



*Minutes of the Commission  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013*

1. The sixth meeting of the Commission of 2013 took place at 4.00 p.m. in Room 2, Leinster House.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy Seán Barrett, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Deputy John Browne, Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Deputy Catherine Byrne, Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Secretary General, Deputy Frank Feighan, Deputy Dan Neville, Senator Marc MacSharry, Senator Tom Sheahan, Deputy Jack Wall and Senator John Whelan.

3. **DISCUSSION WITH OPW ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE UPCOMING PROPOSED WORKS TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND (resumed)**

Mr. John McMahon, Commissioner, and Mr. John Cahill, Assistant Principal Architect, advised the Commission that, consideration had been given to the various solutions discussed at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013. As a result, the OPW had secured an additional 20 car parking spaces in Agriculture House for the Houses of the Oireachtas. Assurances were given that these spaces would be dedicated spaces and located in the one area if possible. It was suggested that a further 10 spaces could be made available in the Moat area in the Merrion Street car park while retaining adequate parking space for visiting dignitaries.

Following discussion, it was agreed to accede to the compound (required to facilitate the refurbishment of the National Gallery of Ireland involving the erection of a hoarding for a period of 2 years approx. from late 2013) being reinstated provided:

- (i) all 54 spaces in the Agriculture House car park would be dedicated spaces for the Houses of the Oireachtas, and personalised for Members;
- (ii) an additional 10 car park spaces would be marked out in the Moat area; and
- (iii) the Commission reserves the right to seek additional car parking spaces from the OPW should the impending Luas works cause greater disruption than anticipated for access to the Kildare Street car park.

It was also agreed that the matter should be referred to the Whips in relation to the allocation of spaces within the Agriculture House car park and to inform Members of the new arrangements from the commencement of the works. Senator Sheahan wished it to be recorded that he did not consider best practice had been followed with regard to the absence of a contingency fund for the project of this magnitude. Commissioner McMahon did not accept this assertion and thanked the Commission for their co-operation, without which the National Gallery of Ireland project could not proceed.

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- (i) Letter from CPP to Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform re Members' supports

The Commission noted the response to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform which issued from Dáil CPP regarding Members' supports.

The meeting adjourned at 5.02 p.m.

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

Dated: