



*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Tuesday 16 April 2019*

1. The fourth meeting of the Commission of 2019 took place at 11.30 a.m. in Room 160, Leinster House.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Senator Denis O'Donovan, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Senator Paudie Coffey, Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, Senator Gerard P. Craughwell, Mr. Peter Finnegan, Secretary General, Deputy Martin Heydon and Deputy Catherine Murphy.

Apologies were received from Senator Ned O'Sullivan.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 26 March 2019 were agreed by the Commission.

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

Status Report on the Programme of work

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

The Commission was briefed on the current status and progress of the project. Works are proceeding in accordance with the contract and updated programme for the project. The construction work is planned to be completed in Q2 2019. The Service is working with OPW to advance a series of related projects to prepare the House for reoccupation. Fit out works will commence in Q2 2019. Building occupancy will take place on a phased basis over the summer recess period and is expected to be completed in time for the return of the Houses following the summer recess.

The Commission noted progress and thanked the OPW staff for their work.

5. ICT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

(i) Business Case for the next phase of the ICT Desktop Refresh Project

The Commission considered a business case seeking approval and funding to implement the next phase of the ICT Desktop Refresh Project.

The project includes replacing desktop and laptop computers across the Service, upgrading the operating system and software, and migrating users to the new devices. The upgrade of ICT systems is necessary as the systems are reaching end of life and will no longer be supported.

The Commission approved the business case for the ICT Desktop Refresh Project and the budget for the project of €1.05m.

(ii) Update on ICT Projects Status and Expenditure Report 2019

The Commission noted the ICT projects status and expenditure report showing the current status and progress of new ICT services and digital transformation projects and project-related expenditure.

6. RANNÓG AN AISTRIÚCHÁIN

Rannóg 2024: Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2024

The Commission was briefed on the Rannóg an Aistriúcháin Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2024, setting out a strategy to implement the recommendations of the Capacity Review undertaken of Rannóg an Aistriúcháin, the Service's Translation Section.

It noted that the estimated cost to implement the Plan is €3.25m over the 5-year period of the Plan.

The Commission approved the Rannóg an Aistriúcháin Strategy and Implementation Plan for the period 2019-2024 and noted that separate business cases will be submitted to the Commission seeking approval for proposed expenditure in the implementation of the Plan.

7. PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

Annual Work Programme 2019

The Commission noted the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) Annual Work Programme for 2019. The work programme sets out the PBO's priorities for 2019 consistent with its statutory role to provide the Houses and the Parliamentary Committees with fiscal and economic information, analysis and advice that is independent and impartial.

8. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO POLITICAL GROUPS REPRESENTED ON THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE ACTION

Draft Statutory Instrument under the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2014

The Commission approved the Draft Statutory Instrument to give legal effect to its decision on the allocation of additional staff resources under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance to Parties and Groups represented on the Joint Committee on Climate Action for the Committee's extended timeframe in accordance with the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2014.

9. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Commission noted the 2018 Annual Report of the Audit Committee which was presented to it in accordance with section 14A(10)(c) of the Commission Acts 2003-2018. The Annual Report of the Audit Committee will be published with the Commission's Annual Report 2018.

10. LEGAL BRIEFING FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL ADVISERS

Legal advice

The Commission approved the provision of legal advice, including legal representation, in accordance with section 4(2)(e) of the Commission Acts 2003-2018 in respect of a direction issued to Deputy Catherine Murphy by a Commission of Investigation.

Deputy Murphy absented herself from the meeting for consideration of this item.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence

The Commission noted correspondence from:

- (a) a member of the public; and
- (b) Deputy Catherine Murphy

The meeting adjourned at 12.50 p.m.

SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: