



## **Seanad Éireann**

### **Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann** **An Coiste um Leasanna Chomhaltaí Sheanad Éireann**

#### **Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 as amended by the** **Standards in Public Office Act 2001**

**An tAcht um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí, 1995 arna leasú leis**  
**an Acht um Chaighdeáin in Oifigí Poiblí 2001**

#### **Report of the Results of an Investigation into** **Complaints concerning Senator Ann Ormonde** **Tuarascáil ar Thorthaí Imscrúdaithe ar Ghearáin** **maidir leis an Seanadóir Áine Ní Urmhumhain**

**23 August 2010**



## **1. Introduction**

The Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann (the "Committee") was appointed by an order of Seanad Éireann on 25 October, 2007, pursuant to Standing Order 90 of the Standing Orders relative to Public Business of Seanad Éireann and section 8 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (the "1995 Act") as amended by the Standards in Public Office Act 2001 (the "2001 Act") (collectively referred herein after as "the Acts").

One of the functions of the Committee is to carry out investigations where a complaint is referred or made to the Committee, or if the Committee considers it appropriate to do so. The Committee has the power to investigate if a member has contravened section 5 or 7 of the 1995 Act as amended or has done a specified act as defined in section 4 of the 2001 Act.

## **2. Complaint received**

On 5 August 2010 the Clerk of Seanad Éireann received a complaint from Mr. Myles Duffy in relation to travel and subsistence allowance claims made by Senator Ormonde with respect to an address at Bunmahon, Co. Waterford thereby misrepresenting her address. The Clerk of Seanad Éireann referred the complaint to the Committee pursuant to section 8 of the Acts.

## **3. Considerations of the complaint by the Committee**

The Committee met on 9 August 2010 and commenced its investigation by seeking a statement from Senator Ormonde in response to the complaint received. A copy of the complaint received was forwarded to Senator Ormonde. Senator Ormonde responded by providing a statement to the Committee dated 23 August 2010.

The Committee sought a copy of Senator Ormonde's file which relates to claims made by the Senator for travel and overnight allowances and/or her addresses for the purpose of processing such claims from the Members Services section of the House of the Oireachtas Service (the "Service"). The Committee also sought a copy of all files that exist within the Service with regard to the appropriate address used and/or any log or record of the address used by Senator Ormonde. This information was received by the Committee on 20 August 2010.

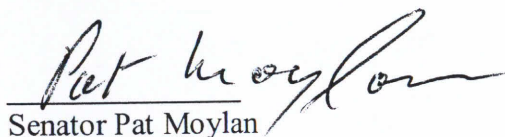
The Committee met on 23 August 2010 and considered the complaint, Senator Ormonde's response and all the materials received from the Service.



#### 4. Findings of the Committee

The Committee considered whether the Senator's actions constituted a specified act within the meaning of the Acts. Having duly considered the complaint, the response received from Senator Ormonde and the materials received from the Service, the Committee determined that although there were reasonable grounds for the complaint and that the complaint was not frivolous or vexatious, having considered all of the evidence before it, the Senator did not misrepresent her normal place of residence for the purpose of making claims for allowances and as such she has not done a specified act within the meaning of the Acts and consequently no action will be taken against the Senator.

The Committee agreed to write to the Complainant, Senator Ormonde and the Clerk of the Seanad Éireann and to attach a copy of its report and findings.



Senator Pat Moylan  
Chairman  
Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann

23 August 2010

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DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

Clerk of ~~Dáil~~ Seanad (delete as appropriate)

I enclose <sup>b</sup>copies\* of the under mentioned document(s) to be laid before the House. The information sought below is as set out.

██████████ Clerk to the Select Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann  
For Head of Department or other body (please print)

Date: 23 August 2010 Telephone: 01 618 3226 E-mail: ██████████@oireachtas.ie



1. Department or other body laying document ..	..... Committee on Members Interests of Seanad Éireann
2. Title of document .. .. .	Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 as amended by the Standards in Public Office Act 2001. Report of the Results of an investigation into Complaints concerning Senator Ann Ormonde  Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 as amended by the Standards in Public Office Act 2001. Report of the Results of an investigation into Complaints concerning Senator Rónán Mullen.
3. Parliamentary number (Prn) (available from Government Supplies Agency (01) 647 6628)	N/A .....
4. <sup>1</sup> If the requirement to lay the document is set out in an Act please state the title and specific section of the Act .. .. .	N/A .....
5. If specified in the Act, within how many sitting days may the House annul or disapprove the document? (e.g. 21 sitting days) .. .. .	N/A .....
6. Does the Act specify whether the House must approve the document? (e.g. by resolution ) .. ..	..... Yes / No (delete as appropriate) .....
7. Full URL if the document is available online ..	..... http:// .....

<sup>1</sup> The information required for questions 4 – 6 inclusive can, in general, be found in the specific section of the Act containing the requirement to lay the document before the House.