



Coimisiún Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Commission

*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Tuesday 9 July 2019.*

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

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Paudie Coffey, Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson), Senator Gerard P. Craughwell, Deputy Martin Heydon, Deputy Catherine Murphy, Deputy Louise O'Reilly, Senator Ned O'Sullivan and Mr. Peter Finnegan, Secretary General.

Apologies were received from Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), and Senator Denis O'Donovan, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson).

3. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

Pursuant to section 7(3)(c)(ii) of the Commission Acts, the Commission appointed Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy to be deputy chairperson of the Commission in the absence of the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2019 were agreed by the Commission.

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

- (i) **Status Report on the Structural Project**

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. The main construction project is nearing completion and the House will be handed over to the Service in mid August. Fit out works in the House have begun on a phased basis and building occupancy is planned to take place incrementally over the summer recess period. The Seanad chamber fit out is ongoing and will be completed in time for the resumption of the Seanad sittings in the autumn. The House is scheduled to be reopened following completion of the refurbishment project in September 2019.

The Commission approved implementation of the following plans presented by OPW staff for the Leinster House grounds:

- (a) a plan presented by the OPW State Architect for the initial phase of the restoration of the historic grounds of the Georgian House, which includes improvements to make the precinct universally accessible; and
- (b) a plan presented by OPW Chief Park Superintendent for the Leinster House lawn to promote biodiversity.

(ii) Public Artwork for Georgian Leinster House

The Commission considered a paper from the OPW Art Adviser on public artwork for the Leinster House complex to be displayed when the Georgian House is officially reopened to visitors and for public guided tours.

The Commission:

- (a) approved the proposed display of portraits and artwork in the Georgian House in preparing the House to be reopened on completion of the refurbishment project;
- (b) approved, in principle, the commissioning of the new art projects; and
- (c) requested the OPW Art Adviser to report back to the Commission with details of design and costs for each new art project for formal approval.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS: REPORTS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial report for the reporting period January to May 2019

The Finance Officer presented a report from the Finance Committee on expenditure for the period January to May 2019.

It was noted that expenditure to the end May was €50.9m against a budget of €57.7m, showing an underspend of €6.8m (12%), of which €1.7m relates to pay and €5.1m relates to non-pay.

The Commission noted the report.

7. ICT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Update on ICT Projects Status and Expenditure Report 2019

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

8. RANNÓG AN AISTRIÚCHÁIN

Business case for the establishment of a multi-operator legislative editing framework agreement

The Commission considered a business case seeking approval and funding to establish a multi-operator framework agreement for the provision of Irish language legislative editing services for primary legislation.

The editors engaged on the framework will focus on editing translations of primary legislation in the implementation of the translation arrears clearance strategy for Rannóg an Aistriúcháin. The framework agreement will run for a period of four years.

The Commission approved the business case to establish a multi-operator framework agreement and associated budget of €1.134m.

9. LIBRARY & RESEARCH SERVICE

Proposed changes to Library & Research Service Rules and Statement of Services

The Commission had before it for consideration a proposal on the modification of the rules governing access to and use of the Library and Research (L&RS) Reading Room and the L&RS Statement of Services. The proposed modifications seek to expand the use of the Library Reading Room for certain specific purposes.

The Commission approved, in principle, the changes proposed to the rules governing access to and use of the Library Reading Room and the corresponding changes to the L&RS Statement of Services. It requested the Head of the L&RS to present the revised L&RS Statement of Services to the Commission at its meeting in September for further consideration and approval.

10. DATA PROTECTION GOVERNANCE:

(i) Data Protection Policy

The Commission had before it for consideration a draft Data Protection Policy for the Houses of the Oireachtas Service.

The policy sets out how the Service will ensure compliance with its obligations under Data Protection legislation in relation to all personal data, and how the Service will process personal data in accordance with the data protection principles set out in the legislation.

The Commission approved the Data Protection Policy for the Houses of the Oireachtas Service

(ii) Privacy Notices on the processing of personal data

The Commission approved the following Privacy Notices setting out how personal data provided to the Service will be processed in compliance with its obligations under Data Protection legislation:

- (a) Privacy Notice for members of the Houses of the Oireachtas (as recipients of support services provided by the Houses of the Oireachtas Service);
- (b) Privacy Notice for members' staff;
- (c) Privacy Notice for staff of the Service.

11. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 – 2021

In accordance with section 16(4) of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003-2018, the Secretary General presented a draft Strategic Plan to the Commission for the period 2019 - 2021.

The Commission approved the Strategic Plan, without amendment, to be laid before the Houses and published.

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

The Commission was briefed by the Parliamentary Legal Adviser on legal matters.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Future Meeting Schedule

The Commission approved a schedule of future meetings for the period October to December 2019.

(ii) Correspondence

The Commission noted correspondence from:

- (a) Deputy Micheál Martin;
- (b) Deputy Clare Daly;
- (c) Deputy Louise O'Reilly.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30 p.m.

SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: