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CONSTITUTION OF IRELAND



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Houses of the
Oireachtas

An Comhchoiste um Iompar agus Cumarsáide
Tuarascáil ar eachtraí taistil an Choiste i ndáil lena bhreithniú
ar an mbeartas eitlíochta náisiúnta, 2022-2023

Meitheamh 2023

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications
Report of the Committee's travel episodes relating to its
consideration of national aviation policy 2022-23

June 2023

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1. Introduction

Since commencing its business in September 2020, aviation has been a priority work item for the Committee. In October and November 2020, the Committee held a series of meetings with a range of national and international stakeholders to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on the aviation industry. The Committee published a report in December 2020, outlining its recommendations¹. In 2021, the Committee continued its consideration of the impact of Covid-19 on aviation, with particularly focus on the use of rapid antigen testing.

In 2022, the Committee continued its regular engagement with aviation industry stakeholders and commenced a series of airport site visits. In September 2022, the Committee agreed to carry out a detailed consideration of the National Aviation Policy and the Regional Airports Programme, with the aim of contributing to the upcoming Government review. It was agreed that this work would focus on the role of aviation as part of balanced regional development and the regulation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the aviation sector.

This report is a compilation of five travel episodes carried out the Committee as part of its work on aviation policy from April 2022 to May 2023. The Committee carried out site visits to Dublin, Cork, Shannon, and Donegal Airports, and travelled to the Netherlands to visit Amsterdam Schiphol and Rotterdam/the Hague Airports.

This travel report was considered and agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting of 13 June 2023.

Gerry Horkan

Senator Gerry Horkan

Leas-Chathaoirleach

13 June 2023

¹

https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_transport_and_communications_networks/reports/2020/2020-12-09_report-on-issues-facing-the-aviation-industry-in-ireland_en.pdf

2. Trip Details

2.1. Dublin Airport: 4 April 2022

At the invitation of daa, the Committee visited Dublin Airport on 4 April 2022. This trip formed part of the Committee's ongoing work on the impact of Covid-19 on the aviation industry. daa invited the Committee to visit Dublin Airport, with an agenda to include specific discussion of the delays in employing airport security personnel, and a tour of the newly-built North Runway.

The Committee's trip to Dublin Airport took place one week after it was widely reported that there were significant delays for passengers departing the airport, due to a shortage of security personnel². Following reports of delays over the weekend of 25-27 March, the Committee wrote to daa for further detail on this issue. The Committee received a statement from Dalton Phillips, CEO, on 30 March. This statement was published on the Committee's webpage³.

Members in attendance

The following Committee Members attended:

- Senator Jerry Buttimer
- Senator Gerard Craughwell
- Senator Gerry Horkan
- Deputy Michael Lowry
- Deputy James O'Connor
- Deputy Kieran O'Donnell (Cathaoirleach)
- Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú
- Deputy Darren O'Rourke
- Deputy Duncan Smith

The delegation was accompanied by two members of Secretariat staff.

² [Passengers face long queues at Dublin Airport \(rte.ie\)](https://www.rte.ie/news/2022/0325/passengers-face-long-queues-at-dublin-airport/) 25 March 2022

³

https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_transport_and_communications/submissions/2022/2022-03-30_correspondence-dalton-phillips-ceo-daa_en.pdf

Itinerary

Itinerary for the Committee's visit to Dublin Airport 4 April 2022	
10:00am – 10:15am	Meet & Greet at Platinum Services
10:15am – 10:45am	Presentation (to include security)
10:45am – 11:15am	Discussion on Security
11:15am – 11:30am	Badging for tour
11:30am – 12:15pm	North Runway Tour
12:15pm – 12:30 pm	Transfer back to Platinum

Engagement with daa

The Committee engaged with the following members of daa senior management:

- Dalton Philips, CEO
- Miriam Ryan, Chief Governance and Strategy Officer
- Gary McLean, Deputy Managing Director, Dublin Airport
- Angela Flynn, Stakeholder and Policy Manager

The first part of the trip comprised a presentation on the daa group post-Covid, its sustainability plan, and the development plan for Dublin Airport. This was followed by a presentation on the specific issues being faced by daa in recruiting security personnel to work in Dublin Airport. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session with Members of the Committee.

Dalton Phillips, CEO of daa, agreed to follow up with the Committee in writing, detailing the current situation and its recommendations for resolving ongoing issues, including addressing the current delays in completing enhanced background checks on security personnel. This letter was received on 6 April 2022, and was considered as correspondence.

Following this engagement, the Committee was brought on a tour of the North Runway. The Committee then returned to Terminal 2, where Members met with **Maurice Hennessy**, Chief Information and Security Operations Officer, and spoke to members of the security team.

2.2. Shannon Airport and IAA: 16 May 2022

On 16 May 2022, the Committee carried out a site visit to Shannon Airport and the nearby Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) Operations Centre in Ballycasey⁴.

Members in attendance

- Senator Jerry Buttimer
- Senator Gerard Craughwell
- Deputy Cathal Crowe
- Senator Timmy Dooley
- Senator Gerry Horkan
- Deputy Kieran O'Donnell (Cathaoirleach)
- Deputy Darren O'Rourke

The delegation was accompanied by the Clerk to the Committee.

Itinerary

Shannon Airport, Shannon Group	
11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival at Shannon Airport • Please proceed to the Arrivals Hall, assemble with Yvonne Kennedy, Shannon Group • Airside security passes to be collected
11:10am- 12:10pm	Meeting & Presentation with Conal Henry (Chair Designate) and Mary Considine (CEO), Shannon Group

⁴ [Joint Committee on Transport and Communications visit Shannon Airport and the Irish Aviation Authority \(IAA\) – 18 May 2022, 16:11 – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

12:10pm- 12:50pm	Tour of Airport facilities & CBP Area - Pat Foley (Airport Operations Manager), Conal Henry, and Mary Considine
12:50pm- 1:30pm	Light Lunch
1:30pm	Depart Shannon Airport

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), EnRoute Centre, Ballycasey Cross, Shannon

1:50pm	<p>Travel from Shannon Group to IAA EnRoute Centre, Ballycasey Cross, Shannon</p> <p>Committee members arrive, go through security, and are greeted by Peter Kearney, CEO, IAA</p>
2:00pm	<p>Welcome from Peter Kearney, CEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and overview of IAA ANSP (Air Navigation Service Provider) • IAA in the mid-west • Ballycasey Operations Centre • Q&A
2:10pm	<p>High level Briefings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnRoute Operations and Technology • 1966 Agreement, NAC Technology, Systems and Operations • Aireon Alert System • Q&A <p>Committee is then split into two groups</p>
2:30pm	<p><i>Group 1: Tour of EnRoute Operations Facility</i></p> <p><i>Group 2: ATC Simulator Exercise</i></p>
3:10pm	Refreshments - Boardroom

3:20pm	<p>Group 1: ATC Simulator Exercise</p> <p>Group 2: Tour of EN Route Operations Facility</p>
4:00pm	Q&A and conclusion of visit

2.3. Cork Airport: 27 June 2022

Following its visits to Dublin and Shannon Airports, the Committee visited Cork Airport on 27 June 2022⁵.

Members in attendance

- Senator Jerry Buttimer
- Deputy Joe Carey
- Deputy Cathal Crowe
- Senator Gerry Horkan
- Deputy Kieran O'Donnell (Cathaoirleach)

The delegation was accompanied by the Clerk to the Committee.

Itinerary

Itinerary for the Committee's site visit to Cork Airport	
Duration of programme – 2.5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start time – 10:30am
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park in the multi-storey carpark and Cork Airport will validate all tickets on departure • Proceed to the Arrivals Hall (at the WHSmith shop), where the Committee will be met by the officials below and brought to the VIP room
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-minute meet and greet

⁵ [Joint Committee on Transport and Communications to visit Cork Airport – 24 Jun 2022, 16:28 – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

- Roy O'Driscoll, Acting Managing Director
- Dorothy Coffey
- Brian Culloty
- Peter Walsh
- Con Dooney
- Barry Holland
- 45-minute presentation to include Covid impact, 2022 traffic recovery, capital projects (including those supported by government funding), operational performance in 2022 including security and look ahead to 2023 and 2024.
- 15-minute Q&A from Oireachtas members.
- 1-hour tour of facility to include visit to substation construction site, fire station and runway, if operationally possible.
- 15-minute wrap up.

2.4. Netherlands: 17-18 November 2022

A delegation of the Committee visited the Netherlands from 17-18 November 2022 to meet with stakeholders and gather evidence for two ongoing work items; the National Aviation Policy and Sustainable Mobility.

The delegation visited Amsterdam Schiphol and Rotterdam The Hague airports, and met with representatives of the Dutch Cycling Embassy in Rotterdam.

Members in attendance

The following four Committee Members travelled as part of the delegation:

- Deputy Joe Carey
- Deputy Cathal Crowe
- Senator Gerry Horkan
- Deputy Kieran O'Donnell (Cathaoirleach)

The delegation was accompanied by the Clerk to the Committee.

Itinerary

The delegation travelled from Dublin to Amsterdam on the morning of Thursday 17 November and departed from Amsterdam on the afternoon of Friday 18 November.

The itinerary for the trip is outlined in the table below:

Itinerary for the Committee visit to the Netherlands 17-18 November 2022	
Thursday 17 November	6:15am: Flight from Dublin to Amsterdam Schiphol 9:30am: Visit to Amsterdam Schiphol airport 3:00pm: Visit to Rotterdam The Hague airport 7:30pm: Dinner meeting with the Ambassador of Ireland to the Netherlands and representatives of the Embassy in Rotterdam
Friday 18 November	9:30 am -11:30 am Cycling tour of Rotterdam with the Dutch Cycling Embassy Depart from Amsterdam Schiphol for Dublin

Detailed itinerary Royal Schiphol Group (RSG) 17 November 2022			
08:55am	Arrival at Schiphol Airport (flight FR 420)	Committee Members	
09:30am	Pick-up committee members	Rob van Buuren	Terminal Plaza Meeting Point
09:30am - 09:50am	Walk to Schiphol Building	Rob van Buuren	
09:50am – 10:30am	Welcome & introduction of RSG	Kjell Kloosterziel Rob van Buuren	Schiphol Building - Room A244
10:30am – 10:45am	Break		
10:45am – 12:00pm	Presentation on Dutch political context & system of hub and regional airports.	Kees Boef Rob van Buuren	

12:00pm – 13:45	Transfer to restaurant & lunch	Committee Members Kjell Kloosterziel Rob van Buuren	Restaurant Den Burgh, Hoofddorp (Transfer arranged by Schiphol)
1:45pm – 3:00pm	Transfer to RTHA (arranged by committee)	Committee Members	
3:00pm	Pick-up of committee members	Jasper van der Jagt	Information desk
3:05pm – 3:15pm	Word of welcome and introduction	Wilma van Dijk	Boardroom
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Presentation on participation process	Michelle Samson	Boardroom
3:45pm – 4:05pm	Q&A	Wilma van Dijk & Michelle Samson	Boardroom
4:05pm – 4:15pm	Transfer to airside	Jasper van der Jagt	
4:15pm – 5:20pm	Tour airside	Désirée Breedveld	Airside
5:20pm – 5:30pm	Closing	Désirée Breedveld Jasper van der Jagt	Information desk
5:30pm	End of program		

Engagement with Amsterdam Schiphol and Rotterdam The Hague Airports

The Committee engaged with the following in the Royal Schiphol Group:

- Kjell Kloosterziel – Director of Schiphol International
- Joery Strijtveen – Manager of Public Affairs & Community Affairs
- Rob van Buuren – Business Development Manager Schiphol International

The Committee also met with the following from Rotterdam The Hague Airport:

- Wilma van Dijk – CEO
- Michelle Samson – Strategy & Sustainability Manager
- Desiree Breedveld – Director Commercial
- Jasper van der Jagt – Stakeholder Manager

The Royal Schiphol Group provided a comprehensive overview of its operations indicating that they are a leading airport operator with over 100 years of experience in Europe and internationally. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol was the fourth busiest airport in Europe in 2021, and the Royal Schiphol Group also operate three regional airports and a number of international alliances. The Committee was informed that the total surface of Schiphol airport is 2,787 hectares/6,886 acres with 5 main runways and 1 short runway for general aviation. There are also two cargo zones included within the airport complex.

They provided the Committee with an overview of their diversified business model in aviation, consumer products/services, real estate, and alliances. The future plans for the airport were discussed in depth, and the Royal Schiphol Group spoke about their ongoing large capital programme for the construction of a new pier and terminal.

The Committee was provided an overview of how the organisation's "group of airports" approach adds significant value to the group's operations, and how their active management approach provides synergies between the airports, joint procurement opportunities and access to airport operating expertise. The Dutch political context was also discussed, along with the recent landmark court rulings on climate change and nitrogen deposits.

Rotterdam The Hague Airport also provided a very comprehensive overview of their airport operations and their interactions vis-à-vis Amsterdam Schiphol airport. The Committee was informed that 2.1 million passengers passed through the airport at pre-Covid levels. The Committee received an airside tour of Rotterdam The Hague airport and received an overview of their key sustainability and climate change initiatives in this regard. The Committee was provided with an overview of the airport's carbon management and its strategy oriented towards emission reductions. An overview of sustainable aviation fuel ('SAF') was also provided.

Engagement with the Dutch Cycling Embassy in Rotterdam

The Committee also met with the following representatives from the Dutch Cycling Embassy in Rotterdam during its trip:

- Margot Daris
- Maurits Lopes Cardozo

The Dutch Cycling Embassy provided the Committee with a comprehensive overview on active travel infrastructure design and construction. The Committee was provided with detailed insights on bicycle infrastructure and innovation projects both in the Netherlands and abroad. The delegation engaged in a discussion on the political and municipality roles and the various policies introduced on cycling developments in recent years. The delegation undertook a short bike tour of the cycling infrastructure in Rotterdam.

2.5. Donegal: 8-9 May 2023

The Committee visited Donegal Airport on 8 May 2023, returning to Dublin on 9 May 2023. The Committee met with representatives of Ireland's regional airports on 15 February 2023⁶. Following this meeting, the Committee received an invitation from the Eilís Docherty, CEO of Donegal Airport, to carry out a site visit. It was agreed at the Committee's meeting of 28 March 2023 to accept the invitation, and that a delegation of three Members and one official would travel to Donegal Airport on 8 May 2023.

The CEO of Donegal Airport proposed an itinerary for the visit which included visits to the Gteic business hub and a local business Croll Distillery. These sites highlight the importance of connectivity, through both transport and broadband infrastructure, the latter of which is also relevant to the Committee's remit.

Members in attendance

The following three Committee Members attended:

- Senator Gerard Craughwell
- Senator Gerry Horkan (Leas-Chathaoirleach)
- Deputy Martin Kenny

⁶ [Joint Committee on Transport and Communications debate - Wednesday, 15 Feb 2023 \(oireachtas.ie\)](#)

The delegation was accompanied by the Policy Advisor to the Committee.

Itinerary

Itinerary for the Committee's visit to Donegal Airport 8 May 2023	
11:40am	Depart Dublin Airport
12.40pm-1:40pm	<p>Arrive at Donegal Airport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Presentation/Tour of airport facilities • Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services, and Information Systems, Donegal County Council, will discuss transport and communications infrastructure • Fiona O'Shea, Transport Manager, Local Link, Donegal Sligo Leitrim, will discuss local transport
2.00pm-3:00pm	<p>Arrive at Gteic Gaoth Dobhair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Presentation/Tour of Gteic facilities • Micheál MacGiolla Easbuic, Regional Manager of Údaras na Gaeltachta will discuss broadband services within the Business Park
3.20pm-5pm	<p>Arrive at Crollly Distillery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of Distillery • Donnchadh O'Baoill from Údarás na Gaeltachta will include a historical talk about transport in the area

Site visit to Donegal Airport

The Committee engaged with the following representatives:

- Eilís Docherty, CEO, Donegal Airport
- Steve O'Cúláin, Chairman, Donegal Airport
- Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services, and Information Systems, Donegal County Council

- Fiona O'Shea, Transport Manager, Local Link, Donegal Sligo Leitrim

Eilís Docherty, CEO, presented to the Committee on the history, current operations, and the future plans for Donegal Airport. This was followed by a discussion with the Committee, and a tour of the airport facilities.

Donegal Airport is one of Ireland's regional airports. The airport receives grants for capital and operational expenditure through the national Regional Airports Programme (RAP). The RAP supports regional airports with fewer than 1 million annual passengers.

Donegal Airport currently operates a daily route to Dublin, and plans to re-introduce a route to Glasgow in summer. The Dublin-Donegal route is currently the only aviation route in Ireland supported by a public service obligation (PSO) contract. It operates twice daily year-round. The value of this service was emphasised, both for the tourist market and as a source of local connectivity. The CEO noted that there was the opportunity to revise the PSO rules as part of the mid-term review of the RAP. She expressed the view that Ireland was an outlier in the European context in this regard, that PSO routes are much more common in other European countries.

The CEO outlined to the Committee that the PSO contract has been held by Emerald Airlines under the Aer Lingus regional banner since February 2022. At present, it is possible to make through-bookings to the US and Canada, but not to the UK or Europe. This is something that the management of Donegal Airport would like Aer Lingus to consider implementing.

Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems for Donegal County Council, discussed the importance of transport infrastructure for attracting investment to the North West Region. He argued that there was a compelling case for the rail network to extend to the North West. He also discussed potential opportunities for offshore wind, as the coast of Donegal has the highest wind speeds in Europe. Killybegs Harbour in Co Donegal is considered a fisheries port, but Garry argued that, as the second largest deep-water port in the country after Shannon Foynes, there are opportunities for it to further contribute to the national blue economy.

Fiona O'Shea, Transport Manager for Local Link, informed the Committee that, as part of the Connecting Ireland programme, there was an initiative to match the bus times with the times of flights arriving into Donegal Airport. However, since the PSO carrier changed in 2022, there had been changes to the flight schedule, meaning that the flight arrival times did

not match the bus times. Fiona noted that, while the Connecting Ireland programme was focused on local connectivity, there was also the potential to broaden its remit to include tourist routes in areas such as Co Donegal. Fáilte Ireland has expressed interest in the proposal, but it would require approval from the NTA before proceeding. She noted that there was a similar system in place in the Scottish Highlands.

Gteic and Crollly Distillery

In addition to the site visit to Donegal Airport, the itinerary also included visits to the Gteic business park and local business Crollly Distillery.

The Committee received a tour of the Gteic Gaoth Dobhair facilities and a presentation from **Micheál MacGiolla Easbuic**, Regional Manager of Údaras na Gaeltachta.

Gteic is a network of digital hubs established by Údaras na Gaeltachta as part of its goal to support economic, social and cultural development in Gaeltacht regions. Starting in 2018, it planned to develop 31 such digital hubs. 27 have already been established, with 5 more due to open. The digital hub provides workspaces with high-speed broadband for individuals, groups, and companies. Its aim is to attract high quality jobs and inward investment to Gaeltacht areas. The Committee was told that many people returned to Gaoth Dobhair during the Covid-19 pandemic, and Gteic enabled them to work remotely and carry out business nationally and internationally.

Micheál emphasised the importance of hassle-free national and international transport connections for Gteic, both from attracting inward investment and facilitating remote workers who may have to travel national or internationally to company offices on a regular basis. He highlighted the role of Donegal Airport in this, also adding that the return of flights from Donegal to Glasgow will serve to make Gteic more attractive to Scottish companies.

The Committee concluded its itinerary with a visit to Crollly Distillery, which included a talk on history of transport in the area by local historian **Donnchadh O'Baoill**. Crollly Distillery is based in an historic factory building, which was established to be near to the now-disused rail line to Donegal.

APPENDIX I – Committee Membership

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications



Joe Carey TD
(Cathaoirleach)
Fine Gael



Cathal Crowe TD
Fianna Fáil



Alan Dillon TD
Fine Gael



Martin Kenny TD
Sinn Féin



Michael Lowry TD
Regional Group



Steven Matthews TD
Green Party



James O'Connor TD
Fianna Fáil



Darren O'Rourke TD
Sinn Féin



Duncan Smith TD
Labour Party



Senator Lynn Boylan
Sinn Féin



Senator Gerard
Craughwell
Independent



Senator Timmy Dooley
Fianna Fáil



Senator Regina Doherty
Fine Gael



Senator Gerry Horkan
(Leas-Chathaoirleach)
Fianna Fáil

Changes in Committee Membership since December 2022

- On 22 December 2022, Deputy Kieran O'Donnell was appointed as a Minister of State, and automatically discharged from the Committee
- On 6 March 2023, Deputy Joe Carey was appointed to be Cathaoirleach of the Committee on Transport and Communications
- On 7 March 2023, Deputy Alan Dillon was nominated to the Committee
- On 28 March 2023, Senator Regina Doherty was nominated to serve on the Committee in place of Senator Jerry Buttimer consequential on his election of Cathaoirleach
- On 26 April 2023, Deputy Ruairi Ó Murchú was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Martin Kenny was nominated in his stead
- On 26 April 2023, the Joint Committee elected Senator Gerry Horkan as its Leas-Chathaoirleach

APPENDIX II- Orders of Reference

Standing Orders 94, 95 and 96

Scope and context of activities of Select Committees

94. (1) The Dáil may appoint a Select Committee to consider and, if so permitted, to take evidence upon any Bill, Estimate or matter, and to report its opinion for the information and assistance of the Dáil. Such motion shall specifically state the orders of reference of the Committee, define the powers devolved upon it, fix the number of members to serve on it, state the quorum, and may appoint a date upon which the Committee shall report back to the Dáil.

(2) It shall be an instruction to each Select Committee that—

(a) it 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;

(c) it 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 Standing Order 125(1)¹; and

¹ Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions.

(d) it 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 State body within the responsibility of a Government Department or

(iii) the principal office-holder of a non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

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

(3) 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 to the Business Committee by a Chairman of one of the Select Committees concerned, waives this instruction.

Functions of Departmental Select Committees.

95. (1) The Dáil may appoint a Departmental Select Committee to consider and, unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders or by order, to report to the Dáil on any matter relating to—

(a) legislation, policy, governance, expenditure and administration of—

(i) a Government Department, and

(ii) State bodies within the responsibility of such Department, and

(b) the performance of a non-State body in relation to an agreement for the provision of services that it has entered into with any such Government Department or State body.

(2) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall also consider such other matters which—

(a) stand referred to the Committee by virtue of these Standing Orders or statute law, or

(b) shall be referred to the Committee by order of the Dáil.

(3) The principal purpose of Committee consideration of matters of policy, governance, expenditure and administration under paragraph (1) shall be—

(a) for the accountability of the relevant Minister or Minister of State, and

(b) to assess the performance of the relevant Government Department or of a State body within the responsibility of the relevant Department, in delivering public services while achieving intended outcomes, including value for money.

(4) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall not consider any matter relating to accounts audited by, or reports of, the Comptroller and Auditor General unless the Committee of Public Accounts—

(a) consents to such consideration, or

(b) has reported on such accounts or reports.

(5) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann to be and act as a Joint Committee for the purposes of paragraph (1) and such other purposes as may be specified in these Standing Orders or by order of the Dáil: provided that the Joint Committee shall not consider—

(a) the Committee Stage of a Bill,

(b) Estimates for Public Services, or

(c) a proposal contained in a motion for the approval of an international agreement involving a charge upon public funds referred to the Committee by order of the Dáil.

(6) Any report that the Joint Committee proposes to make shall, on adoption by the Joint Committee, be made to both Houses of the Oireachtas.

(7) The Chairman of the Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall also be Chairman of the Joint Committee.

(8) Where a Select Committee proposes to consider—

(a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 133, 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, or

(d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant Council (of Ministers) of the European Union and the outcome of such meetings,

the following may be notified accordingly and shall have the right to attend and take part in such consideration without having a right to move motions or amendments or the right to vote:

(i) members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland,

(ii) members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and

(iii) at the invitation of the Committee, other members of the European Parliament.

(9) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may, in respect of any Ombudsman charged with oversight of public services within the policy remit of the relevant Department 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 that the provisions of Standing Order 130 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.²

² Retained pending review of the Joint Committee on Public Petitions.

Powers of Select Committees.

96. Unless the Dáil shall otherwise order, a Committee appointed pursuant to these Standing Orders shall have the following powers:

(1) power to invite and receive oral and written evidence and to print and publish from time to time—

(a) minutes of such evidence as was heard in public, and

(b) such evidence in writing as the Committee thinks fit; 6

(2) 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;

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

(4) in relation to any statutory instrument, including those laid or laid in draft before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, power to—

(a) require any Government Department or other instrument-making authority concerned to—

(i) submit a memorandum to the Select Committee explaining the statutory instrument, or

(ii) attend a meeting of the Select Committee to explain any such statutory instrument: Provided that the authority concerned may decline to attend for reasons given in writing to the Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil, and

(b) recommend, where it considers that such action is warranted, that the instrument should be annulled or amended;

(5) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State shall attend before the Select Committee to discuss—

(a) policy, or

(b) 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 policy or proposed legislation;

(6) 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 attendee, oral briefings in advance of meetings of the relevant EC Council (of Ministers) of the European Union to enable the Select Committee to make known its views: Provided that the Committee may also require such attendance following such meetings;

(7) 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;

(8) 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; 7

(9) subject to any constraints otherwise prescribed by law, power to require that principal office-holders of a—

(a) State body within the responsibility of a Government Department or

(b) non-State body which is partly funded by the State,

shall attend meetings of the Select 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 Select Committee, which may report thereon to the Dáil; and

(10) power to—

(a) engage the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and

(b) undertake travel;

Provided that the powers under this paragraph are subject to such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under Standing Order 120(4)(a).