



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

**An Comhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú
Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta**

An Clár Oibre 2022

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good
Friday Agreement**

Work Programme 2022

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

WORK PROGRAMME 2022

1. BACKGROUND

The Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was established following an order of the Dáil Eireann on the 23rd July 2020 and of Seanad Eireann on the 18th September 2020 and on the 25th September 2020. Standing Orders of both Houses require that

“As soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann.” (S.O. 100(4) [Dáil] and S.O. 77(4) [Seanad])

2. ORDERS OF REFERENCE

The following extract from the Orders of Reference outlines the Joint Committees key responsibilities.

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| (a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, | (a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement, |
| (b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le Forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus | (b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and |

(c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh Dáil Éireann agus/nó Seanad Éireann chuige ó am go ham, agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.

(c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time, and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.

Accordingly, the items listed in this Work Programme will be considered by the Joint Committee, within the parameters defined by the Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee, as amended from time to time.

3. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement is committed to making a constructive contribution to the development of the Committee System and to continuing to assert the proper oversight and accountability role of the Legislature, in respect of the Executive. It will endeavor to do this by fully exercising the functions and powers, which have been conferred on it, by both Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann.

4. FLUIDITY OF WORK PROGRAMME

The general items listed for consideration in this Work Programme are not in any order of priority. The Joint Committee will decide on individual items for review, in the light of its assessment of a particular need, during the year.

The Joint Committee takes the view that to accord a strict priority and agree a timetable for consideration of the various items would impose too rigid a structure and would not enable the Joint Committee to respond to evolving events, during the year.

In response to a particular evolving event or an urgent unforeseen matter, it shall, if it deems it necessary to do so, amend this Work Programme to include further items, or delete or revise existing items for consideration.

The Joint Committee has also agreed that, should it not have sufficient time during the lifetime of this Work Programme to consider an item, detailed in this Work Programme, it may be included in the subsequent Work Programme, should the issue continue to retain its importance and relevance.

5. JOINT COMMITTEE – PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

The Joint Committee is conscious of the fact, that certain issues that both Houses of the Oireachtas have ordered it to consider, fall within the remit of several Government Departments. Accordingly, the Minister responsible for that Department (and Departmental Officials) may be invited to appear before the Joint Committee, to outline policy decisions and strategic approach, and respond to detailed questions.

Where necessary, the Joint Committee may also seek submissions from the Public and may, if the need arises, engage persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to advise and assist it in its work.

The Joint Committee is committed to prioritising matters relating to North South Co-operation, a shared island, legacy issues and the on-going challenges of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement throughout 2022.

The Joint Committee has identified the following priority areas, which it will focus on during 2022:

- **Outstanding matters for Implementation under the Agreement and subsequent Agreements**

To include Northern Ireland Bill of Rights; and the Legacy Institutions provided for under the Stormont House Agreement.

- **Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity - Reconciliation, Legacy Issues and dealing with the past**

Including meeting with Victims and Survivors groups, Commissioners, engaging with victims and families, and engaging with academics working in the area and who worked with the Northern Ireland Legacy Consultation; continuing to build on the recent work of the Joint Committee on this issue.

Also including equal rights, ex-prisoners' issues, outstanding prisoner's issues, citizenship rights, parading, flags, and developing mutual respect and recognition of others.

- **North-South Co-Operation**

The workings of the North South Ministerial Council and North-South Co-operation bodies. Including an examination of the *New Decade, New Approach* deal and monitoring its implementation.

To consider the continued operation of the North-South Implementation Bodies and other matters of North-South co-operation (Cross Border cooperation in health, infrastructure, energy, education and other sectors).

- **Brexit and its Implications for the Good Friday Agreement**

The ongoing implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and the implications of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

- **Outreach**

Continue to engage with community representatives, politicians, voluntary organisations, public servants, church leaders and other key stake holders on a range of cultural, economic and social issues in Northern Ireland, across all communities to ensure an agreed Ireland for all. Continue to build on constructive engagement with members of the PUL community.

6. TRAVEL

Subject to Standing Order 96(15) [Dáil Éireann] and Standing Order 72(15) [Seanad Éireann], the Joint Committee may decide, subject to administrative, financial and procedural constraints, to undertake travel within Ireland North and South and also abroad, as it considers necessary, to further progress this Work Programme.

In particular, the Joint Committee will undertake a series of visits to Northern Ireland and to the border region on a regular basis to meet with leaders and members of the community who are involved in community development, in peace and reconciliation work or in work to strengthen positive North-South relations.

Such travel may also include information seeking attendance at conferences or meetings, etc. within the remit of the Committee's Orders of Reference.

7. INCOMING PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS AND OTHERS

The Joint Committee will meet with incoming parliamentary delegations and others, as requested and required.


8. NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Taking account of the resources and facilities available to the Joint Committee and the commitments of Members, it is anticipated that the Joint Committee will meet, on average, once weekly, in the course of 2022.

The Joint Committee will also endeavor to travel to the border region or to Northern Ireland frequently for informal meetings with political, community and/or other appropriate leaders and organisations involved in work which could inform the work of the Joint Committee.

9. AGREEMENT OF WORK PROGRAMME

This Work Programme for 2022 of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was agreed by the Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid, before both Houses of the Oireachtas.



Fergus O'Dowd TD

Chairman,

21st January 2022

ORDERS OF REFERENCE

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Fógraí Tairisceana : Notices of Motions: 23rd July 2020

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| <p>(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, ar a mbeidh 9 gComhalta de Dháil Éireann agus a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—</p> <p>(a) saincheistean na éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,</p> <p>(b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le Forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus</p> <p>(c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh Dáil Éireann agus/nó Seanad Éireann chuige ó am go ham, agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.</p> <p>(2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 96, seachas míreanna (3) go (9), go huile, den chéanna.</p> <p>(3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina chomhalta <i>ex-officio</i> den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.</p> | <p>(1) That a Select Committee consisting of 9 members of Dáil Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Seanad Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—</p> <p>(a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,</p> <p>(b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and</p> <p>(c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time, and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.</p> <p>(2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 96, other than paragraphs (3) to (9) inclusive thereof.</p> <p>(3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an <i>ex officio</i> member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.</p> |
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| <p>(4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh le haghaidh toghcheantair i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá Fhochoistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.</p> <p>(5) Beidh Cathaoirleach Roghchoiste na Dála ina Chathaoirleach nó ina Cathaoirleach ar an gComhchoiste freisin.</p> | <p>(4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.</p> <p>(5) The Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.</p> |
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Dáil Motion 21st April 2021

(6)(a) Féadfaidh an Coiste comhaontú a dhéanamh cóipeanna de dhoiciméid de chuid an Choiste a sholáthar d'Fheisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster dá dtagraítear i mír (4).

(b) I gcás go gcomhaontaíonn an Coiste na cóipeanna sin a sholáthar, féadfaidh an Coiste comhaontú thairis sin, faoi réir aon treo roimhe sin a thabharfaidh an Coiste ó am go ham i leith aon doiciméad nó aicme doiciméad, tabharfaidh Cathaoirleach an Choiste, trí liosta de na doiciméid lena mbaineann a scaipeadh, fógra do chomhaltaí den Choiste i dtaobh na ndoiciméad a bhfuil na cóipeanna sin díobh le soláthar, agus an t-am, agus an dáta ar a soláthrófar iad: Ar choinníoll go bhféadfaidh aon chomhalta de chuid an Choiste, trí theachtairacht a chur chuig an gCathaoirleach, agóid a dhéanamh i gcoinne sholáthar na ndoiciméad sin, cibé acu i leith aon doiciméad nó doiciméid shonraithe, nó i leith gach doiciméad a liostaítear, agus i gcás go ndéantar aon agóid den sórt sin, déanfar cinneadh i ndáil le soláthar cóipeanna den doiciméad nó de na doiciméid is ábhar don agóid ag an gcéad chruinniú eile den Choiste.

(c) Féadfaidh an Coiste an fógra íosta nach mór do chomhalta den Choiste a thabhairt maidir le hagóid dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (b) a shonrú, agus ní bheidh ceangal ar an gCathaoirleach aird a thabhairt ar agóid a chuirfear in iúl ina dhiaidh sin.

(6)(a) The Committee may agree to provide copies of Committee documents to the members of the Westminster Parliament referred to at paragraph (4).

(b) Where the Committee agrees to provide such copies, the Committee may further agree that, subject to any prior direction that the Committee may give from time to time in respect of any document or class of documents, the Chairman of the Committee shall, by circulating a list of the documents concerned, give notice to members of the Committee of the documents of which, and the time at, and date on which, those copies are to be provided: Provided that any member of the Committee may by communication to the Chairman, raise an objection to that provision, whether in respect of any specified document or documents, or of all documents listed, and where any such objection is raised, a decision in relation to provision of copies of the document or documents the subject of the objection will be made at the next meeting of the Committee.

(c) The Committee may specify the minimum notice a member of the Committee must give of an objection referred to in subparagraph (b), and the Chairman is not bound to have regard to an objection later communicated.

Seanad Motion 18th September 2020

Tairiscint:

Motion:

1. (1) Go ndéanfar Roghchoiste ar a mbeidh 5 chomhalta de Sheanad Éireann a cheapadh a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Dáil Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—
 - (a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,
 - (b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus
 - (c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus cibé nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh an Dáil agus/nó an Seanad chuige ó am go ham, agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.
 - (2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 72, seachas míreanna (3) go (9) den chéanna go huile.
 - (3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha (nó Aire den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina chomhalta ex-officio den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.
- (1) That a Select Committee consisting of 5 members of Seanad Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Dáil Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—
 - (a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,
 - (b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and
 - (c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time, and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.
 - (2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 72, other than paragraphs (3) to (9) inclusive thereof.
 - (3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.

- (4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá Fhochoistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.
- (5) Beidh Cathaoirleach Roghchoiste na Dála ina Chathaoirleach nó ina Cathaoirleach ar an gComhchoiste freisin.

- (4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.
- (5) The Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.”

Seanad Motion 25th September 2020

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 18 Meán Fómhair 2020, ón Seanad, a bhaineann leis an gComhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, a leasú i mír (1) trí ‘5’ a scriosadh agus trí ‘7’ a chur ina ionad.

That the Order of the Seanad of 18th September, 2020, relating to the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, be amended in paragraph (1) by the deletion of ‘5’ and the substitution therefor of ‘7’.”

Seanad Motion 24th May 2021

(6)(a) Féadfaidh an Coiste comhaontú a dhéanamh cóipeanna de dhoiciméid de chuid an Choiste a sholáthar d’Fheisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster dá dtagraítear i mír (4).

(b) I gcás go gcomhaontaíonn an Coiste na cóipeanna sin a sholáthar, féadfaidh an Coiste comhaontú thairis sin, faoi réir aon treoir roimhe sin a thabharfaidh an Coiste ó am go ham i leith aon doiciméad nó aicme doiciméad, tabharfaidh Cathaoirleach an Choiste, trí liosta de na doiciméid lena mbaineann a scaipeadh, fógra do chomhaltaí den Choiste i dtaobh na ndoiciméad a bhfuil na cóipeanna sin díobh le soláthar, agus an t-am, agus an dáta ar a soláthrófar iad: Ar choinníoll go bhféadfaidh aon chomhalta de chuid an Choiste, trí theachtairacht a chur chuig an gCathaoirleach, agóid a dhéanamh i gcoinne sholáthar na ndoiciméad sin, cibé acu i leith aon doiciméad nó doiciméid shonraithe, nó i leith gach doiciméad a liostaítear, agus i gcás go ndéantar aon agóid den sórt sin, déanfar cinneadh

(6)(a) The Committee may agree to provide copies of Committee documents to the members of the Westminster Parliament referred to at paragraph (4).

(b) Where the Committee agrees to provide such copies, the Committee may further agree that, subject to any prior direction that the Committee may give from time to time in respect of any document or class of documents, the Chairman of the Committee shall, by circulating a list of the documents concerned, give notice to members of the Committee of the documents of which, and the time at, and date on which, those copies are to be provided: Provided that any member of the Committee may by communication to the Chairman, raise an objection to that provision, whether in respect of any specified document or documents, or of all documents listed, and where any such objection is raised, a decision in relation to provision of copies of the document or

i ndáil le soláthar cóipeanna den doiciméad nó de na doiciméid is ábhar don agóid ag an gcéad chruinniú eile den Choiste.

(c) Féadfaidh an Coiste an fógra íosta nach mór do chomhalta den Choiste a thabhairt maidir le hagóid dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (b) a shonrú, agus ní bheidh ceangal ar an gCathaoirleach aird a thabhairt ar agóid a chuirfear in iúl ina dhiaidh sin.

documents the subject of the objection will made at the next meeting of the Committee.

(c) The Committee may specify the minimum notice a member of the Committee must give of an objection referred to in subparagraph (b), and the Chairman is not bound to have regard to an objection later communicated.