



BUNREACT NA ÉIREANN
CONSTITUTION OF IRELAND



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

**An Choiste um Choimirce Shóisialach,
Forbairt Pobail agus Tuaithe agus na hOileáin
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023**

**Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration
and Youth Development
Annual Report 2023**

February 2024

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1. Overview to Report

Under Standing Orders of both Houses of the Oireachtas¹, it is provided for Joint Committees to -

- undertake a review of its procedure and its role generally;
- prepare and lay an annual work programme;
- lay minutes of its proceedings before both Houses;
- make an annual report to both Houses detailing the work carried out and in progress by the Committee.

At its meeting of 13 February 2024, the Committee agreed that the following items be included in this report covering the period from 23 January 2023 to 12 December 2023.

- An **annual report** detailing the work carried out by the Select and Joint Committees, and
- **Minutes of Committee proceedings.**

A copy of this report shall be forwarded to the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform. The annual Committee work programmes was published on Oireachtas.ie and laid separately.

1.1 Committee establishment and functions

Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of the 30th of July 2020, to consider Bills, Estimates for Public Services, Motions, and the terms of any international agreement involving a charge on public funds, which come within the aegis of the Committee on Children, Disability, Equality, and Integration, subsequently updated to the Select Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Joint Committee

The Dáil Joint Committee, under the same Order, was enjoined with a Select Committee of Seanad Éireann, established by Order of Seanad Éireann of the 18th of September 2020, to

¹ Standing Order 100 (3), (4), (5) and (6), (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 77 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Seanad Éireann).

form the Joint Committee on Children, Disability, Equality, and Integration, subsequently updated to the Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Among the principal functions of the Joint Committee are to consider—

- public affairs administered by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth;
- matters of policy for which the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth are responsible;
- legislative and expenditure proposals of the Departments;
- EU legislative proposals;
- certain matters relating to bodies under the aegis of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

The Select Committee may also consider Annual Output Statements, Value for Money Reviews and Policy Reviews prepared by the relevant Government Department. The Orders of Reference of the Dáil Select Committee and the Joint Committee are set out on the [Committee Website](#).

1.1.1 Terms of reference

Terms of reference of Committees are available to view on the [Committee Website](#).

1.2 Committee Membership

Table 1: Committee(s) membership at time of reporting

Position	Select Committee	Joint Committee
Cathaoirleach	Kathleen Funchion, T.D.	Kathleen Funchion, T.D.
Leas-Chathaoirleach	Patrick Costello, T.D.	Patrick Costello, T.D.
Members:	John Brady T.D.	John Brady T.D.
	Holly Cairns T.D.	Holly Cairns T.D.
	Michael Creed T.D.	Michael Creed T.D.

Alan Dillon T.D.	Alan Dillon T.D.
Brendan Griffin T.D.	Brendan Griffin T.D.
Jennifer Murnane O'Connor T.D.	Jennifer Murnane O'Connor T.D.
Seán Sherlock T.D.	Seán Sherlock T.D.
	Senator Tom Clonan
	Senator Erin McGreehan
	Senator Ned O'Sullivan
	Senator Lynn Ruane
	Senator Mary Seery Kearney

Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil on 8th of September 2020.

- **Select Committee:** Deputy Kathleen Funchion was appointed as Cathaoirleach of the Select Committee on 8th of September 2020.
- **Joint Committee:** The Cathaoirleach of the Select Committee is also the Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee. Deputy Patrick Costello was elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Joint Committee on 3rd of November 2020.

1.2.1 Internal changes during reporting period

Within the reporting period, the following changes to the Committee Membership occurred:

- **Select Committee:**
 - Deputy John Paul Phelan was replaced with Deputy Brendan Griffin on 7 March 2023
 - Deputy Mark Ward was replaced with Deputy John Brady on 5 May 2023
- **Joint Committee:**
 - Deputy John Paul Phelan was replaced with Deputy Brendan Griffin on 7 March 2023
 - Deputy Mark Ward was replaced with Deputy John Brady on 5 May 2023

2. Committee activity report

Committee activity over the reporting period is summarised below.

Table 2: Committee(s) activity at a glance

Metric	Select Committee	Joint Committee	Joint sub-Committee
Meetings			
No. of meetings	5	36	0
Duration of meetings	4 hours	37 hours	0
Witnesses attending	0	145	0
Reports published	1	6	0
COMs scrutinised	0	3	0
Travel episodes	0	0	0

2.1 Meetings (Number and Duration)

Meetings of the Joint Committee and Select Committee took place in the Committee Rooms in Leinster House 2000 and, on occasion, via Microsoft Teams. Meetings were held in public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee.

- For **Joint Committee** meetings, an official report (parliamentary debates) of the public meetings of the Committee may be viewed on the Oireachtas website at www.oireachtas.ie
- For **Select Committee** meetings, the proceedings (Imeachtaí) are included in Appendix 2b.

A comparison of meeting activity is summarised below.

Table 3: Committee meetings and duration 2023

Ctte type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	No. of meetings	36
	Meeting in public session	19
	Meetings held via MS Teams	17
	Duration	37 hours
Select Committee	No. of meetings	5
	Meeting in public session	5
	Meetings held via MS Teams	0
	Duration	4 hours
Sub-Committee	No. of meetings	0
	Meeting in public session	0
	Meetings held via MS Teams	0
	Duration	0

2.2 Witnesses

The number of witnesses² were as follows:

Table 4: Committee witnesses

Ctte type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	Witnesses	145
Select Committee	Witnesses	0
Sub-Committee	Witnesses	0

² **Note:** Ministers or Ministers of State are ex-officio Members of Select Committees for the purposes of Estimates, Bills or Motions referred by the Dáil. They are not counted as witnesses for Select Committee meetings but are counted as witnesses for Joint and Joint sub-Committee meetings. Officials who accompany Ministers or Ministers of State as Advisors to Select or Select-sub committee meetings are not counted unless they were asked by the Minister or Minister of State to contribute to the discussion and do so in public session.

2.2.1 Engagements with Ministers

A government minister engaged³ with the Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth occasions, as follows:

- The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: 7 times.
- Another Minister / Minister of State: 2 times

Table 5: Engagements with Ministers

Ctte type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	Engagements with Minister(s) (as witness)	2
Select Committee	Engagements with Minister(s) (as ex-officio member)	5
Sub-Committee	Engagements with Minister(s) (as witness)	0

2.3 Committee reports

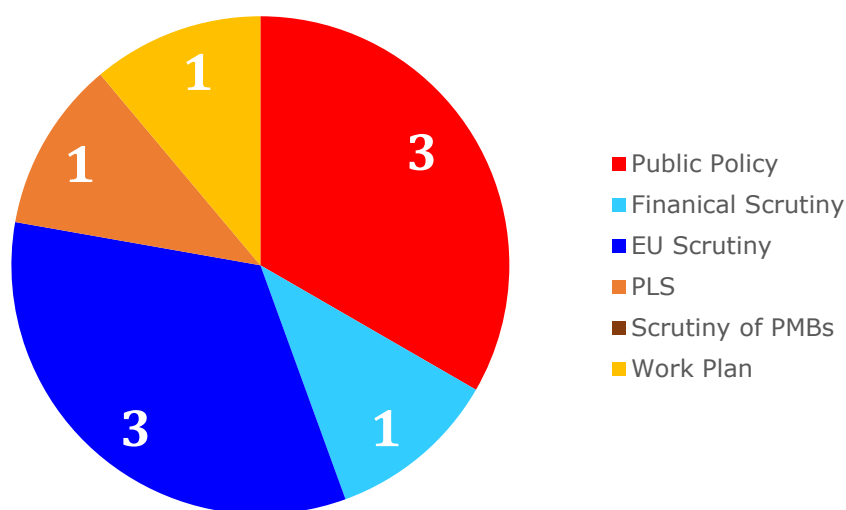
All Committee reports are published on the Oireachtas [website](#) and laid in the Houses of the [Oireachtas Library](#).

Table 6: Committee reports

Ctte type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	PLS report	1
	PMB scrutiny report	0
	Public policy report	3
	Budgetary scrutiny report	0
	EU scrutiny (COMs)	3
	Work plans	1
Select Committee	Budgetary scrutiny report	1

³ Counting where a Minister *engaged* with the Committee either as an ex-officio member (select committees) or as a witness (joint/joint-sub committees).

Chart 1: Committee reports 2023



2.4 EU Scrutiny and EU-related meetings

The Committee received 6 month briefing documents in relation to EU matters.

Table 7: Committee witnesses

Ctte type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	EU 'COMs' considered	3
	Political contributions	0
	Reasoned opinions	0
	EU 'COMs' reports laid	0

2.4.1 EU COMs

The proposals (COMs) and outcomes are listed below:

Table 8: COMs considered.

Proposal No.	Proposal title	Outcome
COM(2022)688	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women	No further scrutiny required.

	and men in matters of employment and occupation and deleting Article 20 of Directive 2006/54/EC and Article 11 of Directive 2010/41/EU.	
COM (2023)280	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of measures and cooperation in matter relating to the protection of adults.	No further scrutiny required.
COM (2023)512	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities.	Further scrutiny required

3. Report on Functions and Powers

The Committee is satisfied with its present procedures and role.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.
13th February 2024

Appendix 1a: Meetings of the Joint Committee

The following are the details, in date order, of the scheduled meetings of the Joint Committee which took place during the period under report.

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Stakeholders in attendance
J103 24 January 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J104 31 January 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J105 31 January 2023	Engagement with stakeholders regarding "Disability Services"	<p>Down Syndrome Cork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Cara Steinmetz, Parent <p>Down Syndrome Carlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Lucy Moran, Parent, Ms Olivia Flanagan, Parent <p>West Cork Down Syndrome Support Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Aileen O'Donovan, Parent Mr Barry O'Donovan, Parent
J106 14 February 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J107 21 February 2023	Private Meeting Cancelled	
J108 21 February 2023	Engagement regarding "Integration and Refugee Issues"	<p>Le Cheile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Steph Hanlon, Convenor Mr Gary Daly, Member and Partner at Kurshiv Solicitors

		<p>Community Work Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the CWI Policy and Practice Working Group • Mr Paul Kernan, Member of CWI's Policy and Practice Working Group • Mr Mohamed Farah, Volunteer <p>Ballymun for All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Fran Neary, Principal of Trinity Comprehensive • Ms Niamh Ní Chonchubhair, Director at Axis Ballymun, and <p>Far Right Observatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Niamh McDonald, Coordinator • Mr Mark Malone, Research Lead
J109 28 February 2023	Engagement regarding "Integration and Refugee Issues"	<p>NASC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Brian Collins, Advocacy Service Manager <p>The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Edel McGinley, Director • Mr Neil Bruton, Campaigns Coordinator <p>The Irish Refugee Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nick Henderson, CEO • Ms Wendy Muperi, Communications Officer

		<i>Cultúr Migrant Centre</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Reuben Hambackachere, Community Development Worker, • Mr Archibald Mathibela, Project Officer
J110 07 March 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J111 21 March 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J112 21 March 2023	Engagement regarding “Youth Work and Integrated Care (ICE Model)”	<i>Familibase</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Brendan Cummins, Youth Work Project Leader • Ms Fiona Kearney, Interim CEO <i>Solas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Leanne Lowry, Youth Programme Manager, • Ms Amy Care, CEO <i>Connect 4 Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Paul Perth, Team Leader • Ms Grace Hill, Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator <i>Bluebell Youth Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Gerard Roe, Youth Worker <i>Crosscare Ronanstown</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sinead Harris, Manager Ronanstown Youth Service

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Greg Tierney, Youth Work Manager <p>St John Bosco Youth Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Stephen Sharpe, Project Leader Ms Emily Boyne, Youth Worker <p>St Ultan's Cherry Orchard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr John Scanlon, Finance, Services and Campus Manager Ms Susan Menton, Integration Advisor
J113 28 March 2023	Engagement with Minister O’Gorman regarding “Foster Care Issues”	<p>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O’Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Ms Marie Kennedy, Principal Officer
J114 18 April 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J115 18 April 2023	Engagement regarding “Youth Work” (resumed)	<p>National Youth Council of Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Mary Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer Mr Paul Gordon, Director of Policy and Advocacy <p>City of Dublin Youth Services Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Celene Dunne, Director Mr Mark McDonald, Director of Schools City of Dublin Education and Training Board

		<p><i>Rialto Youth Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Dannielle McKenna, Manager • Mr Jim Lawlor, Youth Worker <p><i>NUI Maynooth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Maurice Devlin, Professor of Applied Social Studies • Dr Sinead McMahon, Community Work and Youth Work Team
J116 25 April 2023	Engagement regarding “Possible enhancement of child protection powers of Tusla”	<p><i>Tusla</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer • Ms Patricia Finlay, Regional Chief Officer • Mr Mike Corcoran, Head of Registration and Regulatory Enforcement • Mr Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker • Ms June Boulger, Office of the Chief Executive Officer
J117 09 May 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J118 09 May 2023	Engagement regarding “Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023	<p><i>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lara Hynes, Acting Assistant Secretary, Child Policy and Tusla Governance Division • Mr Toby Wolfe, Principal Officer, Early Years Quality Unit • Ms Gill Barwise, Assistant Principal Officer, Child

		<p>Protection Policy and Legislation Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Marie Kennedy, Principal Officer, Alternative Care Policy Unit <p>Tusla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer, • Mr Cormac McQuinlan, Assistant National Director Practice Reform • Ms Pamela Benson, Head of Legal Services • Ms Fiona McDonnell, National Service Director <p>Office of the Ombudsman for Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Karen McAuley, Head of Policy • Ms Nuala Ward, Director of Investigations • Ms Ciara Gill, Policy Officer <p>Barnardos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Suzanne Connolly, Chief Executive Officer • Ms Freda McKittrick, Head of Guardian ad Litem Service
J120 16 May 2023	Engagement regarding “Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023 (<i>resumed</i>)”	<p>Early Childhood Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Teresa Heeney, Chief Executive Officer • Ms Frances Byrne, Director of Policy <p>EPIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Marissa Ryan, Chief Executive Officer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Conor Stitt, Research and Policy Manager <p><i>Irish Foster Care Association</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Bernadette Neville, Interim Chief Executive Officer Ms Karen Cahill, Coordinator, IFCA Helpline <p><i>The Independent Guardian Ad Litem Agency</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Claire Quinn, Director and Guardian ad Litem Ms Nicola McCarthy, Guardian ad Litem
J121 23 May 2023	Engagement with Chairperson Designate of Oberstown Children Detention Centre	<p><i>Oberstown Children Detention Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Koulla Yiasouma, Chairperson Designate
J122 30 May 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J123 30 May 2023	<p>Session 1 – Discussion on Integration and Refugee Issues (<i>resumed</i>)</p> <p>Session 2 – Discussion on Integration and Refugee Issues (<i>resumed</i>)</p>	<p><i>Department of Justice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Doncha O’Sullivan, Deputy Secretary General Mr David Delaney, Director of Immigration Service Delivery Ms Emer Mullins, Principal Officer, International Protection Office <p><i>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Sheenagh Rooney, Assistant Secretary

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Carol Baxter, Assistant Secretary <p>County and City Management Association and Local Government and Management Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Michael Walsh, Chief Executive, Waterford City and County Council Ms Sinead Carr, Director of Service, Tipperary County Council Ms Niamh McCarthy, National Coordinator, Emergency Vacant Housing Delivery (Ukraine) Unit
J124 13 June 2023	Engagement regarding “Challenges facing women accessing education, leadership & political roles	<p>The National Women’s Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Rachel Coyle, Head of Campaigns and Mobilisation Ms Ciara McHugh, Leadership Officer <p>Women’s Collective Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Miriam Holt, Chief Executive Officer Ms Vivienne Glanville, National Programme Coordinator
J125 20 June 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J126 27 June 2023	Engagement regarding “Challenges facing refugee and migrant children in Ireland”	<p>Department of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc, Assistant Secretary Ms Linda Ramsbottom, Senior Inspector <p>Tusla</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer Ms Clare Murphy, National Director of Services and Integration Ms Lorna Kavanagh, Area Manager, National Services and Integration <p><i>Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Sharon Mpofu, Wicklow Coordinator Ms Vepuu Tjazerua, Dublin 8 Coordinator <p><i>Safetynet Primary Care</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Fiona O'Reilly, Chief Executive Officer Dr Alva O'Dalaigh, Migrant Health GP Lead <p>Dr Aoibhinn Walsh, Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in Inclusion Health</p>
J127 04 July 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J128 11 July 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J129 20 September 2023	Session 1 – Discussion on Child Protection	<p><i>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O'Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth <p><i>Tusla</i></p>

	<p>Session 2 – Discussion on Child Protection (resumed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer • Mr Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker • Ms Lorna Kavanagh, Area Manager, National Services and Integration • Ms Clare Murphy, National Director of Services and Integration <p>Ms Caoilfhionn Gallagher, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection</p>
J130 26 September 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J131 03 October 2023	<p>Session 1 – Discussion on Pre-Committee stage detailed scrutiny of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Bill 2017 [PMB] [sponsored by Seán Canney T.D.]</p>	<p>Seán Canney T.D. Denis Naughten T.D.</p> <p>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Niall Brunell, Principal Officer Disability Equality Policy • Mr Donie O'Shea, Policy Advisor • Mr Jason Doran, Assistant Principal, Disability Children's Services • Ms Clare Gray, Assistant Principal, Disability Equality Policy <p>Health Service Executive</p>

	<p>Session 2 - Discussion on Pre-Committee stage detailed scrutiny of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Bill 2017 [PMB] [sponsored by Seán Canney T.D.] (resumed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bernard O'Regan, Head of Operations - HSE Disability Services • Dr Rosie Gowran, Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for People with Disability <p>Seán Canney T.D.</p> <p>AsIAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Adam Harris, Chief Executive Officer • Mr Carl Morris, Policy Officer <p>Middletown Centre for Autism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Stephen Douthart, Chief Executive Officer • Dr Fiona McCaffrey, Head of Research and Development • Mrs Jill McCanney, Head of Learning Support and Assessment <p>Neuro Pride Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mx Nem Kearns, Co-Founder
J132 17 October 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J133 24 October 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J134 07 November 2023	Discussion on "Engagement on Issues facing the Early Childhood Sector"	<p>The Association of Childhood Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Marian Quinn, Chairperson

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Anne Clarke, Owner and Manager of the Playaway Creche <p>SIPTU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Darragh O'Connor, Head of Strategic Organising Ms Avril Green, Chairperson, Early Years National Committee <p>Federation of Early Childhood Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Elaine Dunne, Chairperson Ms Sonya Duggan, Member of Sub Advisory Committee <p>Early Childhood Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Teresa Heeney, Chief Executive Officer Ms Frances Byrne, Director of Policy <p>Children's Rights Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Julie Ahern, Legal, Policy and Services Director Dr Naomi Feely, Senior Research and Policy Manager
J135 14 November 2023	Discussion on "Engagement on Issues facing the Early Childhood Sector" (<i>resumed</i>)	<p>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Anne-Marie Brooks, Assistant Secretary Mr Toby Wolfe, Principal Officer Mr Mark Considine, Principal Officer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mark Doherty, Principal Officer • Ms Oonagh Fleming, Acting Principal Officer
J136 28 November 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J137 06 December 2023	Meeting held in private session	
J138 06 December 2023	<p>Session 1 – Access to CAMHS for individuals with dual diagnosis</p> <p>Session 2 - Access to CAMHS for individuals with dual diagnosis (<i>resumed</i>)</p>	<p><i>Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Gerry McCarney, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist • Ms Maeve Geraghty, Counsellor <p><i>Mental Health Reform</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Ber Grogan, Policy and Research Manager • Ms Neil Moore Ryan, Grassroots Forum Member <p><i>Health Service Executive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer • Dr Amanda Burke, National Clinical Lead for CAMHS • Ms Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO – Dublin North City and County
J139 12 December 2023	Meeting held in private session	

Appendix 1b: Proceedings of the Joint Committee (Minutes)

Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 24 January 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 1.37 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. **Attendance**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, and Ned O'Sullivan

Apologies: Apologies were received from Senators Tom Clonan, and Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 14.13 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
31 January 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 31 January 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:31 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Senator Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 13:54 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
21 February 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 31 January 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:07 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane and Mary Seery Kearney

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Disability Services”.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Down Syndrome Cork: represented by Ms Cara Steinmetz, Parent,
- Down Syndrome Carlow: represented by Ms Lucy Moran, Parent and Ms Olivia Flanagan, Parent, and
- The West Cork Down Syndrome Support Group represented by Ms Aileen O'Donovan, Parent and Mr Barry O'Donovan, Parent.

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Ms Cara Steinmetz was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Lucy Moran was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Aileen O'Donovan was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. EU COM

The following was read into the record:

COM(2022)688

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation and deleting Article 20 of Directive 2006/54/EC and Article 11 of Directive 2010/41/EU. Members have considered this EU COM Proposal and have agreed that this proposal does not warrant further scrutiny and that there are no subsidiarity concerns with this proposal.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:59 *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
21 February 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 14 February 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:31 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), John Paul Phelan, Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 16:06 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
28 February 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 21 February 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:02 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney

Substitutions: Deputy Gary Gannon substituted for Deputy Holly Cairns, and Senator Annie Hoey substituted for Deputy Seán Sherlock.

Apologies: Senator Lynn Ruane.

Additional attendees: Senator Victor Boyhan, Deputy Paul McAuliffe.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding "Integration and Refugee Issues".

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Le Cheile: represented by Ms Steph Hanlon, Convenor, and Mr Gary Daly, Member and Partner at Kurshiv Solicitors,
- Community Work Ireland: represented by Ms Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the CWI Policy and Practice Working Group, Mr Paul Kernan (joining remotely) member of CWI's Policy and Practice Working Group, and Mr Mohamad Farah (joining remotely), Volunteer,
- Ballymun for All: represented by Ms Fran Neary, Principal of Trinity Comprehensive, and Ms Niamh Ni Chonchubhair, Director at Axis Ballymun, and,

- Far Right Observatory: represented by Ms Niamh McDonald, Coordinator, and Mr Mark Malone, Research Lead.

Delivery of opening statements:

Ms Steph Hanlon was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Anastasia Crickley was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Niamh Ni Chnochubhair was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Niamh McDonald was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:45 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
07 March 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 28 February 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:49 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, John Paul Phelan, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Ned O'Sullivan, and Lynn Ruane.

Substitutions: Deputy Gary Gannon substituted for Deputy Holly Cairns.

Deputies: Kathleen Funchion and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Erin McGreehan

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding "Integration and Refugee Issues".

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- NASC: represented by Mr Brian Collins, Advocacy Service Manager,
- The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland: represented by Ms Edel McGinley, Director, and Mr Neil Bruton, Campaigns Coordinator,
- The Irish Refugee Council: represented by Mr Nick Henderson, CEO, and Ms Wendy Muperi, Communications Officer, and,
- Cultúr Migrant Centre: represented by Mr Reuben Hambakachere, Community Development Worker, and Mr Archibald Mathibela, Project Officer.

Delivery of opening statement:

Mr Brian Collins was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Ms Edel McGinley was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Wendy Mpueri was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Mr Rueben Hambakachere was invited to deliver his opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:19 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
07 March 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 07 March 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:40 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Mark Ward.

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Deputy Holly Cairns, and Senator Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.
8. Item discussed in private session.

9. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 15:52 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
21 March 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 21 March 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 15:05 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the Chair), Alan Dillon, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Lynn Ruane, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Deputy Kathleen Funchion, and Senator Mary Seery Kearney.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:03 p.m. sine die.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
04 April 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 21 March 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the Chair), Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Senators: Lynn Ruane.

Substitutions: Deputy Jennifer Whitmore substituted for Deputy Holly Cairns.

Apologies:

Deputies: Kathleen Funchion.

Senators: Mary Seery Kearney.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Youth Work and Integrated Care (ICE Model)”

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Familibase: represented by Mr Brendan Cummins, Youth Work Project Leader and Ms Fiona Kearney, Interim CEO.
- Solas: represented by Ms Leanne Lowry, Youth Programme Manager and Ms Amy Carey, Chief Executive Officer,
- Connect 4 Project: Mr Paul Perth, Team Leader and Ms Grace Hill, Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator,
- Mr Gerard Roe, Youth Worker, Bluebell Youth Project,
- Crosscare Ronanstown: Ms Sinead Harris, Management Team and Mr Greg Tierney, Youth Work Manager,
- St John Bosco Youth Centre: Mr Stephen Sharpe, Project Leader and Ms Emily Boyne, Youth Worker, and
- St Ultan’s Cherry Orchard: Mr John Scanlon, Finance, Services & Campus Manager and Ms Susan Menton, Integration Advisor.

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Ms Fiona Kearney was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Amy Carey was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Mr Paul Perth was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Mr Gerard Roe was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Ms Sinead Harris was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Mr Stephen Sharpe was invited to deliver his opening statement.

On conclusion, Mr John Scanlon was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Deputy Seán Sherlock substituted as Cathaoirleach at 15:30 p.m.

A questions and answers sessions ensued with Members.

Deputy Patrick Costello resumed as Cathaoirleach at 16:22 p.m.

The questions and answers session resumed with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:12 p.m. sine die.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
18 April 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 28 March 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Substitutions: Deputy Réada Cronin substituted for Deputy Mark Ward.

Apologies: Deputy Holly Cairns and Senator Erin McGreehan.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement with Minister O'Gorman regarding "Foster Care Issues".

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth,
- Ms Lara Hynes, Acting Assistant Secretary – Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and
- Ms Marie Kennedy, Principal Clerk – Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Minister O'Gorman was invited to deliver his opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the Minister for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for his effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:18 p.m. until Tuesday the 18th of April.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
18 April 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 18 April 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:39 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies:

Deputies: Seán Sherlock and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan and Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:37 p.m. until 15:00 p.m. that afternoon.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
09 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 18 April 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies:

Deputies: Holly Cairns and Mark Ward.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

The Cathoirléach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Youth Work” (resumed).

Witness appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- National Youth Council of Ireland: Ms Mary Cunningham, Chief Executive and Mr Paul Gordon, Director of Policy and Advocacy;
- City of Dublin Youth Services Board: Ms Celene Dunne, Director, and Mr Mark McDonald, Director of Schools City of Dublin Education and Training Board,
- Rialto Youth Project: Ms Dannielle McKenna, Manager and Mr Jim Lawlor, Youth Worker, and
- NUI Maynooth: Professor Maurice Devlin, Professor of Applied Social Studies and Dr Sinead McMahon, Community Work and Youth Work Team.

Delivery of opening statement:

Ms Cunningham was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Dunne was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms McKenna was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Dr McMahon was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:02 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
09 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 25 April 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair).

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies Holly Cairns, Seán Sherlock, and Mark Ward.

Substitution: Deputy Chris Andrews substituted for Deputy Mark Ward.

The meeting went into private session at 15:04 p.m.

3. Item discussed in private session.

The meeting suspended at 15:21 p.m. and resumed in public session at 15:25 p.m.

4. **Engagement regarding "Possible enhancement of child protection powers of Tusla".**

Witnesses from Tusla appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer,
- Ms Patricia Finlay, Regional Chief Officer,
- Mr Mike Corcoran, Head of Registration and Regulatory Enforcement,
- Mr Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker, and
- Ms June Boulger, Office of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present on the following:

- Parliamentary Privilege,
- The requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings,
- Rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings,
- The remit of the Committee and the fact the Committee does not have power to investigate a body which does not fall under its remit,
- The Committee's function is to consider and make recommendations relating to legislation, policy and administration of the Department and State bodies for

which the Department is responsible,

- That Garda investigations are ongoing and civil proceedings may also be taken,
- It is essential that all parties avoid any comment which could have the effect of prejudicing any criminal or civil proceedings, including comments that assume the guilt of any person. This is required by the Constitutional separation of powers and by Standing Orders,
- All persons are presumed to be innocent unless and until convicted in a court,
- Members and witnesses were reminded of the long-standing rule that persons who are not Members of the Houses should not be named or referred to in a way which would enable them to be identified, and
- She will not hesitate to intervene in proceedings if necessary.

Delivery of opening statement:

Ms Duggan was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Following the delivery of the opening statement, the Cathaoirleach once again reminded the witnesses that at present there are allegations of historic abuse within the organisation and these allegations are still the subject of ongoing or criminal investigations. No one has been convicted and we must avoid any prejudicial comment. The purpose of this Committee meeting is to consider policy and legislation issues relating to Tusla and not the facts of what happened in another Organisation.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their effective engagement.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:09 p.m. until Tuesday the 9th of May.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
09 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 09 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:31 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Senator Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:00 p.m. until 3 p.m. that afternoon.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
30 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 09 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:02 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Lynn Ruane.

Substitutions: Deputy Jennifer Whitmore substituted for Deputy Holly Cairns.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023”.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: Ms Lara Hynes, Acting Assistant Secretary, Child Policy and Tusla Governance Division, Mr Toby Wolfe, Principal Officer, Early Years Quality Unit, Ms Marie Kennedy, Principal Officer, Alternative Care Policy Unit (remotely), and Ms Gill Barwise, Assistant Principal Officer, Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit (remotely),
- Tusla: Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Mr Cormac Quinlan, Assistant National Director Practice Reform, Ms Pamela Benson, Head of Legal Services (remotely), and Ms Fiona McDonnell, National Service Director (remotely),
- Office of the Ombudsman for Children: Dr Karen McAuley, Head of Policy, Ms Nuala Ward, Director of Investigations, and Ms Ciara Gill, Policy Officer (remotely),
- Barnardos: Ms Suzanne Connolly, Chief Executive, and Ms Freda McKittrick, Head of Guardian ad Litem Service.

Delivery of opening statements:

Ms Hynes was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Duggan was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Dr McAuley was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Connolly was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 17:48 p.m. until Wednesday the 10th of May.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
30 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 16 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:05 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Ned O'Sullivan, and Lynn Ruane.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies John Brady and Holly Cairns, and Senator Erin McGreehan.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirements for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023 (resumed)”

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Early Childhood Ireland: Ms Teresa Heeney, Chief Executive, and Ms Frances Byrne, Director of Policy.
- EPIC: Ms Marissa Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Conor Stitt, Research and Policy Manager,
- Irish Foster Care Association: Ms Bernadette Neville, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Ms Karen Cahill, Coordinator, IFCA Helpline, and
- The Independent Guardian Ad Litem Agency: Ms Claire Quinn, Director and Guardian ad Litem and Ms Nicola McCarthy, Guardian ad Litem.

Delivery of Opening Statements

Ms Teresa Heeney was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Marissa Ryan was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Bernadette Neville was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Claire Quinn was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee in this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:49 p.m. until Tuesday the 23rd of May.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
30 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 23 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:05 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the Chair), Michael Creed, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Lynn Ruane.

Apologies were received from:

Deputies: John Brady, Holly Cairns, Kathleen Funchion, and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirements for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement with Chairperson Designate of Oberstown Children Detention Centre.

Appearing before the Committee was Ms Koulla Yiasouma, Chairperson Designate.

Delivery of opening statement:

Ms Koulla Yiasouma was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session with Members ensued.

It was further agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked Ms Yiasouma for appearing before the Committee on this matter.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:18 p.m. until Tuesday the 30th of May.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
30 May 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 30 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:33 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Deputy Holly Cairns and Senator Ned O'Sullivan.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:24 p.m. until 3 p.m. that afternoon.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
20 June 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 30 May 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:02 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputy Holly Cairns and Senator Ned O'Sullivan.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Session 1

Discussion on Integration and Refugee Issues (resumed).

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Officials from the Department of Justice: Mr Doncha O'Sullivan, Deputy Secretary General, Mr David Delaney, Director of Immigration Service Delivery and Ms Emer Mullins, Principal Officer, International Protection Office.

Delivery of opening statement:

Mr Doncha O'Sullivan was invited to deliver his opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the Officials for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

The meeting suspended at 16:02 p.m. to allow the witnesses to leave the room and resumed again in public session at 16:08 p.m.

4. Session 2

Discussion on Integration and Refugee Issues (resumed).

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Officials from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: Ms Sheenagh Rooney, Assistant Secretary, and Ms Carol Baxter, Assistant Secretary, and
- Representatives of the County and City Management Association and Local Government Management Agency: Mr Michael Walsh, Chief Executive, Waterford City and Country Council, Ms Sinead Carr, Director of Service, Tipperary Country Council, Ms Niamh McCarthy, National Co-ordinator, Emergency Vacant Housing Delivery (Ukraine) Unit.

Ms Rooney was invited to deliver her opening statement,

Ms Baxter was invited to deliver her opening statement,

On conclusion, Mr Walsh was invited to deliver his opening statement,

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

The Leas Cathaoirleach began chairing the meeting at 17:16 p.m.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses from appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement on this topic.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:46 p.m. until the 13th of June.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
20 June 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 13 June 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, Mary Seery Kearney, and Lynn Ruane.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies Holly Cairns and Seán Sherlock.

Also in attendance was Deputy Mark Ward.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Challenges facing women accessing education, leadership & political roles”.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- The National Women's Council: Ms Rachel Coyle, Head of Campaigns and Mobilisation, and Ms Ciara McHugh, Leadership Officer, and
- Women's Collective Ireland: Ms Miriam Holt, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms Vivienne Glanville, National Programme Coordinator.

Delivery of opening statements:

Ms Rachel Coyle was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Miriam Holt was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach sincerely thanked the witnesses for

appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their effective engagement.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 16:49 p.m. until Tuesday the 20th of June.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Funchion". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
20 June 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 20 June 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:37 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputy Holly Cairns.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:31 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Tuesday 27th of June.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
04 July 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 27 June 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:11 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Deputy Holly Cairns.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, COVID-19 requirements while on campus and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Engagement regarding “Challenges facing refugee and migrant children in Ireland”.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Department of Education: Mr Tomás O Ruairc, Assistant Secretary and Ms Linda Ramsbottom, Senior Inspector,
- Tusla: Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Ms Clare Murphy, National Director of Services and Integration, and Ms Lorna Kavanagh, Area Manager, National Services, and Integration,
- Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI): Ms Sharon Mpofu, Wicklow Coordinator and Ms Vepuu Tjazerua, Dublin 8 Coordinator,
- Safetynet Primary Care: Dr Fiona O'Reilly, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr Alva O'Dalaigh, Migrant Health GP Lead, and
- Dr Aoibhinn Walsh, Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in Inclusion Health.

Delivery of opening statements:

Mr Tomás O Ruairc was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Ms Kate Duggan was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Ms Sharon Mpofu was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Dr Fiona O'Reilly was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Dr Aoibhinn Walsh was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee on this matter and for their informative engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:20 p.m. until the 4th of July when the Committee will meet in private session.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
04 July 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 04 July 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:37 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, and Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair).

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies Holly Cairns and Seán Sherlock.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:24 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday 11th of July when the Committee will meet in private session.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
11 July 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 11 July 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:36 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair).

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Senator Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 13:51 p.m. sine die.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
26 September 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 20 September 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 18:02 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Brendan Griffin, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies John Brady and Seán Sherlock.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Session 1 Discussion on Child Protection.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr Roderic O'Gorman T.D., and

- Mr David Byrne, Principal Officer,
- Mr Des Delaney, Government Chief Social Worker, and
- Ms Marie Kennedy, Principal Officer

Representatives of Tusla

- Ms Kate Duggan, Interim Chief Executive Officer,
- Mr Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker,
- Ms Lorna Kavanagh, Area Manager, National Services and Integration, and
- Ms Clare Murphy, National Director of Services and Integration

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Minister O’Gorman was invited to deliver his opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Duggan was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the Minister and witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

The meeting was suspended at 19:40 p.m. to allow the witnesses leave the room,
and resumed in public session at 19:50 p.m.

4. Session 2 **Discussion on Child Protection (resumed).**

Appearing before the Committee was Ms Caoilfhionn Gallagher, KC, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection.

Ms Gallagher was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Member.

It was agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked Ms Gallagher for appearing before the Committee and for her productive engagement on this topic and wished her good luck in her new role.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:58 p.m. until the 26th of September when the Committee will meet in private session.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
26 September 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 26 September 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:40 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair).

Senators: Erin McGreehan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Substitutions: Senator Catherine Ardagh substituted in part for Senator Erin McGreehan

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.
8. Item discussed in private session.

9. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:34 p.m. until Tuesday 03rd of October.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
17 October 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 03 October 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:06 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Steven Matthews (in substitution for Patrick Costello), and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Eileen Flynn (substituting for Senator Lynn Ruane).

Apologies were received from:

Deputies John Brady, Patrick Costello, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators Lynn Ruane and Mary Seery Kearney.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. **Decision of EU COM (23)280 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of measures and cooperation in matters relating to the protection of adults.**

The Cathaoirleach read into the public record, the decision of the Committee at its private meeting of the 26th of September, in relation to the COM proposal as follows:

It was agreed that this proposal does not warrant further scrutiny.

It is further agreed that there are no subsidiarity concerns with this proposal.

4. **Session 1 - Discussion on Pre-Committee stage detailed scrutiny of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Bill 2017 [PMB] [sponsored by Seán Canney T.D.].**

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Seán Canney T.D. Sponsor of the Bill,

- Denis Naughten T.D.

Representatives from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth:

- Mr Niall Brunell, Principal Officer Disability Equality Policy,
- Mr Donie O'Shea, Policy Advisor,
- Mr Jason Doran, Assistant Principal, Disability Children's Services, and
- Ms Clare Gray, Assistant Principal, Disability Equality Policy, and

Representatives from the Health Service Executive:

- Mr Bernard O'Regan, Head of Operations, HSE Disability Services, and
- Dr Rosie Gowran, Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for People with Disability, HSE.

Delivery of Opening Statement:

In advance of the delivery of opening statements, the Cathaoirleach sought the agreement of Members to the following proposals:

- To request a written submission from the Irish Society of Autism, and
- To forward the proposed list of amendments to the Bill submitted by Deputy Canney to the Office of the Parliamentary Legal Advisors to seek an updated legal opinion.

Members agreed to these proposals.

Deputy Canney was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Mr Brunell was invited to deliver his opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements and briefing documents to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

The meeting suspended at 16:22 p.m. to allow the witnesses to leave the room, and resumed in public session at 16:34 p.m.

5. Session 2 – Discussion on Pre-Committee stage detailed scrutiny of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Bill 2017 [PMB] [sponsored by Seán Canney T.D.]. (resumed).

Appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Seán Canney T.D. and sponsor of the Bill and
- Mr Adam Harris, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Carl Morris, Policy Officer, Aslam
- Mr Stephen Douthart, CEO, Dr Fiona McCaffrey, Head of Research and Development and Mrs Jill McCanney, Head of Learning Support and Assessment, Middletown Centre for Autism
- Mx. Nem Kearns, Co-Founder (remotely), Neuro Pride Ireland

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Mr Harris was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Mr Douthart was invited to deliver his opening statement, which both Dr Fiona McCaffrey and Mrs Jill McCanney participated in.

On Conclusion, Mx Kearns was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:34 p.m. until the 4 of October when the Select Committee will meet in public session.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
17 October 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 17 October 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:31 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Alan Dillon, and Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Senators Tom Clonan, Lynn Ruane and Mary Seery Kearney.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 13:58 p.m. until Tuesday the 24th of October.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
24 October 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 24 October 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 14:03 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, and Ned O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Senator Lynn Ruane.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:35 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
28 November 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 07 November 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:04 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Senator Lynn Ruane.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Discussion on “Engagement on Issues facing the Early Childhood Sector”.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- The Association of Childhood Professionals - Ms Marian Quinn, Chairperson and Ms Anne Clarke, Owner and Manager of the Playaway Creche,
- SIPTU - Mr Darragh O'Connor, Head of Strategic Organising and Ms Avril Green, Chairperson, Early Years National Committee,
- Federation of Early Childhood Providers - Ms Elaine Dunne, Chairperson and Ms Sonya Duggan, Member of Sub Advisory Committee,
- Early Childhood Ireland - Ms Teresa Heeney, Chief Executive Officer and Ms Frances Byrne, Director of Policy, and
- Children's Rights Alliance - Ms Julie Ahern, Legal, Policy and Services Director, and Dr Naomi Feely, Senior Research and Policy Manager

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Ms Quinn was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Mr O'Connor was invited to deliver his opening statement.

Ms Dunne was invited to deliver her opening statement.

Ms Heeney was invited to deliver her opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Ahern was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

Members agreed to raise the following matters with the Officials from the Department when they appear before the Committee on the 14th of November and subsequently with the Minister:

- Why the AIM Report has not been published, and
- Updates to the Sustainability Fund.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements and briefing documents to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:50 p.m. until the 14 of November.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
28 November 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 14 November 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 15:09 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the Chair), Michael Creed, Alan Dillon, and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Deputies John Brady, and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Senator Lynn Ruane.

Substitutions: Deputy Pauline Tully substituted for Deputy John Brady.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for all Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Discussion on "Engagement on Issues facing the Early Childhood Sector" (resumed).

Officials from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Ms Anne-Marie Brooks, Assistant Secretary,
- Mr Toby Wolfe, Principal Officer,
- Mr Mark Considine, Principal Officer,
- Mr Mark Doheny, Principal Officer, and
- Ms Oonagh Fleming, Acting Principal Officer

Delivery of Opening Statement:

Ms Brooks was invited to deliver her opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

It was agreed to publish the opening statement to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Leas-Chathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:02 p.m. until the 28th of November.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
28 November 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 28 November 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:30 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 14:07 p.m. until the Select Committee meeting later that day.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
12 December 2023

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 06 December 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 14:01 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies: Patrick Costello, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Ned O'Sullivan, Lynn Ruane, and Mary Seery Kearney.

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 15:16 p.m., until 17:30 that evening.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
23 January 2024

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 06 December 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Public Session at 17:35 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. Members Present

Deputies: John Brady, Patrick Costello, Michael Creed, Alan Dillon, Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), and Seán Sherlock

Senators: Tom Clonan, Ned O'Sullivan, and Mary Seery Kearney
Apologies were received from: Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Senator Erin McGreehan and Senator Lynn Ruane.

Substitutions:

- Deputy Emer Higgins substituted for Deputy Brendan Griffin
- Deputy Joe Flaherty substituted for Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.
- Senator Diarmuid Wilson substituted for Senator Erin McGreehan,
- Senator Eileen Flynn substituted for Senator Lynn Ruane.

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú was also in attendance.

The Cathaoirleach advised all present about Parliamentary Privilege, the requirement for Members to be present on the Leinster House Campus when participating in public meetings, and rules around the use of messaging on MS Teams during meetings.

3. Session 1 – Access to CAMHS for individuals with dual diagnosis

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

Representatives from the Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth

- Dr Gerry McCarney, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, and
- Ms Maeve Geraghty, Counsellor

Representatives from Mental Health Reform

- Ms Ber Grogan, Policy and Research Manager, Mental Health Reform, and
- Ms Neil Moore Ryan, Grassroots Forum Member

Dr McCarney was invited to deliver his opening statement.

On conclusion, Ms Grogan and Ms Moore Ryan were invited to deliver their opening statement.

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

Meeting suspended at 18:27 for a Dail vote and resumed at 19:25.

Additional questions were put to the Witnesses by Deputies Seán Sherlock and Ruairí Ó Murchú, and it was agreed, due to the time constraints that a written response would be provided.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

The meeting was suspended at 19:28 to allow the witnesses exit the room and resumed in public session at 19:32 for session two of the meeting.

4. Session 2 - Access to CAMHS for individuals with dual diagnosis (resumed)

Witnesses appearing before the Committee were as follows:

- Mr Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer,
- Dr Amanda Burke, Child and Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist and National Clinical Lead for Child and Youth Mental Health, and
- Ms Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer, CHO - Dublin North City & County

A questions and answers session ensued with Members.

Dr Burke advised she will send a written response to the secretariat in relation to Deputy Ó Murchú questions.

Mr Gloster suggested to members to give consideration to scheduling a future meeting on the topic of “The totality of health services for children”. The Cathaoirleach advised this topic will be considered as a potential item for inclusion of the 2024 Work Programme of the Committee.

It was agreed to publish the opening statements and briefing documents to the Oireachtas website.

On behalf of the Committee, the Cathaoirleach thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and for their productive engagement.

The meeting was suspended at 20:22 to allow the witnesses exit the room and resumed in public session at 20:31.

5. Divisions

During a private meeting of the Committee on the afternoon of 06 December, Members agreed to defer the taking of divisions until the conclusion of the public meeting.

The details of which were as follows:

Division No. 1

In relation to the Thirty-ninth Amendment to the Constitution Bill 2023 [(Family)].

The question is that a request for a waiver of the requirement for pre-legislative scrutiny be agreed to.

Following the taking of a division the question was carried, 8:4. 4

Division No. 2

In relation to the Fortieth Amendment to the Constitution Bill 2023 [(Care)].

The question is that a request for a waiver of the requirement for pre-legislative scrutiny be agreed to.

Following the taking of a division the question was carried, 8:4.

It was agreed to communicate this decision to Minister O’Gorman.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:53 until the 12 of December, when the Committee will meet in private session.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
23 January 2024

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 12 December 2023

1. The Joint Committee met in Private Session at 13:38 p.m. on MS Teams, a quorum being present.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies: Patrick Costello (in the chair) and Alan Dillon.

Senators: Tom Clonan and Lynn Ruane.

Apologies were received from Deputies Kathleen Funchion, and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

3. Item discussed in private session.
4. Item discussed in private session.
5. Item discussed in private session.
6. Item discussed in private session.
7. Item discussed in private session.

8. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12:01 p.m., *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Cathaoirleach
23 January 2024

Appendix 2a: Meetings of the Select Committee

The following are the details, in date order, of the scheduled meetings of the Select Committee which took place during the period under report.

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Stakeholders in attendance
S14 08/02/2013	<p>2023 Revised Estimates for Public Services</p> <p>Vote 40 – Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</p> <p>Vote 25 – Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
S15 28/02/2013	<p>Motion regarding referral to Select Committee of proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022 (Section 4(2)) (Scheme Termination Date) Order 2023. [Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
S16 26/04/2023	<p>2023 Further Revised Estimates for Public Services</p> <p>Vote 40 – Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Ms Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
S17 04/10/2023	<p>2023 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services</p> <p>Vote 40 – (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) [Minister for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

	Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth]	
S18 28/11/2023	<p>2023 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services</p> <p>Vote 40 – (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth), and</p> <p>Vote 25 – (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) [Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth ▪ Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Appendix 2b: Proceedings of the Select Committee (Imeachtaí)

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE UM LEANAÍ, COMHIONANNAS, MÍCHUMAS, LÁNPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS ÓIGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH

Dé Céadaoin, 08 Feabhra, 2023

Wednesday, 08 February 2023

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 5.30 p.m.

1. The Committee met at 5.30 p.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT.

Bhí na Comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:
An Teachta Caitlín Funchion (*i gCeannas*),
An Teachta Ruaidhrí Mac Gormáin (*an tAire Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige*), na Teachtaí Holly Ní Chiaráin, Pádraig Ó Coistealbha, Jennifer Ní Mhurnáin Uí Chonchobhair agus an Teachta Mark Mac an Bháird.

The following Members were present:
Deputy Kathleen Funchion (*in the Chair*), Deputy Roderic O’Gorman (*Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth*), Deputies Holly Cairns, Patrick Costello, Jennifer Murnane O’Connor, and Deputy Mark Ward.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I
GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR
PUBLIC SERVICES.

Rinne an Roghchoiste um Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige breithniú ar na Meastacháin seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2023 –

The Select Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2023 –

Vóta 40 (Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige) (Meastachán Athbhreithnithe).

Vote 40 (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) (Revised Estimate).

Vóta 25 - (Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus

Vote 25 - (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) (Revised Estimate).

Comhionannas) (Meastachán
Athbhreithnithe).

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an
Meastachán.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de
réir Bhuan-Ordú 101 á chur in iúl di gur
chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an
Meastachán.

4. ATHLÁ.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 6.35 p.m. *sine
die*.

Consideration of the Estimate was
concluded.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance
with Standing Order 101 acquainting it that
the Committee had completed its
consideration of the Estimate.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee adjourned at 6.35 p.m. *sine
die*.



Kathleen Funchion, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
13 February 2024

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE UM LEANAÍ, COMHIONANNAS, MÍCHUMAS, LÁNPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS ÓIGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH

Dé Céadaoin, 26 Aibreán, 2023

Wednesday, 26 April 2023

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 5.40 p.m.

1. The Committee met at 5.40 p.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT.

Bhí na Comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:
An Teachta Caitlín Funchion (*i gCeannas*),
An Teachta Ruaidhrí Mac Gormáin (*an tAire Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige*), An Teachta Áine Uí Choinin (*an Aire Staid Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige*) na Teachtaí Pádraig Ó Coistealbha agus Jennifer Ní Mhurnáin Uí Chonchobhair.

The following Members were present:
Deputy Kathleen Funchion (*in the Chair*),
Deputy Roderic O’Gorman (*Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*), Deputy Anne Rabbitte (*Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*) Deputies Patrick Costello and Jennifer Murnane O’Connor.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I
GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR
PUBLIC SERVICES.

Rinne an Roghchoiste Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige breithniú ar na Meastacháin seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2023 –

The Select Committee on Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2023 –

Vóta 40 (Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige) (Meastachán Athbhreithnithe Tuilleadh).

Vote 40 (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) (Further Revised Estimate).

4. An Cruinniú ar Fionraí.

4. Meeting Suspended.

Ordaíodh: An Cruinniú a chur ar fionraí anois go dtí 6:25 p.m. (An Teachta Caitlín Funchion).

Cuireadh an Cruinniú ar fionraí dá réir sin ar 6:00 p.m.

Ar 6:25 p.m. athchromadh ar an gCruinniú.

5. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

D'athchrom an Coiste ar an mBille a mheastacháin.

6. An Cruinniú ar Fionraí.

Ordaíodh: An Cruinniú a chur ar fionraí anois go dtí 7:15 p.m. (An Teachta Caitlín Funchion).

Cuireadh an Cruinniú ar fionraí dá réir sin ar 6:50 p.m.

Ar 7:15 p.m. athchromadh ar an gCruinniú.

7. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

D'athchrom an Coiste ar an mBille a mheastacháin.

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an Meastachán.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de réir Bhuan-Ordú 101 á chur in iúl di gur chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an Meastachán.

4. ATHLÁ.

Ordered: That the Meeting be now suspended until 6:25 p.m. (Deputy Kathleen Funchion).

The Meeting was accordingly suspended at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was resumed at 6:25 p.m.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

The Committee resumed consideration of the estimates.

6. Meeting Suspended.

Ordered: That the Meeting be now suspended until 7:15 p.m. (Deputy Kathleen Funchion).

The Meeting was accordingly suspended at 6:50 p.m.

The Meeting was resumed at 7:15 p.m.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

The Committee resumed consideration of the estimates.

Consideration of the Estimate was concluded.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance with Standing Order 101 acquainting it that the Committee had completed its consideration of the Estimate.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 7.50 p.m. *sine die*.

The Committee adjourned at 7.50 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
13 February 2024

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE UM LEANAÍ, COMHIONANNAS, MÍCHUMAS, LÁNPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS ÓIGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH

Dé Céadaoin, 04 Deireadh Fomhair, 2023

Wednesday, 04 October 2023

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 5.30 p.m.

1. The Committee met at 5.30 p.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT.

Bhí na Comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:
An Teachta Caitlín Funchion (*i gCeannas*),
An Teachta Ruaidhrí Mac Gormáin (*an tAire Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige*), na Teachtaí Seán Ó Brádaigh, Pádraig Ó Coistealbha agus Seán Ó Searlog.

The following Members were present:
Deputy Kathleen Funchion (*in the Chair*),
Deputy Roderic O’Gorman (*Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*),
Deputies John Brady, Patrick Costello and Seán Sherlock.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I
GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR
PUBLIC SERVICES.

Rinne an Roghchoiste Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige breithniú ar na Meastacháin seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2023 –

The Select Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2023 –

Vóta 40 (Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige) (Meastachán Forliontach).

Vote 40 (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) (Supplementary Estimate).

4. An Cruinniú ar Fionraí.

4. Meeting Suspended.

Ordaíodh: An Cruinniú a chur ar fionraí anois go dtí 6:25 p.m. (*An Teachta Caitlín Funchion*).

Cuireadh an Cruinniú ar fionraí dá réir sin ar 6:00 p.m.

Ar 6:25 p.m. athchromadh ar an gCruinniú.

5. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSI POIBLÍ.

D'athchrom an Coiste ar an mBille a mheastacháin.

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an Meastachán.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de réir Bhuan-Ordú 101 á chur in iúl di gur chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an Meastachán.

6. ATHLÁ.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 6.25 p.m. *sine die*.

Ordered: That the Meeting be now suspended until 6:25 p.m. (*Deputy Kathleen Funchion*).

The Meeting was accordingly suspended at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was resumed at 6:25 p.m.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

The Committee resumed consideration of the estimates.

Consideration of the Estimate was concluded.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance with Standing Order 101 acquainting it that the Committee had completed its consideration of the Estimate.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee adjourned at 6.25 p.m. *sine die*.



Kathleen Funchion, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
13 February 2024

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE UM LEANAÍ, COMHIONANNAS, MÍCHUMAS, LÁNPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS ÓIGE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH

Dé Mairt, 28 Samhain, 2023

Tuesday, 28 November 2023

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 3.35 p.m.

1. The Committee met at 3.35 p.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT.

Bhí na Comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:
An Teachta Caitlín Funchion (*i gCeannas*),
An Teachta Ruaidhrí Mac Gormáin (*an tAire Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige*), An Teachta Áine Uí Choinín (*an Aire Staid Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige*) na Teachtaí Pádraig Ó Coistealbha, Micheál Ó Críod agus Seán Ó Searlóg.

The following Members were present:
Deputy Kathleen Funchion (*in the Chair*),
Deputy Roderic O’Gorman (*Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*), Deputy Anne Rabbitte (*Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*), Deputies Patrick Costello, Michael Creed and Seán Sherlock.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I
GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR
PUBLIC SERVICES.

Rinne an Roghchoiste um Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige breithniú ar na Meastacháin seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2023 –

The Select Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2023 –

Vóta 40 (Leanaí, Comhionannas, Míchumas, Lánpháirtíocht agus Óige) (Meastachán Forlíontach).

Vote 40 (Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) (Supplementary Estimate).

Vóta 25 - (Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus

Vote 25 - (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) (Supplementary Estimate).

Comhionannas) (Meastachán
Forlíontach).

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an
Meastachán.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de
réir Bhuan-Ordú 101 á chur in iúl di gur
chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an
Meastachán.

4. ATHLÁ.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 4.45 p.m. *sine
die*.

Consideration of the Estimate was
concluded.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance
with Standing Order 101 acquainting it that
the Committee had completed its
consideration of the Estimate.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee adjourned at 4.45 p.m. *sine
die*.



Kathleen Funchion, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
13 February 2024

