



*[Draft] Minutes of Commission Meeting
Wednesday 27 January 2016*

1. The second meeting of the Commission of 2016 took place at 4.00 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 John Browne, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Mr. Peter Finnegan, Secretary General, Deputy Dan Neville.

Apologies were received from Deputy Olivia Mitchell and Senator Marc MacSharry.

3. **COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Peter Finnegan, Secretary General of the Service, to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment. The Commission noted that Mr. Finnegan would serve as ex officio Chief Executive of the Commission in accordance with section 15 of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003-2015. The Commission also requested that Mr. Michael Errity, Assistant Secretary, continue to attend its meetings in view of his responsibilities for Corporate and Members Services.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings of 15 December 2015 and 13 January 2016 were agreed by the Commission.

5. **REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Financial report for the reporting period January to December 2015

The Finance Officer presented a report on expenditure for the period January to December 2015.

It was noted that the provisional outturn for 2015 was €107.4m against a budget of €112.3m resulting in a budget variance of €4.9m (4%).

Based on the provisional outturn for the 3-years 2013-2015 of €311m, against a budget of €324m, the Commission noted that the Houses had achieved savings of €13m (4%) for the 3-year period.

The Commission noted the report.

6. PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL AND UPGRADE WORKS FOR GEORGIAN LEINSTER HOUSE, INCLUDING THE ACCOMMODATION PLAN FOR THE DURATION OF THE WORKS

The Commission received an update presentation from the Office of Public Works (OPW) on the planned programme of structural and upgrade works for Georgian Leinster House, including the timescales involved. The Commission was also briefed on the accommodation plan for the duration of the works.

The Commission noted that the site enabling works are due to commence in March 2016 and will be followed by the main structural works in August 2016. The work is due to conclude in August 2017.

The Commission requested that the Secretary General be provided with a monthly written status report on the project in view of its significant impact on the Houses and Members.

It also directed that a Steering Group be established and chaired by a senior official of the Service to oversee the project.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members joined the Chairperson in paying tribute to Deputy John Browne, Deputy Olivia Mitchell, Deputy Dan Neville and Deputy Jack Wall for their work on the Commission, noting that they would not seek re-election to the Dáil at the next election.

SEÁN BARRETT, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: