



*Minutes of the Commission
Tuesday, 16th July, 2013*

1. The fifth meeting of the Commission of 2013 took place at 12.00 p.m. in Room 2, Leinster House.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy John Browne, Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Deputy Catherine Byrne, Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Secretary General, Senator Tom Sheahan and Deputy Jack Wall.

Apologies were received from Deputy Seán Barrett, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Deputy Frank Feighan and Senator John Whelan.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th June, 2013, were agreed by the Commission.

4. **DRAFT ESTIMATE FOR 2014**

The Commission had before it the Draft Estimate for 2014. The Commission noted that it is necessary to have the Estimate noted in the Dáil before it goes into recess in July in view of (i) the Government Decision to bring forward budget day, and (ii) the statutory obligation on the Commission to present its Statement of Estimates to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform 30 days before the Minister presents his white paper on the Budget. The Commission approved the Draft Estimate for 2014 and noted the explanatory note on the scope of each of the subheads.

It was agreed that the press release regarding the Estimate should highlight that the Commission has consistently come in under budget and that there has been a steady decrease in Members' salaries and allowances. It was also noted that the Estimate will be presented to the Dáil on Thursday, 18th July, 2013, for noting by way of motion, in accordance with the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003 to 2012.

5. **DISCUSSION WITH OPW ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE UPCOMING PROPOSED WORKS TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND**

Mr. John McMahon, Commissioner, Mr. John Cahill, Assistant Principal Architect, and Mr. Ciarán McGahon, Senior Architects, OPW, advised the Commission that the OPW had initially come before the Commission seeking permission to reinstate the compound which had been in place during the Phase 1 works to the National Gallery of Ireland. However on foot of the Commission's request at the last meeting, OPW had investigated the feasibility of utilising Leinster Lawn

as a temporary car park. Mr. McMahon advised the Commission that neither the OPW nor the sponsoring Department of the National Gallery Project, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, has funding to meet the costs associated with converting the Lawn into a temporary car park, which were estimated at €150,000. The Commission was advised that, as per legal advice, it was precluded from providing such funding under the terms of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts. Discussions ensued as to other possible solutions to the parking issues expected in view of the reinstatement of the Moat area in the Merrion Street car park and the anticipated traffic disruption on Kildare Street from the impending Luas works.

The meeting adjourned at 1.05 p.m. until 12 noon on 17th July 2013.

SEÁN BARRETT, T.D.,
Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission.

Dated: