



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

**AN COISTE UM OIDEACHAS, BREISOIDEACHAS AGUS ARDOIDEACHAS,
TAIGHDE, NUÁLAÍOCHT AGUS EOLAÍOCHT**

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION,
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

33/ES/04

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1. Content and Format of Report

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 100 (3), (4), (5) and (6), (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 76 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Seanad Éireann) which provide for the Joint Committee to-

- undertake a review of its procedure and its role generally;
- prepare an annual work programme;
- lay minutes of its proceedings before both Houses;
- make an annual report to both Houses.

At its meeting on the 14th January 2021, the Joint Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this report covering the period from 30th September 2020 to 31st December 2020.

2. Establishment and Functions

2.1. Establishment of the Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of the 30th 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 Department on Education and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The Select Committee may also consider Annual Output Statements, Value for Money Reviews and Policy Reviews prepared by the relevant Government Departments.

2.2 Establishment of the Joint Committee

The Dáil Select Committee, under the same Order, was enjoined with a Select Committee of Seanad Éireann, established by Order of Seanad Éireann of the 18th September 2020 to form the Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

2.3 Functions of the Joint Committee

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

- public affairs administered by the Department of Education and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

- matters of policy for which the Minister of Education and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science are responsible;
- legislative and expenditure proposals of the Departments;
- EU legislative proposals; and
- certain matters relating to bodies under the aegis of the Department on Education and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The Orders of Reference of the Dáil Select Committee and the Joint Committee are set out at *Appendix 1*.

3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership

Dáil Standing Order 104 (2) provides for a proportion of Chairs to be allocated to each group by means of the D'Hondt System. Deputy Paul Kehoe was appointed as Chairman of the Select Committee on 3rd September 2020 by an Order of Dáil Éireann. The Chairman of the Select Committee is also the Chairman of the Joint Committee. Senator Fiona O'Loughlin was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on the 8th October 2020.

Membership of the Committee is listed at *Appendix 2*.

4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording

Meetings of the Joint Committee and Select Committee took place in the Committee rooms in Leinster House 2000. Meetings were in public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee.

Committee proceedings were broadcast live within Leinster House and also made available to RTE, TV3 and TG4. Proceedings were also live streamed on our website and through our app. Since September 2014 the proceedings of Committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are broadcast on the dedicated parliamentary channel Oireachtas TV which is available on these channels:

- Saorview 22, Sky 517, Virgin Media 207, Eir Vision 504
- Vodafone Channels 201, 207 (Dáil Éireann) and 208 (Seanad Éireann)

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Committee may be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at www.oireachtas.ie.

Copies of other reports published by the Joint Committee are also available on the Oireachtas Committee website pages at www.oireachtas.ie. A list of these reports is set out at paragraph 7.

5. Number and Duration of Meetings

5.1 Joint Committee

The Joint Committee met on 13 occasions during the period under report. The number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was in excess of 22 hours.

The subject matter of each meeting of the Joint Committee, including the groups, organisations or individuals who attended the meetings, is detailed in Appendix 3. The Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee in public session are attached at Appendix 4.

5.2 Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee met 2 times during the period under report and the number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was in excess of 2 hours.

The subject matter of each meeting and who attended the meetings of the Select Committee, is detailed in *Appendix 5*. The proceedings (Imeachtaí) of the Select Committee are attached at *Appendix 6*.

6. Witnesses attending before the Committee(s)

During the period, the number of speaking witnesses for each of the Committees was as follows:

COMMITTEE NAME	NUMBER OF WITNESSES
Joint Committee	36
Select Committee	0

7. Committee Reports Published

During the period under report, the Joint Committee published the following report:

- 2020 Work Programme.

8. Travel

The Joint Committee did not undertake any travel during the period covered.

9. EU Mainstreaming

Legislative Proposals

From September to December 2020, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 2 meetings involving consideration of 3 legislative proposals, as follows:

- COM(2020) 146 - Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF/2020/000 TA 2020 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission);
- COM(2020) 206 - Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards the resources for the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative;
- COM(2020) 275 - Proposal for a Council recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience {SWD(2020) 123 final};
- COM(2020) 447 - Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+); and
- COM(2020) 485 - Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Spain – EGF/2020/001 ES/Galicia shipbuilding ancillary sectors

No further action was taken on the proposals:

10. Report on Functions and Powers

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Kehoe", enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Mr. Paul Kehoe T.D.
Chairman
14th January 2021

APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

Scope and Context of Activities of Committees (derived from Standing Orders – DSO 94 (2), SSO 70)

- a) The Joint Committee may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders;
- b) such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Dáil/and or Seanad;
- c) the Joint Committee shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Committee of Public Accounts pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 218/Seanad Standing Order 186 and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993;
- d) the Joint Committee shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Joint Committee on Public Petitions in the exercise of its functions under Dáil Standing Order 125(1)/Seanad Standing Order 108(1); and
- e) the Joint Committee shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
 - (i) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
 - (ii) the principal office-holder of a body under the aegis of a Department or which is partly or wholly funded by the State or established or appointed by a member of the Government or by the Oireachtas:

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

It shall be an instruction to all Select Committees to which Bills are referred that they shall ensure that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day, unless the Dáil, after due notice given by the Chairman of the Select Committee, waives this instruction on motion made by the Taoiseach pursuant to Standing Order 35. The Chairmen of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.

Functions of Departmental Committees (derived from Standing Orders – DSO 95 and SSO 71)

(1) The Select Committee shall consider and report to the Dáil on-

- (a) such aspects of the expenditure, administration and policy of a Government Department or Departments and associated public bodies as the Committee may select, and
- (b) European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department or Departments.

(2) The Select Committee may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann for the purposes of the functions set out in this Standing Order, other than at paragraph (3), and to report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments, such—

- (a) Bills,
- (b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Dáil Standing Order 220,
- (c) Estimates for Public Services, and
- (d) other matters

as shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil, and

- (e) Annual Output Statements including performance, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public moneys, and
- (f) such Value for Money and Policy Reviews as the Select Committee may select.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee may consider the following matters in respect of the relevant Department or Departments and associated public bodies:

- (a) matters of policy and governance for which the Minister is officially responsible,
- (b) public affairs administered by the Department,
- (c) policy issues arising from Value for Money and Policy Reviews conducted or commissioned by the Department,
- (d) Government policy and governance in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department,
- (e) policy and governance issues concerning bodies which are partly or wholly funded by the State or which are established or appointed by a member of the Government or the Oireachtas,
- (f) the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill
- (g) scrutiny of private members' Bills in accordance with Dáil Standing Order 178, or detailed scrutiny of private members' Bills in accordance with Dáil Standing Order 161

- (h) any post-enactment report laid before either House or both Houses by a member of the Government or Minister of State on any Bill enacted by the Houses of the Oireachtas,
- (i) statutory instruments, including those laid or laid in draft before either House or both Houses and those made under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009,
- (j) strategy statements laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas pursuant to the Public Service Management Act 1997,
- (k) annual reports or annual reports and accounts, required by law, and laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, of the Department or bodies referred to in subparagraphs (d) and (e) and the overall performance and operational results, statements of strategy and corporate plans of such bodies, and
- (l) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.

(5) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments—

- (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Dáil Standing Order 133/Seanad Standing Order 116, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,
- (b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action,
- (c) non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, and
- (d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.

(6) Where the Select Committee has been joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, the Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.

(7) The following may attend meetings of the Select or Joint Committee, for the purposes of the functions set out in paragraph (5) and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:

- (a) members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,
- (b) members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
- (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other members of the European Parliament.

(8) The Joint Committee may, in respect of any Ombudsman charged with oversight of public services within the policy remit of the relevant Department or Departments, consider—

- (a) such motions relating to the appointment of an Ombudsman as may be referred to the Committee, and

(a) (b) such Ombudsman reports laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas as the Committee may select: Provided that the provisions of

Dáil Standing Order 130/Seanad Standing Order 113 apply where the Select Committee has not considered the Ombudsman report, or a portion or portions thereof, within two months (excluding Christmas, Easter or summer recess periods) of the report being laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas.

Powers of Committees (derived from Standing Orders – DSO 96, 133 and 135 and SSO 71, 116 and 118)

The Joint Committee has: -

(1) power to take oral and written evidence and to print and publish from time to time minutes of such evidence taken in public before the Select Committee together with such related documents as the Select Committee thinks fit;

(2) power to invite and accept oral presentations and written submissions from interested persons or bodies;

(3) power to send for persons, papers and records (see also DSO 99/SSO 76);

(4) power to appoint sub-Committees and to refer to such sub-Committees any matter comprehended by its orders of reference and to delegate any of its powers to such sub-Committees, including power to report directly to the Dáil;

(5) power to draft recommendations for legislative change and for new legislation;

(6) power to examine any statutory instrument, including those laid or laid in draft before either House or both Houses and those made under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009, and to recommend, where it considers that such action is warranted, whether the instrument should be annulled or amended;

(7) for the purposes of paragraph (6), power to require any Government Department or instrument-making authority concerned to submit a Memorandum to the Select Committee explaining any statutory instrument under consideration or to attend a meeting of the Select Committee for the purpose of explaining any such statutory instrument: Provided that such Department or authority may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil;

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

(9) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee to discuss proposed primary or secondary legislation (prior to such legislation being published) for which he or she is officially responsible: Provided that a member of the Government or Minister of State may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil: and provided further that a member of the Government or Minister of State may request to attend a meeting of the Select Committee to enable him or her to discuss such proposed legislation;

(10) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee and provide, in private session if so requested by the member of the Government or Minister of State, oral briefings in advance of meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers to enable the Select Committee to make known its views: Provided that the Committee may also require such attendance following such meetings;

(11) power to require that the Chairperson designate of a body or agency under the aegis of a Department shall, prior to his or her appointment, attend before the Select Committee to discuss his or her strategic priorities for the role;

(12) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State who is officially responsible for the implementation of an Act shall attend before a Select Committee in relation to the consideration of a report under Standing Order 197;

(13) subject to any constraints otherwise prescribed by law, power to require that principal office-holders in bodies in the State which are partly or wholly funded by the State or which are established or appointed by members of the Government or by the Oireachtas shall attend meetings of the Committee, as appropriate, to discuss issues for which they are officially responsible: Provided that such an office-holder may decline to attend for stated reasons given in writing to the Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil;

(14) power to engage, subject to the consent of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and

(15) power to undertake travel, subject to—

- (a) such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under DSO 120(4)(a) and SSO 107(4)(a); and
- (b) the consent of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, and normal accounting procedures.

In accordance with Articles 6 of Protocol No. 2 to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (*Protocol on the Application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality*) as applied by sections 7(3) of the European Union Act 2009, the Committee has the power to-

- (a) consider whether any act of an institution of the European Union infringes the principle of subsidiarity (DSO 135; SSO 118); and
- (b) form a reasoned opinion that a draft legislative act (within the meaning of Article 3 of the said Protocol) does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity (DSO 133 and SSO 116).

APPENDIX 2: Membership

List of Members of the Joint Committee

(The Select Committee membership comprises of Deputies only)

Deputies: Rose Conway-Walsh (SF)
 Alan Farrell (FG)
 Paul Kehoe (FG) (Chair)
 Carol Nolan (I)
 Jim O’Callaghan (FF)
 Marc O Cathasaigh (GP)
 Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire (SF)
 Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (LP)
 Pádraig O’Sullivan (FF)

Senators: Aisling Dolan (FG)
 Eileen Flynn (I)
 Rónán Mullen (I)
 Fiona O’Loughlin (FF) (Vice-Chair)
 Pauline O’Reilly (GP)

Notes:

1. Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil of 31st July 2020.
2. Senators nominated by the Seanad Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Seanad on 16th September 2020.
3. Senator Fiona O’Loughlin elected as Vice-Chair on 8th October 2020.

APPENDIX 3: 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	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J1. 30/09/2020	Private Meeting	N/A
J2. 07/10/2020	Private Meeting	N/A
J3. 08/10/2020	<p>PART 1 Briefing on parts of the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2020, under the remit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.</p> <p>PART 2: Key Priorities of the Minister on the effects of Covid 19 on (a) 2020 admissions and reopening/delivery of courses in Further and Higher Education Institutions; (b) Future Funding and Reforms in Further and Higher Education, to include Apprenticeships and (c) proposed National Strategies for Research, Innovation and Science.</p>	<p>Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Simon Harris, TD, Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science • Mr. Niall Collins, TD. Minister of State with Responsibility for Skills and Further Education.
J4. 15/10/2020	Progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Interim report on the Use of Reduced Timetables in Schools , with specific reference to (a) the proposed Guidelines for Schools and (b) the effects of Covid 19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials from the Department of Education.

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J5. 05/11/2020	School Bullying with specific reference to Cyber Bullying and Internet Security during Covid 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, Dublin City University</i>
J6. 10/11/2020	2020 Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades and Preparations for 2021 Leaving Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Officials from the Department of Education</i>
J7. 12/11/2020	Motion: Technological Universities Act 2018 (Section 36) (Appointed Day) Order 2020	<p><i>Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Simon Harris, TD, Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</i> • <i>Mr. Niall Collins, TD. Minister of State with Responsibility for Skills and Further Education.</i>
J8. 17/11/2020	Key priorities for the Department of Education, and, specifically, the effects of Covid 19 on (a) Special Needs Provision; (b) Educational Disadvantage; (c) Class Room Size and current Pupil/Teacher Ratios; (d) Children and Youth Mental Health; (e) 2020 Leaving Certificate (LC) Calculated Grades and 2021 LC Preparations; (f) Digital Learning; (g) Ensuring Schools are open in a Safe and Sustainable Way and (h) the circumstances surrounding the recall of hand sanitizing products from some schools	<p><i>Department of Education:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Norma Foley TD., Minister for Education</i> • <i>Ms. Josepha Madigan TD., Minister of State with Responsibility for Special Education and Inclusion</i> • <i>Officials from the Department of Education</i>
J9. 19/11/2020	Ensuring that Schools are open in a manner which is both Safe and Sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from Association of Secondary Teachers (ASTI); FÓRSA; Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO); and Teachers Union of Ireland(TUI).</i>

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J10. 26/11/2020	Ensuring that Schools are open in a manner which is both Safe and Sustainable (Resumed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative from National Parents Council (Primary); National Parents Council (Post Primary); and Irish Second–Level Students' Union.</i>
J11. 03/12/2020	<p>Session 1: The effects of Covid 19 on Higher Education Institutions, and specifically (a) admissions and reopening of Universities/delivery of courses; (b) funding and (c) future reforms</p> <p>Session 2: The effects of Covid 19 on Higher Education Institutions, and specifically (a) admissions and reopening of Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities/delivery of courses; (b) funding and (c) future reforms</p>	<p>Session 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from Irish Universities Association (IUA)</i> <p>Session 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)</i>
J12. 10/12/2020	The effects of Covid 19 on Further Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative from SOLAS; Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); and City of Dublin Education and Training Board</i>
J13. 17/12/2020	<p>Session 1: Marginalised students in primary and post primary DEIS Schools and other settings</p> <p>Session 2: Early School Leavers and the role of alternative education</p>	<p>Session 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative from DCU Educational Disadvantage Centre</i> <p>Session 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from Cork Life Centre</i>

APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 10:34 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhan Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Rónán Mullen, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly.

Public Session

3. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Chair stated to the Committee Members that it was a great honour to be appointed as Chair to the Committee.

He stated that he looked forward to working with all Members in a genuine spirit of partnership and co-operation. He stated that he was confident that Members will bring their combined skills and enthusiasm to bear and make it a highly productive committee that discharges its functions in an efficient and enlightened way.

He then welcomed all the Members and, particularly, the newly elected Members of the Dáil and Seanad.

He paid tribute to the members of the former Committee on Education & Skills who brought their own experiences and knowledge to the workings of the Committee and expressed the hope that this Committee will be equally effective. He anticipated that this committee will refer to and build on the last valuable work carried out by that Committee who identified key issues in education that need to be addressed.

He referred to how Ireland and the wider world has fundamentally changed since the last Committee was dissolved and how everybody has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and lives altered in ways unimaginable only a short time ago. In addition, the UK is due to leave the EU on 31 December this year, in what may be a no deal scenario. He stated that he strongly believes that education at all levels will face significant challenges to continue to provide world class educational opportunities to all students who face a very different future both in how they learn and then ultimately progress on to meaningful job opportunities or retrain at a later stage in life.

He stated it is imperative to continue to provide the crucial educational supports needed for those who have special needs or because of their circumstances, are at risk of being

educationally disadvantaged.

He noted that education has a hugely important role in the area of young people's mental health. He stated it has never been more important than in this Covid emergency that schools, further and higher education institutions all play an important part in educating young people on positive mental health and equally on preventative measures to assist those young people who are at serious risk because of mental health issues.

He referred to the digital age and that that research, innovation and science will play a pivotal role in shaping all our futures and particularly in a small open economy like Ireland. He noted that Ireland has a distinct advantage in having a highly educated work force and we must ensure that remains the case. In this regard, it will be important to work in solidarity with our European partners and internationally to further develop our research and innovation capacity.

He expressed the hope that the collective endeavours of the Committee will feed into and support the efforts of both Ministers, to secure Ireland's reputation as a country that truly values and supports education and science, research and innovation.

Finally, he stated that he will try to be as fair and impartial as he can to all Members of the Committee. He stated that he believes strongly that a united approach where all members contribute and feel their efforts are worthwhile will yield the best results.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Members will submit nominations to the Clerk for the position of Vice-Chairman for onward transmission to the chairman.

It was further agreed that the Committee will elect the Vice Chairman at the next meeting in public session on Thursday, 8 October next.

The Committee went into Private session at 10:40a.m.

Private Session

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

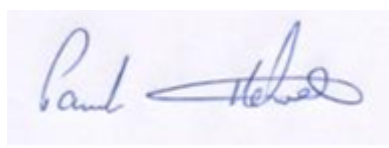
7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:53 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. on 7th October 2020.



Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
7th October 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2020**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 11.33 a.m. on Microsoft teams, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhan Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Rónán Mullen, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly.

Private Session

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

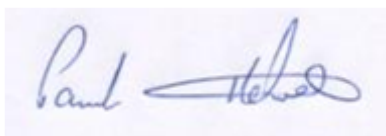
5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12:16 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on 8th October 2020.



**Paul Kehoe,
Chairman,
15th October 2020**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8TH OCTOBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 11.30 a.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Jim O’Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O’Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Rónán Mullen, Fiona O’Loughlin and Pauline O’Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Alan Farrell.

Senator Malcolm Byrne substituted for Fiona O’Loughlin for part of the meeting.

Public Session

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 7TH OCTOBER 2020**

The Minutes of the Meeting on 7th October 2020 were agreed.

4. **NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chair had sought nominations from Committee Members for Vice Chair of the Committee at a private meeting, on 7 October 2020.

Nominations had been made as follows:

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD nominated Deputy Rosemary Conway Walsh and Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD seconded the nomination.

Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD nominated Senator Pauline O’Reilly and Paul Kehoe TD seconded the nomination.

Jim O’Callaghan TD nominated Senator Fiona O’Loughlin and Pádraig O’Sullivan TD seconded the nomination.

The Chair noted that Senator Pauline O’Reilly had withdrawn her candidature for the position.

As there was more than one nomination for the position of Vice – Chairman, the Chair dealt with the nominations in the order in which he received them by Voice Vote.

He put the question ‘that Deputy_Rose Conway Walsh be elected vice - Chairman of the Committee. The question was lost.

He then put the question ‘that Senator Fiona O’Loughlin be elected vice - Chairman of the

Committee'. The question was carried.
Senator O'Loughlin was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Committee. .

He congratulated Senator O'Loughlin and said he was sure they would work together very constructively.

5. EU SCRUTINY

The Committee agreed that COMs(2020) 146, 206, 275 and 447 warrant no further Scrutiny.

6. MEETING WITH THE MINISTER SIMON HARRIS, T.D., MINISTER FOR FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AND MR. NIALL COLLINS, TD, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION

The Chair welcomed Minister Simon Harris, T.D., Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and Mr. Niall Collins, TD, Minister of State for Skills and Further Education and their Officials to the meeting, regarding:

PART 1: Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2020, under the remit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

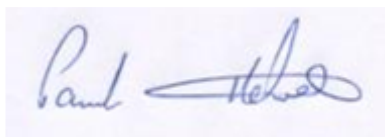
PART 2: Discussion on the Minister's key priorities and, specifically the effects of Covid 19 on (a) 2020 admissions and reopening/delivery of courses in Further and Higher Education Institutions; (b) future funding and reforms at both levels, to include apprenticeships and Traineeships and (c) proposed national strategies for research, innovation and science

The Minister made his Opening Statement and this was followed by a question and answering session with the Committee.

At the conclusion of the engagement, the Chair thanked the Ministers and their Officials for their attendance and valuable contributions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the Committee adjourned at 1.24p.m. until Thursday, 15th October 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in private.



Mr Paul Keogh TD
Chairman
15th October 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 15TH OCTOBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 10:41 a.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Carol Nolan, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Senator Lynne Ruane attended in substitution for Senator Eileen Flynn who sent her apologies.

Private Session

3. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**
4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**
5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **SUSPENSION**

The Committee suspended at 10.59 a.m. until 11.31 a.m. when it resumed in Public Session.

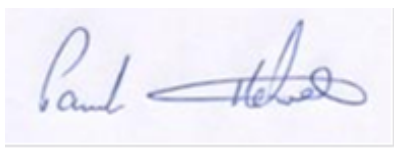
7. **MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS**

The Joint Committee met Ms. Mary Cregg, Principal Officer, Social Inclusion and Mr. Eddy Ward, Principal Officer, Special Needs, both from the Department of Education, who briefed the Committee on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Interim report on the Use of Reduced Time Tables in Schools with specific reference to (a) the proposed Guidelines for Schools and (b) the effects of Covid 19.

The Chairman thanked Officials for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.09 p.m. until 10.30 am on Thursday 5th November 2020.



Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman

5th November 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 10:32 a.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Ronan Mullen, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputy Carol Nolan

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. SUSPENSION

The Committee suspended at 10.44 a.m. until 11.32 a.m. when it resumed in Public Session.

Public Session

9. EU PROPOSAL

It was agreed, on the public record, that COM(2020)485, a Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Spain – EGF/2020/001 ES/Galicia shipbuilding ancillary sectors, did not warrant further scrutiny.

10. MEETING WITH ACADEMIC STAFF FROM NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING RESOURCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

The Joint Committee met Dr. Angela Mazzone, Psychologist and Post-Doctoral Researcher in Anti-Bullying Studies; Dr. Seline Keating, Assistant Professor in Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) & Research Fellow in Anti-Bullying Studies; and Dr. Tijana Milosevic, Marie Curie Elite-S Post-Doctoral Fellow; remotely, all from the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, Dublin City University.

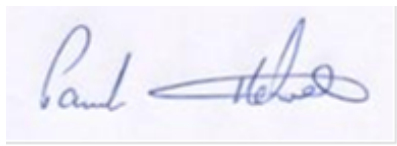
They then briefed the Committee on School Bullying with specific reference to cyber bullying and internet security during Covid 19.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it would

inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.35 p.m. until 1.30 pm on Tuesday, 10th November 2020 in public session.

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Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
17th November 2020

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 1.33 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Carol Nolan, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Also in attendance was Senator Mary Seery Kearney.

Public Session

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5TH NOVEMBER 2020**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th November 2020 were agreed.

4. **BRIEFING WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON EDUCATION ON THE 2020 LEAVING CERTIFICATE CALCULATED GRADES AND 2021 LEAVING CERTIFICATE PREPARATIONS.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, Department of Education; Mr. Dalton Tattan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Education and Ms. Andrea Feeney, CEO-Designate, State Examinations Commission, and former Director, Calculated Grades Executive Office, Department of Education

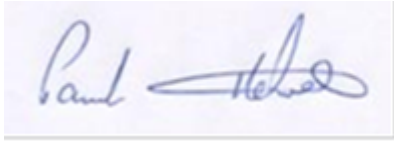
The Officials were present to brief the Joint Committee on the 2020 Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades. and, specifically, (a) The Calculated Grades Process;(b) Measures that are in place to review the Process and to indemnify students who were wrongly graded; and (c) Preparations for 2021 Leaving Certificate (a) the 2020 Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades and (b) 2021 Leaving Certificate Preparations.

Mr. Tatton made an opening statement, followed by a question and answer session.

On conclusion, the Chair thanked the Officials for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.28 p.m. until 1.20 pm on Thursday, 12th November 2020.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to read "Paul Kehoe".

Mr Paul Kehoe TD

Chairman

17th November 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 1.24 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Alan Farrell, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Public Session

3. **MEETING WITH MR. SIMON HARRIS TD, MINISTER FOR FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AND MR. NIALL COLLINS TD, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION.**

The Chairman welcomed the Minister and Minister of State.

He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider a Dáil and Seanad Motion: 'That Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann approves the following Order in draft *Technological Universities Act 2018 (Section 36) (Appointed Day) Order 2020*'

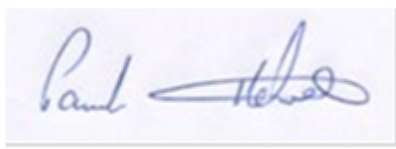
Minister Harris made an opening statement, and this was followed by a question and answer session with the Committee.

On conclusion, the Chair stated, that *in accordance with Dáil Standing Order 87 and Seanad Standing Order 75, the following message would be sent to the Clerks of the Dáil and Seanad*

The Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science has completed its consideration of the following motion:

That Dáil and Seanad Éireann approves the following Order in draft: Technological Universities Act 2018 (Section 36)(Appointed Day) Order 2020

The Committee adjourned at 1.41 p.m. until 1.30 pm on Tuesday, 17 November 2020



Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
17th November 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 1.33 p.m. in Committee Room 3, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Carol Nolan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O’Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Fiona O’Loughlin and Pauline O’Reilly

Also in attendance was Senator Mary Seery Kearney.

Apologies received from Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire and Senator Eileen Flynn

Public Session

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 10TH AND 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Meetings of the 10th and 12th November 2020 were agreed.

4. BRIEFING WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON KEY PRIORITY ISSUES AND THE IMPACT OF COVID 19.

The Joint Committee met Ms. Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education, and Ms .Josephine Madigan TD, Minister of State for Special Needs and Inclusion, on the Ministers key priorities, and, specifically, the effects of Covid 19 on (a) Special Needs Provision; (b) Educational Disadvantage; (c) Class Room Size and current Pupil/Teacher Ratios; (d) Children and Youth Mental Health; (e) 2020 Leaving Certificate (LC) Calculated Grades and 2021 LC Preparations (f) Digital Learning; (g) Ensuring Schools are open in a Safe and Sustainable Way and (h) the circumstances surrounding the recall of hand sanitizing products from some schools.

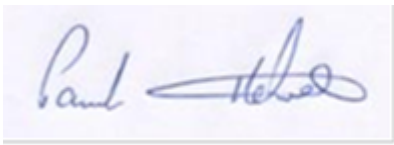
The Chair welcomed the Minister, Minister of State and the Officials to the meeting.

The Minister made an opening statement, and this was followed by a question and answer session with the Committee.

At the conclusion, the Chair thanked the Minister and Minister of State for the beneficial engagement and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.32 p.m. until 10.30 am on Thursday, 19th November 2020.

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Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
19th November 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 19TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 10:45 a.m. virtually through Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Jim O’Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O’Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Ronan Mullen, Fiona O’Loughlin and Pauline O’Reilly

Private Session

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
5. ITEM DISCUSSES IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. SUSPENSION

The Committee suspended at 10.57 a.m. until 11.31 a.m. when it resumed in Public Session.

Public Session

7. MEETING TO DISCUSS ENSURING SCHOOLS ARE OPEN IN A MANNER WHICH IS BOTH SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE.

The Joint Committee met Mr. Kieran Christine, General Secretary, Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland (ASTI); Mr. Andy Pike, Head of Education, Fórsa; Mr. John Boyle, General Secretary, Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) and Mr. Michael Gillespie, General Secretary, Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI).

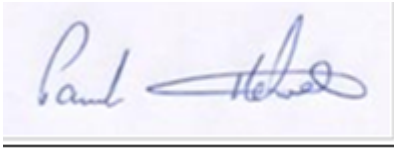
The witnesses made a 2-minute Opening Statement each on the topic of “*Ensuring Schools are open in a manner which is both Safe and Sustainable*”. This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

It was also agreed that the Clerk will write to the Clerk of the Health Committee, proposing that the Department of Health and the HSE regularly provide comprehensive statistical information and data on Covid 19 rates in primary and secondary schools, to the relevant educational stake holders, as an urgent priority. It will ask the Health Committee to assist in progressing this proposal as expeditiously as possible. The Ministers for Education and Health will be copied on the correspondence.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.38 p.m. until 11.30 am on Thursday, 26th November 2020.

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Mr Paul Kehoe TD

Chairman

26th November 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 11:33 a.m. in CR2, LH200, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, , Jim O'Callaghan, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Ronan Mullen, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputy Carol Nolan and Senator Eileen Flynn.

Public Session

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting on 19th November 2020 were agreed.

4. MEETING TO DISCUSS ENSURING SCHOOLS ARE OPEN IN A MANNER WHICH IS BOTH SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE.

The Joint Committee met Ms. Áine Lynch, CEO, National Parents Council (Primary); Ms Mai Fanning, President, National Parents Council (Post Primary) and Mr. Reuban Murray, President, Union of Secondary School Ireland

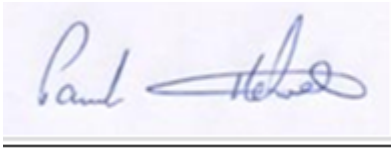
The witnesses made individual Opening Statements on Ensuring Schools are open in a manner which is both Safe and Sustainable. This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

The Vice Chairman chaired the meeting from 12.52 pm till the adjournment, as the Chairman had to attend urgent business in Dáil Éireann.

The Vice Chairman thanked the witnesses for the insightful and beneficial discussion and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.32 p.m. until 10.30 am on Thursday, 3rd December 2020.

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Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
3rd December 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 3RD DECEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 10:38 a.m. virtually through Microsoft Teams , a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Alan Farrell, Carol Nolan, Jim O’Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh and Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Ronan Mullen and Fiona O’Loughlin.

Senator Malcolm Byrne attended in part substitution for Senator Fiona O’Loughlin.

Also in attendance was Deputy Cathal Crowe.

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. SUSPENSION

The Committee suspended at 10.54 a.m. until 11.35 a.m. when it resumed in Public Session.

Public Session

SESSION 1

8. MEETING WITH THE IRISH UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION (IUA)

The Joint Committee met Mr. Jim Miley, Director General, Irish Universities Association; Ms. Lisa Keating, Director of Research, Irish Universities Association; Dr. Patrick Prendergast, Provost, Trinity College Dublin and Professor Ciarán Ó hOgartaigh, President, National University of Ireland Galway. Professor Ó hOgartaigh was a virtual witness.

Dr. Prendergast than made an Opening Statement to the Committee on the effects of Covid 19 on Higher Education Institutions, and specifically, (a) admissions and reopening of Universities/delivery of courses; (b) funding and (c) future reforms

This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it would inform the Committee in its consideration of the issue.

The Witnesses withdrew.

9. SUSPENSION

The Committee suspended at 12.43 p.m. until 12.46 p.m. to allow witnesses to take their seats.

SESSION 2

10. MEETING WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY (THEA)

The Joint Committee met Dr. Joseph Ryan, CEO; Technological Higher Education Authority (THEA); Professor Vincent Cunnane, President, Limerick Institute of Technology and Chair of THEA; Mr Paul Hannigan, President of Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Dr Patricia Mulcahy, President of Institute of Technology Carlow and Deputy Chair of THEA.

Dr. Ryan then made an Opening Statement to the Committee on the effects of Covid 19 on Higher Education Institutions, and specifically, (a) admissions and reopening of Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities/delivery of courses; (b) funding and (c) future reforms

This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

Senator Aisling Dolan, with the agreement of the Committee, took the Chair at 12.48 pm as the Chairman had to travel to the Convention Centre.

Senator Malcolm Byrne asked that it be noted that future funding of higher education institutions must be a key priority for the Joint Committee.

The temporary Chairman thanked the witnesses for the comprehensive briefing and noted the discussions today had given the Committee a very clear insight into the key issues and concerns for the higher education sector.

The Witnesses withdrew.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.29 p.m. until 11.30 am on Thursday, 10th December 2020.

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Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
10th December 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10TH DECEMBER 2020

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 11:34 a.m. in virtually through Microsoft Teams , a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Carol Nolan, Jim O'Callaghan, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Ronan Mullen Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Alan Farrell.

Public Session

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 3RD DECEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting on 3rd December 2020 was agreed.

4. MEETING TO DISCUSS THE EFFECTS OF COVID 19 ON FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND SPECIFICALLY (A) ADMISSIONS AND REOPENING OF COLLEGES AND TRAINING CENTRES/DELIVERY OF COURSES; (B) FUNDING AND (C) FUTURE REFORMS.

The Joint Committee welcomed Mr. Andrew Brownlee, CEO, SOLAS; Ms. Cróna Gallagher, Director of Further Education and Training, Donegal Education and Training Board, representing Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) and Ms. Carol Hanney, CEO, City of Dublin Education and Training Board.

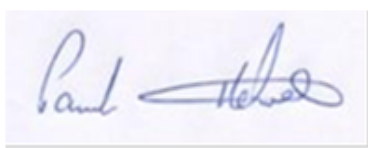
The witnesses briefed the Committee on the effects of Covid 19 on Further Education and Training, and specifically (a) admissions and reopening of colleges and training centres/delivery of courses; (b) funding and (c) future reforms."

This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for the comprehensive briefing and noted that it was very informative for the Committee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.02 p.m. until 10.30 am on Thursday, 17th December 2020.



Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
17th December 2020

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE.
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17TH DECEMBER 2020**

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 10:37 a.m. in virtually through Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Rose Conway-Walsh, Carol Nolan, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig O'Sullivan.

Senators: Aisling Dolan, Eileen Flynn, Ronan Mullen, Fiona O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputy Alan Farrell.

Deputy Thomas Gould attended in substitution for Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh, Deputy Colm Burke attended in substitution for Deputy Alan Farrell and Deputy Aindrias Moynihan attended in substitution for Deputy Jim O'Callaghan.

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. **SUSPENSION**

The Committee suspended at 10.52 a.m. until 11.33 a.m. when it resumed in Public Session.

Public Session

SESSION 1

8. **MEETING TO DISCUSS MARGINALISED STUDENTS IN PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY DEIS SCHOOLS AND OTHER SETTINGS: SYSTEMS GAPS IN POLICY AND PRACTICE AND THE PRIORITY**

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Paul Downes, Director, Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dublin City University (DCU).

He then asked him to make his opening statement on Marginalised students in primary and post primary DEIS Schools and other settings: System Gaps in Policy and Practice and the Priority Issues for consideration, with reference to the impact of Covid 19

This was followed by a question and answer session with Members.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Downes for sharing his valuable insights, knowledge and expertise.

9. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 12.38 p.m. to allow witnesses take their seats until 12.40 p.m. when it resumed in public session.

Public Session

SESSION 2

10. MEETING TO DISCUSS EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THE ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO RESOURCING AND RECOGNITION OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SETTINGS.

(Senator Aisling Dolan took the Chair at 1.01 p.m.).

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Don O' Leary, Director; Ms. Caoimhe Cotter, current student and Mr. Reese Wooten, past student, Life Centre, Cork.

He then asked the witnesses to make their opening statement on Early School Leavers and the role of Alternative Education, with reference to resourcing and recognition of Alternative Education settings.

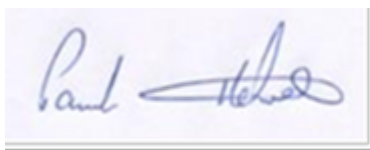
This was followed by a question and answer session with Members

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for a very beneficial and informative discussion.

It was agreed the Chairman will write to the Minister for Education to request that Life Centre, Cork, be formally recognised by the Department of Education and provided with sustainable funding as a matter of urgent priority.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1.38 p.m. until 10.30 am on Thursday, 14th January 2021.



Mr Paul Kehoe TD
Chairman
14th January 2021

APPENDIX 5: Meetings of the Dáil 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	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
S1 12/11/2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2020 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 26 (Education and Skills) 2. 2020 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 45 (Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education and Skills • Ms. Josepha Madigan TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education • Mr. Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science • Mr. Niall Collins TD, Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
S2 08/12/2020	2020 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 45 (Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Niall Collins TD, Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

APPENDIX 6: Proceedings of the Select Committee (Imeachtaí)

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Déardaoin , 12 Samhain 2020

Thursday, 12 November 2020

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 11.32 a.m.

1. The Committee met at 11.32 a.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Bhí na comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:

The following Members were present:

An Teachta Pól Mac Eochaidh (*i gCeannas*), An Teachta Norma Ní Fhoghlú (*An tAire Oideachais*), An Teachta Síomón Ó hEarchaí (*An tAire Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta*), An Teachta Seosaimhín Ní Mhadagáin, (*an t Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Oideachais*), An Teachta Niall Ó Coileáin, (*an tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta*), na Teachtaí Rós. Ní Chonnmhacháin-Breathnach, Ailín Ó Fearghail, Séamus Ó Ceallacháin, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin agus Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin.

Deputy Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Deputy Norma Foley (*Minister for Education*), Deputy Simon Harris (*Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science*), Deputy Josepha Madigan (*Minister of State at the Department of Education*), Deputy Niall Collins (*Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science*), Deputies Rose Conway Walsh, Alan Farrell, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire., Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Pádraig Ó Sullivan.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

Bhreithnigh an Coiste an Meastachán (na Meastacháin) seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar críoch an 31 Nollaig, 2020 –

The Committee considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2020 –

Vóta 26 (An Roinn Oideachais) (Meastachán Athbhreithnithe).

Vote 26 (Education) (Revised Estimate).

Vóta 45 (Breisoideachas agus Ardoideachas, Taighde, Nuálaíocht agus Eolaíocht) (Meastachán

Vote 45 (Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science) (Revised Estimate).

Athbhreithnithe)

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an Meastachán.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de réir Bhuan-Ordú 90 á chur in iúl di gur chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an Meastachán.

4. ATHLÁ.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 1.03 p.m. *sine die*.

Consideration of the Estimate was concluded.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance with Standing Order 90 acquainting it that the Committee had completed its consideration of the Estimate.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee adjourned at 1.03 p.m. *sine die*.

Paul Kehoe, T.D.
Chairman
Date: 12th November 2020

IMEACHTAÍ AN ROGHCHOISTE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Dé Máirt, 8 Nollaig 2020

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

1. Chruinnigh an Coiste ar 1.32 p.m.

1. The Committee met at 1.32 p.m.

2. COMHALTAÍ I LÁTHAIR

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Bhí na comhaltaí seo a leanas i láthair:

The following Members were present:

An Teachta Pól Mac Eochaidh (*i gCeannas*), An Teachta Niall Ó Coileáin, (an tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta), na Teachtaí Rós. Ní Chonnmhacháin-Breathnach, Ailín Ó Fearghail, Caral Uí Nualláin, Séamus Ó Ceallacháin, Marc O Cathasaigh agus Aodhán Ó Ríordáin.

Deputy Paul Kehoe (*in the Chair*), Deputy Niall Collins (*Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science*), Deputies Rose Conway Walsh, Alan Farrell, Carol Nolan, Jim O'Callaghan, Marc O Cathasaigh and Aodhán Ó Ríordáin.

3. BREITHNIÚ AR MHEASTACHÁIN I GCOMHAIR SEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

Bhreithnigh an Coiste an Meastachán (na Meastacháin) seo a leanas i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí don bhliain dar críoch an 31 Nollaig, 2020 –

The Committee considered the following Estimates for Public Services for the year ending 31st December 2020 –

Vóta 45 (Breisoideachas agus Ardoideachas, Taighde, Nuálaíocht agus Eolaíocht) (Meastachán Forlíontach)

Vote 45 (Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science) (Supplementary Estimate).

Críochnaíodh an breithniú ar an Meastachán.

Consideration of the Estimate was concluded.

Cuireadh teachtaireacht chun na Dála de réir Bhuan-Ordú 90 á chur in iúl di gur chríochnaigh an Coiste a bhreithniú ar an Meastachán.

Message sent to the Dáil in accordance with Standing Order 90 acquainting it that the Committee had completed its consideration of the Estimate.

4. ATHLÁ.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

Chuaigh an Coiste ar athló ar 2.14 p.m.
sine die.

The Committee adjourned at 2.14 p.m.
sine die.

Paul Kehoe, T.D.
Chairman
Date: 8th December 2020