



Coimisiún Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Commission

*Agreed Minutes of Commission Meeting
Wednesday 05 August 2020.*

1. The sixth meeting of the Commission of 2020 took place at 11.00 a.m. on MS Teams.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Senator Mark Daly, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad, (Deputy Chairperson), Deputy James Browne, Senator Paddy Burke, Deputy Joe Carey, Deputy Francis Noel Duffy, Deputy Louise O'Reilly, Senator Mark Wall and Mr. Peter Finnegan, Secretary General.

Senator Ned O'Sullivan was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties and an apology was received from Deputy Duncan Smith.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting of 29 July 2020 as amended was agreed by the Commission.

4. **REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE POLICY PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO THE SCHEME FOR SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE**

The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4 August was presented by Senator Mark Daly, Cathaoirleach and Chair of the Finance Committee which recommended that the proposal put forward by Deputy Browne should be costed by the Chief Financial Officer with a view to current and future financial commitments and a report be prepared for consideration and decision of the Commission.

Having considered the proposal as costed, request from the Labour Party Leader and the formula for the allocation of secretarial facilities the Commission agreed to:

- (a) the provision of 100% of the proposed allocation of Secretarial Assistant posts to qualifying parties as presented by Members HR to the Commission on 29th July 2020;
- (b) the proposal for additional staffing allocations to be considered further in September, with the intention that such posts will be effective from 1st October 2020;
- (c) a review on the current method of allocation of posts to be carried out by the Oireachtas Service to ensure that it is equitable, transparent and fair.

A proposal on the allocation of additional posts and a review of the current method of allocation to be presented to the Finance Committee in September in advance of consideration by the Commission.

Senator Mark Wall dissented from the decisions taken.

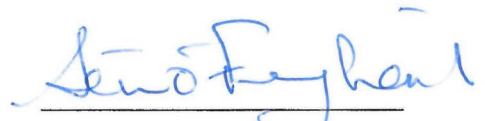
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence

The Commission noted the following correspondence:

Letter from Deputy Alan Kelly, Leader of the Labour Party seeking a reconsideration of the allocation of resources on the basis of fairness and proportionality, so that a further 0.5 of an Administrative Assistant post be provided to the Labour Party to support their committee work.

The Commission agreed that this request should be considered further in the context of the Review of the Scheme.



SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL, T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: 28 September 2020.