



*Minutes of Commission Meeting  
Tuesday 20 October 2015*

1. The tenth 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), Deputy John Browne, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Senator Marc MacSharry, Deputy Olivia Mitchell, Deputy Dan Neville and Senator John Whelan.

Apologies were received from Senator Paddy Burke, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Senator Tom Sheahan and Deputy Jack Wall.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 29 September 2015 were agreed by the Commission.

4. **REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- (1) **Financial report for the reporting period January to August 2015**

In the unavoidable absence of the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Finance Officer presented a report from the Finance Committee on expenditure for the period January to August 2015.

It was noted that the Estimate for the current year was €112m. Actual expenditure incurred to end of August was €68.7m against a budget of €71.9m resulting in a budget variance of €3.2m (4%).

The Commission noted the report.

## **(2) Sanction for Virement between Subheads**

The Commission:

- (i) granted sanction to vire between subheads where savings are anticipated to meet excesses occurring, provided that no virement occur in the case of subheads 2(d), 2(e) and 2(h);
- (ii) delegated authority to the Assistant Secretary, Corporate and Members' Services, to vire additional funds between subheads in respect of expenditure incurred before 31 December 2015; and
- (ii) agreed to formally note the final position in relation to virement as soon as may be following the closure of the 2015 Account.

## **5. LEGAL UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL ADVISER**

The Commission was briefed by the Office of the Parliamentary Legal Adviser on legal proceedings involving the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Commission noted the update briefing.

## **6. JOINT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE BANKING CRISIS**

### **(i) Report on Banking Inquiry costs**

The Commission noted a report on the Banking Inquiry Running Costs and project update for the period June 2014 to October 2015. The report also included information on staff resources for the Inquiry and budgetary commitments.

The Commission also noted that a further report on Inquiry costs will be published at the conclusion of the Inquiry.

### **(ii) Banking Inquiry Project Update and Related Matters**

The Commission noted a background information note on the work planned and timetable for completion of the Inquiry and presentation of its report to the Houses.

The Commission acknowledged and paid tribute to the Committee for its work to date.

## **7. PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL AND UPGRADE WORKS FOR GEORGIAN LEINSTER HOUSE**

The Commission received an update presentation from the Office of Public Works (OPW) on essential structural and upgrade works for Georgian Leinster House.

The Commission noted that the OPW would prepare an accommodation plan in conjunction with the works. The relevant Committees in the Houses would be consulted in preparing the accommodation plan.

The Commission requested that a briefing be provided to members of the Houses and staff on the planned programme of work, the timescales involved and arrangements for access to Leinster House and the parliamentary precinct while the work is underway.

The Commission also noted that public access to Leinster House would be temporarily restricted for health and safety reasons while the structural and upgrade work is underway.

## **8. NECESSARY MAINTENANCE WORKS IN LEINSTER HOUSE**

The Commission noted the progress in relation to necessary maintenance works in Leinster House.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*Report from the Joint sub-Committee on Administration on the Parliamentary Internship Programme in the Houses*

The Commission noted the report and recommendations presented by the Joint sub-Committee on Administration on the Parliamentary Internship Programme in the Houses.

The Commission agreed that the Service would examine how the sub-Committee's recommendations to enhance the Internship Programme could be taken forward.

The Commission also expressed appreciation to the sub-Committee for undertaking the review of the Parliamentary Internship Programme.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1.45 p.m.

SEÁN BARRETT, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: