



Tithe an  
Oireachtais  
Houses of the  
Oireachtas

# **An Comhchoiste um Nithe a Bhaineann le Míchumas**

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023

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## **Joint Committee on Disability Matters**

Annual Report 2023

33/DM/19

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## Related information

### Publications

All publications for this committee are available on the [Oireachtas website](#)

### Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the [Committee videos page](#).

### Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the [Committee page](#).

### Terms of reference

Read the [terms of reference](#) for the Committee.

## 1. Overview to report

Under Standing Orders of both Houses of the Oireachtas<sup>1</sup>, 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 on 20 March 2024, the Committee agreed that the following items be included in this report covering the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

- An **annual report** detailing the work carried out Joint Committees,
- **Minutes of Committee proceedings** (Appendices).

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

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

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## 1.1 Committee establishment and functions

### Joint Committee

The Dáil Select Committee was enjoined 22 September 2020, with a select committee of Seanad Éireann, under the same Order as referenced below to form the Joint Committee on Disability Matters.

Among the principal functions of the Joint Committee are to consider— and report on the ‘Implementation Plan’ for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and national strategies including the National Disability Inclusion Strategy and sector strategies and the effectiveness of.

- i. all national processes established to implement the UNCRPD.
- ii. the National Framework for Monitoring the implementation of the Convention including engagement with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the National Disability Authority.

#### 1.1.1 Terms of reference

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

## 1.2 Committee Membership

### Cathaoirleach

[Michael Moynihan TD](#), Fianna Fáil

### Leas-Cathaoirleach

[Pauline Tully TD](#), Sinn Féin

### Members

[Seán Canney TD](#), Independent

[Dessie Ellis TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Frankie Feighan TD](#), Fine Gael

[Gary Gannon TD](#), Social Democrats

[Emer Higgins TD](#), Fine Gael

[Brian Leddin](#), Green Party

[Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Tom Clonan](#), Independent

[Senator Eileen Flynn](#), Independent

[Senator Erin McGreehan](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Fiona O'Loughlin](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Mary Seery Kearney](#), Fine Gael

Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil on 24 September 2020.

- **Joint Committee:** The Cathaoirleach of the Select Committee is also the Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee. Deputy Pauline Tully was elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Joint Committee on 9 December 2020.
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### 1.2.1 Internal changes during reporting period

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

- **Joint Committee:**
  - Deputy Neasa Hourigan was replaced with Deputy Brian Leddin on 26 April 2023
  - Deputy Holly Cairns was replaced with Deputy Gary Gannon on 15 June 2023

## 2. Committee activity report

Committee activity over the reporting period is summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Committee(s) activity at a glance**

Metric	Select Committee	Joint Committee	Joint sub-Committee
<b>No. of meetings</b>	N/A	62	N/A
<b>Witnesses attending</b>	N/A	160	N/A
<b>Reports published</b>	N/A	7	N/A
<b>COMs scrutinised</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Travel episodes</b>	N/A	3	N/A

### 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](http://www.oireachtas.ie)



A comparison of meeting activity is summarised below.

**Table 2: Committee meetings and duration 2023**

Committee type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	No. of meetings	62
	Meeting in public session	29
	Meeting in private committee room	1
	Meeting in private virtual	32
	Duration	73:22

## 2.2 Witnesses

The number of witnesses were as follows:

**Table 3: Committee witnesses**

Committee type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	Witnesses	160

- ***26.2% of Witnesses attending had lived experience.***

## 2.2.1 Engagements with Ministers

A Government Minister engaged<sup>2</sup> with the Committee on two occasions, as follows:

- Minister: Roderic O’Gorman, T.D., Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: 1 instance
- Minister of State: Anne Rabbitte, T.D., Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth 1 instance

**Table 4: Engagements with Ministers**

Committee type	Metric	2023
<b>Joint Committee</b>	Engagements with Minister(s) (as witness)	2

## 2.3 Committee reports

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

**Table 5: Committee reports 2020-2023**

Committee type	Metric	2023
<b>Joint Committee</b>	PLS report	N/A
	PMB scrutiny report	N/A
	Public policy report	6
	Budgetary scrutiny report	N/A
	EU scrutiny (COMs)	N/A
	Work plans	1

<sup>2</sup> Counting where a Minister *engaged* with the Committee either as an ex-officio member (select committees) or as a witness (joint/joint-sub committees).

## 2.4 Travel

The Joint Committee undertook the following travel in accordance with its Orders of Reference in connection with its Work Programme.

**Table 6: Committee travel**

Committee type	Metric	2023
Joint Committee	Travel episodes	3
	Travel reports published	2

### Travel episode 1

- **Purpose of travel:** Invitation from the European Parliaments Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) to attend the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on “The participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process.
- **Date and Destination:** Monday, 04 to Tuesday, 05 December 2023, Brussels, Belgium
- **Members travelling:** Deputy Michael Moynihan (Chairman), Senator Erin McGreehan
- **Accompanying Official:** Mairead O’Donovan (Clerk)
- **Report:** Not published

### Travel episode 2

- **Purpose of travel:** Invitation from the Irish Prison Service to visit Mountjoy training centre
- **Date and Destination:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023, Mountjoy training Centre, Dublin
- **Members travelling:** Deputy Pauline Tully (Vice - Chair), Deputy Seán Canney and Senator Erin McGreehan
- **Accompanying Official:** Brenda McCauley (Policy Advisor), Tracey O’Driscoll (Clerical Officer)
- **Report:** [Available here](#)

### **Travel episode 3**

- **Purpose of travel:** Attendance at the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD
- **Date and Destination:** Monday, 12 to Thursday, 15 June 2023, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- **Members travelling:** Deputy Michael Moynihan (Chairman), Deputy Sean Canney
- **Accompanying Official:** Mairead O'Donovan (Clerk)
- **Report:** [Available here](#)

### **3. Report on Functions and Powers**

The Joint Committee is currently satisfied with its present procedures and role.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.  
Cathaoirleach

## 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 Details

#### **J103. 18/01/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

#### **J104. 19/01/2023 UNCRPD - Implementation and the Optional Protocol (resumed)**

- Roderic O'Gorman T.D, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Colm O'Conaill, Assistant Secretary General, Niall Brunell, Principal Officer, Tara Smith, Assistant Principal Officer & John Gilbane, Assistant Principal Officer

#### **J105. 25/01/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

#### **J106. 26/01/2023 - Consideration of Family Centered Practice and Parent Training Interventions**

- Representatives from Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, Matt Buttery, Chief Executive Officer
- Representatives from Parents Plus Charity, Cherie Tyner, Chief Executive Officer, Ciara Ni Raghallaigh, Special Needs Programme Co-Ordinator, Niamh Kerrigan, Parent

#### **J107. 01/02/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

#### **J108. 02/02/2023 - Public awareness of living with a disability**

- Representatives from Family Carers Ireland, Catherine Cox, Head of Communications and Carer Engagement & Jane Johnstone, Caring Employers Promotions Officer & Family Carer
- Catherine Gallagher, PhD student and Disability Activist

**Meeting Details****J109. 08/02/2023 - Private**

- No Witness in attendance

**J110. 09/02/2023 - Awareness Raising - Lived experience of congregated settings**

- Representatives from Inclusion Ireland, Derval McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer & Paul Alford, Advocacy Project Worker
- Representatives from Disability Federation of Ireland, Emer Begley, Director of Advocacy and Inclusion & Róna Morris, Policy and Research Officer
- Representatives from National Advocacy Service, Joanne Condon, Acting National Manager & Suzy Byrne, Greater Dublin Regional Manager
- Representatives from Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Barbara O'Connell, Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Karen Foley, Head of Service Operations

**J111. 15/02/2023 - Private**

- No Witness in attendance

**J112. 16/02/2023 - Disability proofing and data**

- Representatives from The Central Statistics Office, Cormac Halpin, Census Outputs Division, Kieran Culhane, Statistical System Coordination Unit & Fiona O'Riordan, Social Data Collection division
- Representatives from Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner, Dr Iris Elliot, Head of Policy and Research
- Representatives from DPO Network, Jacqui Browne, Chair, Grace Murphy, member, Amy Hassett, member & Nem Kearns, member

**J113. 22/02/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J114. 23/02/2023 - Report Launch - "Aligning Disability Services UNCRPD"**

- N/A

**J115. 01/03/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance
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**Meeting Details****J116. 02/03/2023 - Accessing Justice (resumed)**

- Representatives from Irish Prison Service, Caron McCaffrey, Director General, Fergal Black, Director of Care & Rehabilitation, Dr. Emma Regan, Head of Psychology, Emer Campbell, Chief Nurse Officer & Mark McGoldrick, Principal Officer, Estates Directorate

**J117. 08/03/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J118. 09/03/2023 - Self-Advocacy and Women with disabilities**

- Representatives from Inclusion Ireland, Derval McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer & Una Coates, Spokesperson & Chairperson of Inclusion Ireland's Self Advocacy Committee
- Eliona Gjecaj, Disability activist and researcher
- Representatives from Disabled Women Ireland, Amy Hassett, Co-director, Nem Kearns, Co-director & Sarah McNabb, Steering Group Member/ Campaigns Lead

**J119. 22/03/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J120 23/03/2023 - Inadequate personal assistance supports**

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI), Damien Walshe, Chief Executive Officer, Des Kenny, Chairperson & Shelly Gaynor, Peer Mentor
- Representatives from Health Service Executive (HSE), Yvonne O'Neill, National Director, Community Operations & Olive Hanley, Disability Services in Dublin North City and County
- Representatives from The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dr Eamonn Carroll, Postdoctoral Research Fellow & Dr Selina McCoy, Associate Research Professor in Social Research, and joint education research coordinator

**J121. 29/03/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**Meeting Details****J122. 30/03/2023 - Leave no one behind: Climate crisis and disability supports**

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) Damien Walshe, Chief Executive & Peter Kearns, Onside Project Manager,
- Officials from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications, Dr Robert Mooney, Assistant Principal, Climate Engagement and Adaption Division & Hannah Gilmartin, Assistant Principal, Climate Engagement and Adaption Division

**J123. 19/04/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J124. 20/04/2023 - Rights-Based Approach and Disability Legislation**

Representatives from National Disability Authority, Dr Aideen Hartney, Director, Dr Rosalyn Tamming, Head of Policy, Research & Public Affairs & Mr Dharragh Hunt, Senior Policy Advisor

**J125. 26/04/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J126. 27/04/2023 - The Rights-Based Approach and Disability Legislation**

- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Colm Ó Conaill, Assistant Secretary, Disability & Youth, Niall Brunell, Principal Officer, Disability Equality Policy team, Jason Doran, Assistant Principal, Children's Services team & Eithne Fitzgerald, Disability Adviser, Disability & Youth Division
- Officials from Dept. of Education, Martina Mannion, Assistant Secretary, Martin McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Special Education, Frank Hanlon, Principal Officer, Special Education & Brendan Doody, Principal Officer, Special Education

**J127. 03/05/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance
-



**Meeting Details****J128. 04/05/2023 - Consideration of rights-based behaviour analysis and support**

- Representatives from Irish Society for Behaviour Analysis, Alan Tennyson, Chair ISBA, Irish Behaviour Analyst & Amy O'Keefe, MSc. Irish Behaviour Analyst
- Representatives from Division of Behaviour Analysis, Psychological Society of Ireland, Dr Michelle Kelly, Chair DBA & Dr Teresa Mulhern, BCBA-D

**J129. 10/05/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J130. 11/05/2023 - Disability Inclusive Social Protection**

- Representatives from Rehab Group, Lucianne Bird, Director of Learning, Adrian Stewart, Head of Employability, and Michael Meere, Rehab Group Advocate and student of National Learning Network
- Representative from Care Alliance Ireland, Zoe Hughes, Senior Policy & Research Officer
- Representative from International Disability Alliance, Alradi Abdalla, Senior Training Officer
- Representatives from Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG, Prof. Eilionóir Flynn, Director

**J131. 17/05/2023 - Private (Cancelled)**

- No witness in attendance

**J132. 18/05/2023 - Disability Inclusive Social Protection (resumed)**

- Officials from Dept. of Social Protection, Rónán Hession, Assistant Secretary General & Sarah Waters, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Denise Kennedy, Assistant Secretary General, Head of HR & Corporate Affairs, Kevin Galligan, Principal Officer & Colm McKiernan, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, John Maher, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Patrick O'Sullivan, Principal Officer & Clare Naughton, Assistant Principal

**Meeting Details****J133. 24/05/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J134. 25/05/2023 - Public awareness – living with a disability (resumed)**

- Dylan Nelson
- Padraic Moran
- Saoirse Smith
- Ciaran Delaney
- Niamh Kilcawley

**J135. 31/05/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J136. 01/06/2023 - DPO's and the implementation of the UNCRPD (resumed)**

- Representatives from Disability Power Ireland, Maryam Madani, Chair/Founder & Peadar O'Dea, Policy Officer
- Representatives from DPO Network, Dr. James Casey, Independent Living Movement Ireland & John Sherwin, CEO, Irish Deaf Society
- Representatives from Physical Impairment Ireland (PII), Peter Gohery, National Chairperson & Leo Kavanagh, Member
- Representatives from Voice of Vision Impairment, Dr. Robert Sinnott, Co-Ordinator
- Frances Quan Farrant, Disability and Human Rights Advocate
- Representatives from DPO Network, Joe McGrath, National Platform for Self-Advocates

**J137. 20/06/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J138. 21/06/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J139. 22/06/2023 - National monitoring role of parliaments on the UNCRPD (Cancelled)**

- No witness in attendance
-

**Meeting Details****J140. 28/06/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J141. 29/06/2023 - World Report on Hearing**

- Representatives from Irish Deaf Society, John Sherwin, CEO, Dr. John Bosco Conama, Board Director & Elaine Grehan, Advocacy manager

**J142. 05/07/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J143. 06/07/2023 - Increasing employment participation – Career progression**

- Officials from Dept. of Social Protection, Fiona Ward, Assistant Secretary, Employment Services, Tadhg O’Leary Principal Officer, Contracted Services & Annette Conroy Principal Officer, Employment Services Policy

**J144. 12/07/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J145. 13/07/2023 - Increasing employment participation – self-employment and entrepreneurship for people with disabilities**

- Eddie Hennessy
- Representatives from Technological University Dublin, Prof. Thomas M. Cooney, Professor of Entrepreneurship
- Representatives from Access Earth, Matt McCann, Chief Executive Officer

**J146. 06/09/2023 - Private (Cancelled)**

- No witness in attendance

**J147. 20/09/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**Meeting Details****J148. 20/09/2023 - National Disability Inclusion Strategy (resumed)**

- Representatives from National Disability Authority, Dr. Aideen Hartney, Director & Dr Rosalyn Tamming, Head of Policy, Research and Public Affairs
- Representatives from Disability Stakeholder Group (DSG), Renée Dempsey-Clifford, Independent Chair & Dharragh Hunt, Secretary to DSG

**J149. 27/09/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J150. 27/09/2023 - Accessibility**

- Officials from Dept. of Transport, Garret Doocey, Assistant Secretary, Land Transport, John Boylan, Principal Officer, Public Transport & Akriti Brady, Assistant Principal, Accessibility and Rural Transport
- Representatives from National Transport Authority (NTA), Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer & Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**J151. 04/10/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J152. 04/10/2023 - Enhanced Transport and Mobility Support Options for People with Disabilities**

- Anne Rabbitte, Minister of State at the Department of Health and at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Deirdre Comiskey, Principal Officer, Disability Children's Services Unit, Tara Smith, Assistant Principal, Disability Equality Policy Unit & Donie O'Shea, Equality Policy Advisor

**J153. 11/10/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance
-

**Meeting Details****J154. 11/10/2023 - International co-operation: UNCRPD and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development**

- Representatives from CBM Global, Dualta Roughneen, CEO, & Mahbub Kabir, Advocacy Manager
- Representatives from Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, Michael Gaffey, Director-General, Irish Aid, Anderson Finlay, First Secretary, Human Rights Unit, Political Division & Dr Sarah Hunt, Director of Policy Unit at Irish Aid
- Officials from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications, Niall McLoughlin, Principal Officer & Fiona McManus, Assistant Principal

**J155. 16/10/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J156. 18/10/2023 - Implementing inclusive education in schools**

- Officials from Dept. of Education, Martina Mannion, Assistant Secretary, Inclusion Division, Brendan Doody, Principal Officer, Special Education Section, Frank Hanlon, Principal Officer, Special Education Section, Martin McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Special Education Section, Jill Fannin, Principal Officer, Teacher Education Section & Gráinne Cullen, Principal Officer, Social Inclusion Unit

**J157. 18/10/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J158. 25/10/2023 - Ensuring inclusive local and EU elections**

- Representatives from Disability Federation of Ireland, John Dolan, Chief Executive Officer & Joan Carthy
- Representatives from An Coimisiún Toghcháin, The Electoral Commission, Art O' Leary, Chief Executive & Dr Mary Clare O' Sullivan, Head of Electoral Integrity, and Research

**J159. 25/10/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**Meeting Details****J160. 08/11/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J161. 08/11/2023 - Rights based care for children with disabilities**

- Representatives from Mental Health Commission, Dr John Hillery, Chairperson, John Farrelly, Chief Executive, & Professor Jim Lucey, Inspector of the Mental Health Services
- Representatives from Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Nuala Ward, Director of Investigations & Colm Leonard, Investigator
- Representatives from Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Carol Grogan, Chief Inspector of Social Services & Finbarr Colfer, Deputy Chief Inspector of Social Services

**J162. 15/11/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J163. 15/11/2023 - Rights based care for children with disabilities (resumed)**

- Representatives from Health Service Executive (HSE), David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations, Donan Kelly, Assistant National Director for Child and Youth Mental Health, Dr Amanda Burke, Child and Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist and National Clinical Lead for Child and Youth Mental Health, Bernard O'Regan, Head of Operations, Disability Services & Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6
- Representatives from Tusla, Kate Duggan, Chief Executive Officer, Pat Smyth, National Director for Finance and Corporate Services, Clare Murphy, Interim National Director of Services, and Integration

**J164. 22/11/2023 - Private (Cancelled)**

- No witness in attendance
-

**Meeting Details****J165. 22/11/2023 - Awareness Raising: Article 23 Respect for home and family life**

- Representatives from University of Galway, Professor Eilíonóir Flynn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) & Emma Burns, researcher
- Representatives from Disabled Women Ireland, Nem Kearns, DWI Co-Director, Amy Hassett, DWI Co-Director & Louise Milicevic, DWI Member and Parent Advocate

**J166. 29/11/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J167. 06/12/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

**J168. 06/12/2023 - Planning for inclusive communities**

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI), Fiona Weldon, ILMI Capacity Officer & Claire Kenny, ILMI Policy Assistant
- Representatives from St Joseph's Foundation, Michael Hegarty, Chief Executive Officer, David Doyle, Development Manager & Niamh O' Shea, CDNM / Occupational Therapy Manager
- Representatives from Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, Una Nagle, Interim Chief Executive & Eamon Loughrey, Director of Services, West Region

**J169. 13/12/2023 - Private**

- No witness in attendance

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

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS MINUTES OF MEETING 18 January 2023

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

#### 1. Attendance

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) & Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin & Mary Seery Kearney

- 2. Item discussed in private session
- 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

This meeting adjourned at 3.36 p.m.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 19 JANUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9.30 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Dessie Ellis, Emer Higgins, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan – Cathaoirleach, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Pauline Tully (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, and Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies were received from Senator Mary Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'UNCRPD Implementation and the Optional Protocol (resumed)'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Colm O'Conaill, Assistant Secretary General, Niall Brunell, Principal Officer, Tara Smith, Assistant Principal Officer & John Gilbane, Assistant Principal Officer

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.09 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 25 January 2022.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 25 JANUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.17 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach),  
Jennifer Murnane O'Connor & Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Senator Flynn, Senator O'Loughlin

- 2. Item discussed in private session
- 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**

This meeting adjourned at 3.31 p.m.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 26 JANUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9.31 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Chathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn & Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Senator Clonan & Senator O'Loughlin

The topic for the meeting was '**Consideration of Family Centered Practice and Parent Training Interventions**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- Representatives from Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, Matt Buttery, Chief Executive Officer
- Representatives from Parents Plus Charity, Cherie Tyner, Chief Executive Officer, Ciara Ni Raghallaigh, Special Needs Programme Co-Ordinator, Niamh Kerrigan, Parent

The Following Witness attended remotely through MS Teams:

- Representatives from Parents Plus Charity, Wayne Mc Sweeney, Parent

Change of Chair:

Deputy Tully took to the chair in place of Deputy Moynihan at 10:56 a.m.

Deputy Moynihan returned to the chair at 12.02 p.m.

Meeting Suspension

- The Meeting Suspended to allow time for change of Witnesses at 11:07 a.m.
- Meeting reconvened in public at 11:13 a.m.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Representatives from Health Service Executive (HSE), Bernard O'Regan, Head of Operations, Disability Services, Professor Malcolm MacLachlan, Clinical Lead for National Clinical Programme for People with Disability, Caroline Canton, National Programme Co-Ordinator, Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People & Angela O'Neill, National Disability Specialist, Community Operations

## **2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 12.45 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 01 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 01 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, John Paul Phelan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies were received from Deputy Holly Cairns and Senator Erin McGreehan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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 meeting adjourned at 15:54 p.m. and the next meeting will commence at 9.30am on Thursday 2 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 02 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9.32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Chathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan and Fiona O'Loughlin and Mary Seery Kearney

Other Member's attending: Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh

The topic for the meeting was ***'Public awareness of living with a disability'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Family Carers Ireland, Catherine Cox, Head of Communications and Carer Engagement & Jane Johnstone, Caring Employers Promotions Officer & Family Carer

**Meeting suspension:**

- Meeting was suspended at 9:32 a.m. due to technical difficulties.
- Reconvened in public at 9:32 a.m.
- Meeting suspended at 09:48 a.m. to allow change of Witnesses.
- Meeting reconvened in public at 10:58 a.m.

The following witnesses attended via MS Teams:

- Catherine Gallagher, PhD student and Disability Activist

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.54 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 08 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 08 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan and Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Deputy Dessie Ellis and Senator Fiona O'Loughlin

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

**6. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on 09 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 09 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Emer Higgins Michael Moynihan (Chathaoirleach) Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin, and Mary Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'Awareness Raising - Lived experience of congregated settings'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Inclusion Ireland, Derval McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer & Paul Alford, Advocacy Project Worker
- Representatives from Disability Federation of Ireland, Emer Begley, Director of Advocacy and Inclusion & Ríona Morris, Policy, and Research Officer
- Representatives from National Advocacy Service, Joanne Condon, Acting National Manager & Suzy Byrne, Greater Dublin Regional Manager
- Representatives from Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Barbara O'Connell, Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Karen Foley, Head of Service Operations

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 12.19 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 15 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), John Paul Phelan and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Fiona O'Loughlin, and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies were received from Deputy Neasa Hourigan

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

**6. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on 16 February 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, John Paul Phelan, and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin, and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Deputy Neasa Hourigan

The topic for the meeting was ***'Disability proofing and data'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from The Central Statistics Office, Cormac Halpin, Census Outputs Division, Kieran Culhane, Statistical System Coordination Unit & Fiona O'Riordan, Social Data Collection division
- Representatives from Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Dr Iris Elliot, Head of Policy, and Research

The following witnesses attended online via MS Teams

- Representatives from Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner
- Representatives from DPO Network, Jacqui Browne, Chair & Grace Murphy, member, Amy Hassett, member & Nem Kearns, member

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.59 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 22 February 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn and Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Deputy Cairns, Deputy Murnane O'Connor, Deputy Tully, Senator O'Loughlin, and Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3:15 p.m. on 01 March 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 01 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.15 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), John Paul Phelan and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Senator Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies were received from Deputy Cairns, Senator Clonan & Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 02 March 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 02 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:37 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Emer Higgins, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, John Paul Phelan, and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Senator Clonan & Senator O'Loughlin

The topic for the meeting was '**Accessing Justice (resumed)**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Irish Prison Service, Caron McCaffrey, Director General, Fergal Black, Director of Care & Rehabilitation, Dr. Emma Regan, Head of Psychology, Emer Campbell, Chief Nurse Officer & Mark McGoldrick, Principal Officer, Estates Directorate

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.35 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 08 March 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 08 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.22 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Neasa Hourigan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Senator Fiona O'Loughlin and Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Senator Clonan & Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 09 March 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 09 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:37 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Senator Clonan

The topic for the meeting was '***Self-Advocacy and Women with disabilities***'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Inclusion Ireland, Derval McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer & Una Coates, Spokesperson & Chairperson of Inclusion Ireland's Self Advocacy Committee

The following witnesses attended remotely via MS Teams:

- Eliona Gjecaj, Disability activist and researcher
- Representatives from Disabled Women Ireland, Amy Hassett, Co-director, Nem Kearns, Co-director & Sarah McNabb, Steering Group Member/ Campaigns Lead

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.58 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 22 March 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 22 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.15 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Seán Canney, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Senator Erin McGreehan and Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies were received from Deputy Ellis, Senator Clonan, Senator O'Loughlin, and Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 23 March 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 23 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Senator Clonan, Senator O'Loughlin, and Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was '***Inadequate personal assistance supports***'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI), Damien Walshe, Chief Executive Officer, Des Kenny, Chairperson & Shelly Gaynor, Peer Mentor
- Representatives from Health Service Executive (HSE), Yvonne O'Neill, National Director, Community Operations & Olive Hanley, Disability Services in Dublin North City and County
- Representatives from The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dr Eamonn Carroll, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

The following witness attended remotely via MS Teams:

- Representatives from The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dr Selina McCoy, Associate Research Professor in Social Research, and joint education research coordinator

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.56 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 29 March 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 29 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.17 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach), and Dessie Ellis.

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, and Fiona O'Loughlin.

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 30 March 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 30 MARCH 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:31 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin, and Mary Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'Leave no one behind: Climate crisis and disability supports'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Damien Walshe, Chief Executive & Peter Kearns, Onside Project Manager, Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI)
- Dr Robert Mooney, Assistant Principal, Climate Engagement and Adaption Division, Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications

The following witness attended remotely via MS Teams:

- Hannah Gilmartin, Assistant Principal, Climate Engagement and Adaption Division, Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.38 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 19 April 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 19 APRIL 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.19 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Seán Canney, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan and Fiona O'Loughlin.

Apologies: Dessie Ellis, Mary Seery Kearney, and Frankie Feighan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 30 March 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 20 APRIL 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach),  
Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin, and Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

**Note** - In Deputy Michael Moynihan's absence, Deputy Pauline Tully chaired the meeting.

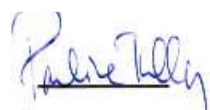
The topic for the meeting was '***The Rights-Based Approach and Disability Legislation***'.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from National Disability Authority, Dr Aideen Hartney, Director, Dr Rosalyn Tamming, Head of Policy, Research & Public Affairs & Mr Dharragh Hunt, Senior Policy Advisor

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.18 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 26 April 2023.



Pauline Tully T.D.  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 26 APRIL 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.19 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Fiona O'Loughlin

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 9.30 a.m. on 27 April 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 27 APRIL 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Brian Leddin

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Fiona O'Loughlin & Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

The topic for the meeting was '***The Rights-Based Approach and Disability Legislation***'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Colm Ó Conaill, Assistant Secretary, Disability & Youth, Niall Brunell, Principal Officer, Disability Equality Policy team, Jason Doran, Assistant Principal, Children's Services team & Eithne Fitzgerald, Disability Adviser, Disability & Youth Division
- Officials from Dept. of Education, Martina Mannion, Assistant Secretary, Martin McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Special Education, Frank Hanlon, Principal Officer, Special Education & Brendan Doody, Principal Officer, Special Education

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.37 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15pm on Wednesday 03 May 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 03 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.16 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Mary Seery Kearney

1. Item discussed in private session.
2. Item discussed in private session.
3. Item discussed in private session.

**4. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 10.00 a.m. on the 04 May 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 04 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 10:02 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Holly Cairns, Sean Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Brian Leddin

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Mary Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was '***Consideration of rights-based behaviour analysis and support***'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Irish Society for Behaviour Analysis, Alan Tennyson, Chair ISBA. Irish Behaviour Analyst & Amy O'Keefe, MSc. Irish Behaviour Analyst
- Representatives from Division of Behaviour Analysis, Psychological Society of Ireland, Dr Michelle Kelly, Chair DBA & Dr Teresa Mulhern, BCBA-D

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.37 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 10 May 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 10 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 2:15 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan,

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3:15 p.m. on the 17 May 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 11 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:35 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Deputy Cairns and Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was '**Disability Inclusive Social Protection**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Representatives from Rehab Group, Lucianne Bird, Director of Learning, Adrian Stewart, Head of Employability, and Michael Meere, Rehab Group Advocate, and student of National Learning Network
- Representative from Care Alliance Ireland, Zoe Hughes, Senior Policy & Research Officer

The following witness attended remotely via MS Teams:

- Representative from International Disability Alliance, Alradi Abdalla, Senior Training Officer
- Representatives from Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG, Prof. Eilionóir Flynn, Director

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.44 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 18 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) and Senator O'Loughlin

Deputy Tully chaired the public meeting in Deputy Moynihan's absence

The topic for the meeting was '**Disability Inclusive Social Protection (resumed)**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Officials from Dept. of Social Protection, Rónán Hession, Assistant Secretary General & Sarah Waters, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Denise Kennedy, Assistant Secretary General, Head of HR & Corporate Affairs, Kevin Galligan, Principal Officer & Colm McKiernan, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, John Maher, Principal Officer
- Officials from Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Patrick O'Sullivan, Principal Officer & Clare Naughton, Assistant Principal

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 12.05 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 24 May 2023.



Pauline Tully T.D.  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 24 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:19 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Senator Clonan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 09:30 a.m. on the 25 May 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 25 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Senator Clonan, and Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was '**Public awareness – living with a disability (resumed)**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Dylan Nelson
- Padraic Moran
- Saoirse Smith
- Ciaran Delaney
- Niamh Kilcawley

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.56 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 31 May 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 31 MAY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:22 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Cairns

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 09:30 a.m. on the 01 June 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 01 JUNE 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Brian Leddin, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Senator O'Loughlin and Senator Seery Kearney

Deputy Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach) chaired the meeting in the absence of Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach)

The topic for the meeting was ***'DPO's and the implementation of the UNCRPD (resumed)'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:


- Representatives from Disability Power Ireland, Maryam Madani, Chair/Founder & Peadar O'Dea, Policy Officer
- Representatives from DPO Network, Dr. James Casey, Independent Living Movement Ireland & John Sherwin, CEO, Irish Deaf Society
- Representatives from Physical Impairment Ireland (PII), Peter Gohery, National Chairperson & Leo Kavanagh, Member
- Representatives from Voice of Vision Impairment, Dr. Robert Sinnott, Co-Ordinator
- Frances Quan Farrant, Disability and Human Rights Advocate

The following witnesses attended via MS Teams:

- Representatives from DPO Network, Joe McGrath, National Platform for Self-Advocates

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 12.02 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 21 June 2023.



Pauline Tully T.D.  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 20 JUNE 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 1:13 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Cairns, Deputy Ellis, Deputy Feighan and Senator Clonan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. on the 21 June 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 28 JUNE 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:17 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Deputy Canney, Senator Clonan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 09:30 a.m. on the 29 June 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 29 JUNE 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:34 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Feighan, Senator Clonan, Deputy Higgins

The topic for the meeting was '**World Report on Hearing**'

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Irish Deaf Society, John Sherwin, CEO, Dr. John Bosco Conama, Board Director & Elaine Grehan, Advocacy manager

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 10.40 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 05 July 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 05 JULY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:19 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Senator Clonan

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

**6. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 09:30 a.m. on the 06 July 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 06 JULY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:32 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Mary Seery Kearney

Apologies: Senator Clonan, Senator O'Loughlin

The topic for the meeting was ***'Increasing employment participation – Career progression'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Officials from Dept. of Social Protection, Fiona Ward, Assistant Secretary, Employment Services, Tadgh O'Leary Principal Officer, Contracted Services & Annette Conroy Principal Officer, Employment Services Policy

The following witnesses attended remotely via MS Teams:

- Representatives from European Disability Forum, Haydn Hammersley, Social Policy Coordinator

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 10.57 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 12 July 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 12 JULY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Senator Mary Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 09:30 a.m. on the 13 July 2023.

*Michael Moynihan*

Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 13 JULY 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 9:31 a.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Senator Mary Seery Kearney

Other members or standing invitees: Deputy Thomas Gould

The topic for the meeting was ***'Increasing employment participation – self-employment and entrepreneurship for people with disabilities'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 4:

- Eddie Hennessy
- Representatives from Technological University Dublin, Prof. Thomas M. Cooney, Professor of Entrepreneurship
- Representatives from Access Earth, Matt McCann, Chief Executive Officer

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 11.33 a.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 06 September 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:18 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan  
(Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Senator Tom Clonan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 20 September 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Gary Gannon, Emer Higgins, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn

Apologies: Senator Erin McGreehan and Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'National Disability Inclusion Strategy (resumed)'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Disability Stakeholder Group (DSG), Renée Dempsey-Clifford, Independent Chair & Dharragh Hunt, Secretary to DSG
- Representatives from National Disability Authority, Dr. Aideen Hartney, Director & Dr Rosalyn Tamming, Head of Policy, Research and Public Affairs

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.26 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 2.45 pm on Wednesday 27 September 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 2:50 p.m. in Leinster House room GF04 with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies, Dessie Ellis, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas- Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 27 September 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was '**Accessibility**'.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Officials from Dept. of Transport, Garret Doocey, Assistant Secretary, Land Transport, John Boylan, Principal Officer, Public Transport & Akriti Brady, Assistant Principal, Accessibility and Rural Transport
- Representatives from National Transport Authority (NTA), Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer & Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.18 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 04 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 04 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:17 p.m. online via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies, Dessie Ellis, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan  
(Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Senators: Erin McGreehan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 04 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 04 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:37 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor,

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin,

Apologies: Deputy Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'Enhanced Transport and Mobility Support Options for People with Disabilities'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Anne Rabbitte, Minister of State at the Department of Health and at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Officials from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Tara Smith, Assistant Principal, Disability Equality Policy Unit & Donie O'Shea, Equality Policy Advisor

The following witness attended online via Ms Teams:

- Official from Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Deirdre Comiskey, Principal Officer, Disability Children's Services Unit

Meeting Suspension:

- Meeting was suspended 5:39 p.m. as the Minister was delayed.
- Meeting reconvened in public at 5:47 p.m.
- Meeting was suspended at 5:58 p.m. as a vote was called in the Dáil
- Meeting reconvened in public at 6:24 p.m.

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 8.01 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 11 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 11 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:15 p.m. online via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies, Dessie Ellis, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan  
(Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Senator Clonan, Senator Flynn, Senator O'Loughlin, and Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 11 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 11 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies: Senator Flynn, Senator O'Loughlin, and Senator Seery Kearney.

The topic for the meeting was ***'International co-operation: UNCRPD and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from CBM Global, Dualta Roughneen, CEO, & Mahbub Kabir, Advocacy Manager
- Representatives from Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, Michael Gaffey, Director-General, Dr Sarah Hunt, Director of Policy Unit and Anderson Finlay, First Secretary, Human Rights Unit, Political Division
- Official from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications, Fiona McManus, Assistant Principal

The following witness attended online via Ms Teams:

- Official from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications, Niall McLoughlin, Principal Officer

Change of Chair:

- Deputy Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach) took to the chair at 7.22 p.m. in place of Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach)

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.37 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 18 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 16 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 1:03 p.m. online via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan

Apologies were received from Deputy Canney & Senator Clonan

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

**5. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 3:15 p.m. on the 18 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:36 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Brian Leddin, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Murnane O'Connor, Senator Clonan, and Senator Seery Kearney

The topic for the meeting was ***'Implementing inclusive education in schools'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Officials from Dept. of Education, Martina Mannion, Assistant Secretary, Inclusion Division, Brendan Doody, Principal Officer, Frank Hanlon, Principal Officer, Martin McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Special Education Section, Jill Fannin, Principal Officer, Teacher Education Section & Gráinne Cullen, Principal Officer, Social Inclusion Unit

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.44 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Wednesday 25 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3:18 p.m. online via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies, Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies were received from Senator Clonan, Senator McGreehan, and Senator Seery Kearney

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 18 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 25 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Emer Higgins, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Tom Clonan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies: Deputy Canney, Senator Flynn & Senator McGreehan

The topic for the meeting was ***'Ensuring inclusive local and EU elections'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Disability Federation of Ireland, John Dolan, Chief Executive Officer & Joan Carthy
- Representatives from An Coimisiún Toghcháin, The Electoral Commission, Art O' Leary, Chief Executive & Dr Mary Clare O' Sullivan, Head of Electoral Integrity, and Research

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.13 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 4.00pm on Wednesday 08 November 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 25 OCTOBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 5:01 p.m. online via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Fiona O'Loughlin, Tom Clonan

Apologies were received from Deputy Canney, Senator Flynn & Senator McGreehan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 25 October 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 08 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 4:08 p.m. in room GF04 LH with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Cathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan

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

**6. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 08 November 2023.



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Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 08 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Gary Gannon, Emer Higgins, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

The topic for the meeting was ***'Rights based care for children with disabilities'***.

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Mental Health Commission, Dr John Hillery, Chairperson, John Farrelly, Chief Executive, & Professor Jim Lucey, Inspector of the Mental Health Services
- Representatives from Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Nuala Ward, Director of Investigations & Colm Leonard, Investigator
- Representatives from Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Carol Grogan, Chief Inspector of Social Services & Finbarr Colfer, Deputy Chief Inspector of Social Services

Change of Chair:

- 6:41 p.m. - Senator O'Loughlin took to the chair in place of Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach).
- 7:40 p.m. Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) returned to the chair.

Meeting Suspension:

- Meeting suspended at 7:15 p.m.
- Meeting reconvened in public at 7:40 p.m.

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 8.45 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 November 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 5:02 p.m. online via MS Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Erin McGreehan & Fiona O'Loughlin

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 15 November 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Other members or standing invitees: Senator Victor Boylan

The topic for the meeting was ***'Rights based care for children with disabilities' (resumed)***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Health Service Executive (HSE), David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations, Donan Kelly, Assistant National Director for Child and Youth Mental Health, Dr Amanda Burke, Child and Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist and National Clinical Lead for Child and Youth Mental Health, Bernard O'Regan, Head of Operations, Disability Services & Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6
- Representatives from Tusla, Kate Duggan, Chief Executive Officer, Pat Smyth, National Director for Finance and Corporate Services, Clare Murphy, Interim National Director of Services, and Integration

Change of Chair:

- 6:32 p.m. - Senator McGreehan took to the chair in place of Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach).
- 6:33 p.m. Senator O'Loughlin took to the chair in place of Senator McGreehan
- 6:47 p.m. Deputy Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) returned to the chair.

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7.32 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Wednesday 22 November 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan

Other members or standing invitees: Senator Victor Boylan

The topic for the meeting was ***‘Awareness Raising: Article 23 Respect for home and family life’***

The following witnesses attended online via MS Teams:

- Representatives from University of Galway, Professor Eilionóir Flynn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) & Emma Burns, researcher
- Representatives from Disabled Women Ireland, Nem Kearns, DWI Co-Director & Louise Milicevic, DWI Member and Parent Advocate

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 6.19 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 29 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 5:54 p.m. in Committee room 1 with a quorum present. The delay was due to several votes in the Dáil.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn

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

**5. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m., and the next meeting will be a private meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the 06 December 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 06 DECEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 5:00 p.m. via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Fiona O'Loughlin

Apologies have been received from Deputy Canney, Deputy Feighan and Senator McGreehan

2. Item discussed in private session.
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**

This meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 06 December 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 06 DECEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 5:36 p.m. with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Dessie Ellis, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas-Chathaoirleach),

Senators: Tom Clonan, Eileen Flynn, Erin McGreehan

Other members or standing invitees: Patricia Ryan T.D.

Apologies have been received from Deputy Canney, Deputy Feighan and Senator O'Loughlin

The topic for the meeting was ***'Planning for inclusive communities'***

The following witnesses attended in Committee room 1:

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI), Fiona Weldon, ILMI Capacity Officer
- Representatives from St Joseph's Foundation, Michael Hegarty, Chief Executive Officer, David Doyle, Development Manager & Niamh O' Shea, CDNM / Occupational Therapy Manager
- Representatives from Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, Una Nagle, Interim Chief Executive

The following witnesses attended online via MS Teams:

- Representatives from Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI), Claire Kenny, ILMI Policy Assistant
- Representatives from Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, Eamon Loughrey, Director of Services, West Region

Change of Chair:

- Due to a voting bloc in the Dáil, Senator Tom Clonan took the chair in place of Deputy Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) at 6:26 p.m.
- Senator Eileen Flynn took to the chair in place of Senator Tom Clonan at 6:52 p.m.
- Deputy Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach) returned to the chair at 7:23 p.m.

Suspension:

- Meeting suspended at 7:02 p.m.
- Meeting reconvened in Public at 7:23 p.m.

**2. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 06 December 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D., Cathaoirleach

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY MATTERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING 13 DECEMBER 2023**

The Joint Committee met in private session at 5:01 p.m. via Ms Teams with a quorum present.

**1. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Dessie Ellis, Frankie Feighan, Michael Moynihan (Cathaoirleach), Pauline Tully (Leas Chathaoirleach)

Senators: Tom Clonan, Erin McGreehan, Fiona O'Loughlin

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

**6. Adjournment**

This meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on the 17 January 2023.



Michael Moynihan T.D.,  
Cathaoirleach