



Houses of the  
**Oireachtas**  
Tithe an Oireachtais

**TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS**

**An Comhchoiste um Thurasóireacht, Cultúr, Ealaíona, Spórt agus Meáin**

**Clár Oibre 2021**

**Meitheamh 2021**

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**HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, SPORT AND MEDIA**

**Work Programme 2021**

**June 2021**

**TCASM/21/05**

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, SPORT AND MEDIA  
WORK PROGRAMME 2021**

## 1 Introduction

The Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann on 31 July 2020 and 16 September 2020 respectively. Standing Orders 89(4) (Dáil Éireann) and 77(4) (Seanad Éireann) require that “as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil/Seanad Éireann”.

This Work Programme of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media for 2020/21 was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. In accordance with the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

## 2 Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media was established by Order of Dáil Éireann on 31st July 2020<sup>1</sup>.

The function of the Select Committee is to consider -

- (a) Bills,
- (b) Proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164,
- (c) Estimates for Public Services,
- (d) Other matters as shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil,
- (e) Annual Output Statements, and
- (f) such Value for Money and Policy Reviews as the Select Committee may select relating to the relevant Department.

### Pre-Legislative Scrutiny

In addition, the Government Legislative Programme makes provision for the publication of Bills. Following changes to Standing Orders (agreed by the Dáil on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013), Ministers are now required, except in exceptional circumstances, to bring the general scheme or draft heads of a Bill to a Committee for consideration. Committees are empowered to consider the draft Heads of Government Bills, but they are not required to do so. It is the prerogative of the Committee to decide on a case by case basis whether it wishes to engage in pre-legislative scrutiny on any Government Bill.

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<sup>1</sup> This Committee was renamed on 24 May 2021 to the Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media on foot of a Motion passed by both Houses.

## Legislation

The Legislation Programme for the Spring Session 2021 lists the following Bills which fall or may fall within the remit of this Committee:

- Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2019<sup>2</sup>
- National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) (Amendment) Bill.
- Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill<sup>3</sup>

## Estimates and other Financial Matters

The Estimates for Public Services are Ministers' spending plans for the coming financial year. When the Estimates are referred to Select Committees for examination, the Committee has a valuable opportunity to question the relevant Minister about proposed spending. Note: The Select Committee is required to consider the Estimates but are not empowered to amend them.

The Estimate(s) with which the Select Committees must deal in 2021 is/are the Revised/Further Revised Estimate for Public Services (Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media– Vote 33, Programme Areas A, B, D and E)<sup>4</sup>

A Supplementary Estimate may be considered in December if additional monies are required by the relevant Government Department.

It is the Committee's intention to focus on –

- what the Department have committed to achieving,
- how monies are allocated between services, and
- exploring the policy issues underpinning the various spending provisions as well as to consider these matters as fully as possible.

The proposed approach presents Departmental Estimates on a Strategic Programme basis consistent with the Statements of Strategy. These Estimates have been supplemented with certain performance information regarding the outputs and impacts of Programme expenditure.

In keeping with a whole of year approach, it is the Committee's intention to have an exchange of views with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in advance of Budget 2021 on the emerging position for 2022.

In addition, the examination of Value for Money (VFM) Reviews is another important part of scrutinising Government expenditure.

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<sup>2</sup> On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Government approved the integration of the Broadcasting (Amendment) 2019 Bill with the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> As of 24<sup>th</sup> May, matters comprehended by Programme C of Vote 33 fall within the remit of the Joint Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and Irish-speaking Community.

## Referrals of Motions and Other Matters

From time to time, matters may arise and may be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil. It is not possible to say in advance what those matters might be or when they might arise.

## 3 Joint Committee

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two ways, i.e.

1. items of business referred to it by one or both Houses, and
2. it can select business for consideration itself, from the areas within its terms of reference. In practice, the Joint Committee's work will comprise the examination of EU business and key policy priorities.

## Engagement on EU Matters

The Joint Committee shadows the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the remit of the Department, in the European context, forms the basis of the Joint Committee's remit in terms of scrutiny of European matters. In fulfilling its role in examining EU business, the Joint Committee engages in the following activities:

- (i) Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals and Non-Legislative Proposals
- (ii) Engagement with Ministers in advance of EU Council meetings
- (iii) Engagement on the Statutory Departmental Scrutiny Report with the Secretary General of the Department
- (iv) Attendance at the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of EU Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons, and
- (v) Engagement with European Bodies such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament and its Committees.

## Key policy priorities

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider such other policy issues as it may select within its terms of reference. In the period January to December 2021, in addition to core business such as legislation etc., the Committee will focus on key priority topics within the remit of both Departments.

The following are some of the key policy issues identified by the Joint Committee for examination:

### *General*

- The State's response to the Covid-19 pandemic within the remit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.
- Science, research and development and innovation, within the remit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.
- Progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda that come under the remit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

- Progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in the published Report of the Oireachtas Special Committee on Climate Action, that come under the remit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

### *Media*

- Examine the impact of Covid-19 on the media sector and on public service broadcasting.
- Examine the future of local/regional newspapers and radio.
- Progress made on the regulation of broadcasting and internet content.
- Examine the State's response to online disinformation and media literacy.
- Examine the development of policy in relation to the funding of the public service broadcasters, RTÉ & TG4 and the development of the broadcasting sector in general.
- Social media / fake news / digital literacy.
- The work of the Future of Media Commission.

### *Tourism*

- Supporting tourism in Ireland during Covid-19 pandemic, examining the work of Tourism Recovery Taskforce, to include recommendations on how best the Irish tourism sector can adapt and recover in the changed tourism environment as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, the Stay and spend scheme, and other industry supports and Examination of Fáilte Ireland Covid-19 Guidelines for Tourism and Hospitality Sector- This includes hearing from affected business groups and representatives from the sector.
- Examine the impact of Brexit on Tourism, seeking updates from the Department and other key stakeholders.
- Sustainable Tourism, examining the development of greenways, blueways and attracting tourists to the regions.
- Examine progress made in the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 under the National Development Plan 2018-27.
- The work of Tourism Ireland.
- The work of Fáilte Ireland.
- Rural tourism.

- Joint regional marketing initiatives.
- The Wild Atlantic Walkway.
- The Irish Sea Way (Carlingford to Cobh).
- The role and future role of regional tourism co-operatives (e.g. Reeks District).
- Examination of the standard differences between Airbnb and Fáilte Ireland approved accommodation.

### *Arts and Culture*

- Examine the rebuilding the culture, arts and entertainment sectors following Covid-19, including the establishment of a living wage scheme for artists, supporting the re-opening of the Arts Sector, Audio-visual sector, National Cultural Institutions (NCIs) and culture sector in general in consultation with stakeholders including the Arts Council, Screen Ireland and the NCIs.
- Examine the implementation of National Development Plan in respect of progress made on large capital projects and national cultural infrastructure capital schemes.
- Examination of progress made in relation to Commemorations, specifically with respect to planning of commemorative events connected with the Decade of Centenaries 2012 to 2023, and other commemoration events in the cultural sector relating to other relevant anniversaries.
- Progress made on Delivery of Programme for Government Commitments on Night Time Economy, examining the impact that Social Distancing will have on night-time culture and engaging with key stakeholders across the sector to examine progress made on the development of innovating approaches to enable and create a sustainable night-time economy in Ireland.
- Examine the developing Community Arts and the Creative Schools Programme.
- The development of the amateur and community arts sector. How government can support community arts, drama, and music in helping rebuild society.
- The role of local government in supporting the arts.
- A review of section 481 film incentive and how we can develop Ireland as a centre for film and content creation.
- Examine Capital Investment in Cultural Infrastructure in areas identified in the Programme for Government, including;
  - o 'Agent of Change' initiatives, whereby existing cultural spaces must be taken into account when building is taking place.

- Support measures to increase the provision of affordable workspaces for artists and creative practitioners.
  - 'Meanwhile use' legislation for vacant buildings, with a view to its potential application in Ireland.
- Examining Supports for Irish Writers.
  - An examination of Arts Strategy/Culture 2025.
  - To examine the work undertaken to achieve a gender balance in the traditional and contemporary arts, and the need to address issues of discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying in traditional and contemporary arts
  - The impact of Covid-19 on arts organisations, including dance schools and the dance sector.

### *Sport*

- Examine the severe impact of Covid-19 on sport and Irish sporting bodies.
- Examine progress made in increasing sports participation and interest at all levels across Irish society, and in building stronger and safer Communities, including participation of women in sport.
- To re-examine the goals and message behind the 20 x 20 campaign to increase female participation in sports in terms of presentation and perception of Women's sport in Ireland, and in light of the impact of Covid-19 on the sporting calendar in 2021.
- Examine progress made in improving standards of performance and to develop sports facilities at national, regional, and local level.
- Examine progress made in moving towards the publication of a High-Performance Strategy Ireland's direction for at least 12 years, setting clear and ambitious medal targets over three Olympic/Paralympic cycles.
- Examine work undertaken with relevant Stakeholders in improving Capacity and Governance, specifically in relation to adopting the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector by the end of 2021.
- Governance in the Football Association of Ireland.
- Progress made in developing a Major Events Strategy.
- Examination of how athletics is supported in Ireland- encouraging individuals to take up running and how we support professional athletes.

- The implementation of the National Sports Policy.
- Progress regarding the Sports Capital Programme and the LSSIF.
- The work of Sports Partnerships.
- Major Sporting Events.
- The continued development of the National Sports Campus.
- Olympic 2021 preparations and athlete support.
- The work of Sport Ireland.
- Examine the sporting infrastructure throughout the country and the funding sources for development of this infrastructure.

### Chairpersons Designate of State Boards

In accordance with the Government Decision of May 2011, which put new arrangements in place to ensure greater transparency in the appointment of persons to State boards and bodies, the Joint Committee will engage with the Chairpersons designate, as the nominations arise.

It presents an opportunity for Chairpersons designate to discuss the approach they will take as Chairperson with the Committee and to give their views as to what contribution they can make to the agency or body to which they are proposed to be appointed.



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Niamh Smyth, T.D.  
Cathaoirleach,

16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## Appendix 1: Orders of Reference

### **a) 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 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 Cathaoirleach of the Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Cathaoirleach 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
- (b) such Ombudsman reports laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas as the Committee may select: Provided 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.

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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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;
- (4) 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
- (5) 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 officeholder 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 Cathaoirleach may appeal any such request made to the Ceann Comhairle, whose decision shall be final.

- (6) 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 Cathaoirleach of the Select Committee, waives this instruction on motion made by the Taoiseach pursuant to Standing Order 35. Cathaoirligh of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.

## Appendix 2: Membership

Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media

(The Select Committee membership comprises of Deputies only)

### Deputies

Ciarán Cannon TD (FG)  
Alan Dillon TD (FG) - *Leaschathaoirleach*  
Peter Fitzpatrick (Ind)  
Brendan Griffin (FG)  
Mattie McGrath (Ind)  
Imelda Munster (SF)  
Johnny Mythen (SF)  
Christopher O’Sullivan (FF)  
Niamh Smyth (FF) – *Cathaoirleach*

### Senators

Malcolm Byrne (FF)  
Shane Cassells (FF)  
Micheál Carrigy (FG)  
Annie Hoey (Lab)  
Fintan Warfield (SF)

### Notes:

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

Senators nominated by the Seanad Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Seanad on 25 September 2020.