



*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Tuesday 10 February 2015*

1. The first meeting of the Commission of 2015 took place at 12.00 p.m. in Room 2, Leinster House.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy Seán Barrett, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Deputy Olivia Mitchell, Deputy Dan Neville, Senator Tom Sheahan, Deputy Jack Wall and Senator John Whelan.

Apologies were received from Deputy John Browne and Senator Marc MacSharry.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 16 December 2014 were agreed by the Commission.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

(i) *Report on Necessary Repairs and Maintenance Works in Leinster House*

The Commission requested that a progress report on necessary repairs and maintenance works in Leinster House be presented to the Commission on a monthly basis.

(ii) *Proposed Programme of Restoration Works in Georgian Leinster House*

The Commission noted that the Office of Public Works would provide a briefing at its next meeting on the proposed restoration project for Georgian Leinster House.

5. **REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Financial Report for the reporting period January to December 2014

Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented a report from the Finance Committee on expenditure for the period January to December 2014.

Based on the provisional outturn for 2014 of €102.6m, against an estimate of €108.6m, the Committee noted that the Houses had achieved 5.5% savings last year.

The Commission noted the report.

6. REQUEST FOR CONSENT FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE BANKING CRISIS TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF PERSONS WITH TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERTISE

The Commission considered a letter from the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis, Deputy Ciarán Lynch, requesting the consent, in writing, of the Commission for the Joint Committee to engage the services of persons with technical knowledge or expertise in accordance with section 67(2) of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Inquiries, Privileges and Procedures) Act 2013.

Pursuant to the said section 67(2), the Commission agreed to grant its consent for the Joint Committee to engage the services of persons as set out in the Annex to these minutes.

The Commission noted that the Committee would submit further requests, as appropriate, in due course in accordance with section 67(2) of the Act.

The Commission also noted that a quarterly report on inquiry costs will be submitted to the Commission's Finance Committee who will report thereon to the Commission.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Reporting and Presentation of Members' Expenses Details

The Commission requested that a paper be prepared setting out options on the reporting and presentation of a number of issues relating to members, having regard to its policy of publishing clear, accurate and timely information.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1.30 p.m.

SEÁN BARRETT, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: