such Ombudsman reports laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas as the Committee may select: Provided that the provisions of Standing Order 130 apply where the Select Committee has not considered the Ombudsman report, or a portion or portions thereof, within two months (excluding Christmas, Easter or summer recess periods) of the report being laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas.²

² Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions.

SSO 71

- (1) The Seanad may appoint a Departmental Select Committee to consider and, unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders or by order, to report to the Seanad on any matter relating to—

- (a) legislation, policy, governance, expenditure and administration of-
 - (i) a Government Department, and
 - (ii) State bodies within the responsibility of such Department, and
 - (b) the performance of a non-State body in relation to an agreement for the provision of services that it has entered into with any such Government Department or State body.
- (2) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall also consider such other matters which –
- (a) stand referred to the Committee by virtue of these Standing Orders or statute law, or
 - (b) shall be referred to the Committee by order of the Seanad.
- (3) The principal purpose of Committee consideration of matters of policy, governance expenditure and administration under paragraph (1) shall be—
- (a) for the accountability of the relevant Minister or Minister of State, and
 - (b) to assess the performance of the relevant Government Department or a State body within the responsibility of the relevant Department, in delivering public services while achieving intended outcomes, including value for money.
- (4) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall not consider any matter relating to accounts audited by, or reports of, the Comptroller and Auditor General unless the Committee of Public Accounts—
- (a) consents to such consideration, or
 - (b) has reported on such accounts or reports.
- (5) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Dáil Éireann to be and act as a Joint Committee for the purposes of paragraph (1) and such other purposes as may be specified in these Standing Orders or by order of the Seanad: provided that the Joint Committee shall not consider-
- (a) the Committee Stage of a Bill,
 - (b) Estimates for Public Services, or
 - (c) a proposal contained in a motion for the approval of an international agreement involving a charge upon public funds referred to the Committee by order of the Dáil.

- (6) Any report that the Joint Committee proposes to make shall, on adoption by the Joint Committee, be made to both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- (7) The Cathaoirleach of a Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall be a member of Dáil Éireann.
- (8) Where a Select Committee proposes to consider—
 - (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 116, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,
 - (b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action, non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, or
 - (d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EC Council (of Ministers) of the European Union and the outcome of such meetings,

the following may be notified accordingly and shall have the right to attend and take part in such consideration without having a right to move motions or amendments or the right to vote:

- (i) members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland,
 - (ii) members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
 - (iii) at the invitation of the Committee, other members of the European Parliament.
- (9) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may, in respect of any Ombudsman charged with oversight of public services within the policy remit of the relevant Department consider—
 - (a) such motions relating to the appointment of an Ombudsman as may be referred to the Committee, and
 - (b) such Ombudsman reports laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas as the Committee may select: Provided that the provisions of Standing Order 113 apply where the Select Committee has not considered the Ombudsman report, or a portion or portions thereof, within two months (excluding Christmas, Easter or summer recess periods) of the report being laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas.²

² Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions.

Powers of Select Committees (DSO 96 and SSO 72)

DSO 96

Unless the Dáil shall otherwise order, a Committee appointed pursuant to these Standing Orders shall have the following powers:

- (1) power to invite and receive oral and written evidence and to print and publish from time to time—
 - (a) minutes of such evidence as was heard in public, and
 - (b) such evidence in writing as the Committee thinks fit;
- (2) power to appoint sub-Committees and to refer to such sub-Committees any matter comprehended by its orders of reference and to delegate any of its powers to such sub-Committees, including power to report directly to the Dáil;
- (3) power to draft recommendations for legislative change and for new legislation;
- (4) in relation to any statutory instrument, including those laid or laid in draft before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, power to—
 - (a) require any Government Department or other instrument-making authority concerned to—
 - (i) submit a memorandum to the Select Committee explaining the statutory instrument, or
 - (ii) attend a meeting of the Select Committee to explain any such statutory instrument: Provided that the authority concerned may decline to attend for reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil, and
 - (b) recommend, where it considers that such action is warranted, that the instrument should be annulled or amended;
- (5) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee to discuss—
 - (a) policy, or
 - (b) proposed primary or secondary legislation (prior to such legislation being published),

for which he or she is officially responsible: Provided that a member of the Government or Minister of State may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil: and provided further that a member of the Government or Minister of State may request to attend a meeting of the Select Committee to enable him or her to discuss such policy or proposed legislation;

- (6) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee and provide, in private session if so requested by the attendee, oral briefings in advance of meetings of the relevant EC Council (of Ministers) of the European Union to enable the Select Committee to make known its views: Provided that the Committee may also require such attendance following such meetings;
- (7) power to require that the Chairperson designate of a body or agency under the aegis of a Department shall, prior to his or her appointment, attend before the Select Committee to discuss his or her strategic priorities for the role;
- (8) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State who is officially responsible for the implementation of an Act shall attend before a Select Committee in relation to the consideration of a report under Standing Order 197;
- (9) subject to any constraints otherwise prescribed by law, power to require that principal officeholders of a—
 - (a) State body within the responsibility of a Government Department or
 - (b) non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

shall attend meetings of the Select Committee, as appropriate, to discuss issues for which they are officially responsible: Provided that such an office-holder may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil; and

- (10) power to—
 - (a) engage the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and
 - (b) undertake travel;

Provided that the powers under this paragraph are subject to such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under Standing Order 120(4)(a).

SSO 72

Unless the Seanad shall otherwise order, a Committee appointed pursuant to these Standing Orders shall have the following powers:

- (1) power to invite and receive oral and written evidence and to print and publish from time to time –
 - (a) minutes of such evidence as was heard in public, and
 - (b) such evidence in writing as the Committee thinks fit;
- (2) power to appoint sub-Committees and to refer to such sub-Committees any matter comprehended by its orders of reference and to delegate any of its powers to such sub-Committees, including power to report directly to the Seanad;
- (3) power to draft recommendations for legislative change and for new legislation;
- (4) in relation to any statutory instrument, including those laid or laid in draft before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, power to –
 - (a) require any Government Department or other instrument making authority concerned to –
 - (i) submit a memorandum to the Select Committee explaining the statutory instrument, or
 - (ii) attend a meeting of the Select Committee to explain any such statutory instrument: provided that the authority concerned may decline to attend for reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Seanad, and
 - (b) recommend, where it considers that such action is warranted, that the instrument should be annulled or amended;
- (5) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee to discuss–
 - (a) policy, or
 - (b) proposed primary or secondary legislation (prior to such legislation being published),

for which he or she is officially responsible: provided that a member of the Government or Minister of State may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Seanad: and provided further that a member of the Government or Minister of State may request to attend a meeting of the Select Committee to enable him or her to discuss such policy or proposed legislation;
- (6) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee and provide, in private session if so requested by the attendee, oral briefings in advance of meetings of the relevant EC Council (of Ministers) of the European Union to enable the Select Committee to make known its views: Provided that the Committee may also require such attendance following such meetings;

- (7) power to require that the Chairperson designate of a body or agency under the aegis of a Department shall, prior to his or her appointment, attend before the Select Committee to discuss his or her strategic priorities for the role;
- (8) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State who is officially responsible for the implementation of an Act shall attend before a Select Committee in relation to the consideration of a report under Standing Order 168;
- (9) subject to any constraints otherwise prescribed by law, power to require that principal office-holders of a –
 - (a) State body within the responsibility of a Government Department, or
 - (b) non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

shall attend meetings of the Select Committee, as appropriate, to discuss issues for which they are officially responsible: Provided that such an office-holder may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Seanad; and

- (10) power to-
 - (a) engage the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and
 - (b) undertake travel;

Provided that the powers under this paragraph are subject to such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under Standing Order 107(4)(a).

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