

**Finance (State Guarantees, International Financial Institution Funds
and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023**

Committee Stage – Opening Remarks

29 November 2023

I thank the Chair, all the committee officials and my colleagues on the committee.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 95(3)(a) and 181(1), I welcome the opportunity to address the Select Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (FINPER) today on the Finance (State Guarantees, International Financial Institution Funds, and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023, which was published on Monday, 18 September 2023 and passed second stage on 5 October 2023.

The Bill is important in the context of how Ireland is seen to respond to the current Ukraine crisis, and indeed future crises where Ireland might play a role in any multilateral response.

I reiterate the importance of the swift passage of the Bill to ensure that Ireland can fulfil its commitments at EU level in relation to financial supports to Ukraine for 2022 and 2023.

In this regard, it is vitally important that Ireland participates fully in this initiative, which demonstrates clearly the solidarity of the EU with the people of Ukraine. Ireland recognises the scale of the challenges faced by Ukraine in both the short and long-term.

I look forward to good engagement on the Bill, recognising that it was exempted from pre-legislative scrutiny.

Amendments

Neither the opposition nor the Government have tabled amendments on Committee Stage. There was good discussion about and general agreement on the essence of the legislation on Second Stage.

Provisions of the Bill

I now propose to give an overview of the operation of the Bill, which has twenty-two sections and is divided into seven parts as follows.