



## *Coimisiún Thithe an Oireachtais* *Houses of the Oireachtas Commission*

*Minutes of the Commission*  
*Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007*

1. An informal induction meeting of the Commission took place at 3 p.m. in Room 2, Leinster House.

**2. Members present.**

Deputy John O'Donoghue, T.D., Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Senator Paul Bradford, Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Secretary General, Deputy Tom Hayes, Senator Cecilia Keaveney, Deputy Séamus Kirk, Senator Pat Moylan, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad, Deputy Michael Mulcahy, Deputy Dan Neville, Deputy Pat Rabbitte and Senator Jim Walsh.

**3. Appointment of Deputy Chairperson.**

The Chairperson informed the Commission that pursuant to section 7(3)(a) of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003 and 2006, he had appointed Senator Pat Moylan, Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, to be the deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

**4. Finance Committee – membership.**

Senator Paul Bradford, Deputies Séamus Kirk, Michael Mulcahy, Dan Neville and Pat Rabbitte were appointed to the Finance Committee. Deputy Séamus Kirk was appointed Chairperson of the Committee.

**5. Audit Committee – membership.**

**(i) Members:**

Senator Dominic Hannigan, Deputy Tom Hayes and Senator Jim Walsh were appointed to the Audit Committee.

**(ii) External representation:**

Mr. Tom O'Higgins, corporate governance consultant, Mr. Greg Sparks, chartered accountant, and Mr. Art O'Leary, Director of Committees, Information and Communications of the Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas, were also appointed to the Committee.

The Commission agreed that Mr. Tom O'Higgins be appointed as Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

**6. Printing Users' Council – membership.**

Deputies Tom Hayes and Séamus Kirk, Senator Cecilia Keaveney and Deputy Pat Rabbitte were appointed to the Printing Users' Council. Ms. Jacqui Cross, Solicitor, Office of the Parliamentary Legal Adviser, and Ms. Michelle Grant, Principal Officer, Human Resources, Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas, were also appointed to the Printing Users' Council.

**7. Outline Work Programme and Meetings Schedule 2007/2008.**

The Committee noted an outline work programme and meetings schedule for 2007/2008.

**8. Corporate Governance.**

The Commission was addressed on the principles of best governance practice by (i) Mr. John O'Donoghue, T.D., Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), (ii) Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Secretary General, (iii) Professor Sir William McKay, former Clerk of the Houses of Commons, and (iv) Mr. Tom O'Higgins, consultant on corporate governance.

**9. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

JOHN O'DONOGHUE, T.D.,  
Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission.

Dated:

