



*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Monday 12 July 2021*

The eighth meeting of the Commission of 2021 took place at 11.00 a.m. via MS Teams.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson), Senator Mark Daly, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson), Deputy Francis Noel Duffy, Deputy Joe Carey; Senator Seán Kyne; Senator Ned O'Sullivan; Deputy Duncan Smith; and Mr. Peter Finnegan (Secretary General).

Apologies were received from Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Deputy Louise O'Reilly and Senator Mark Wall.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 21 June 2021 were agreed by the Commission.

3. SECURITY MATTERS

The Commission was briefed on security matters relating to the parliamentary precinct.

The Commission thanked Superintendent Joseph Gannon for his assistance to the Houses of the Oireachtas over many years and wished him well on his forthcoming retirement.

4. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial and Output Reporting

Senator Mark Daly, Cathaoirleach and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the report from the Finance Committee for the reporting period January to May 2021.

The Commission noted the financial report.

5. HOUSES OF THE OIREACTHAS DECADE OF CENTENARIES COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME

The Commission noted an outline of events planned in 2021 and 2022, and associated costs, under the Oireachtas Decade of Centenaries Commemorative Programme.

The Commission approved a budget of €300,000 to implement elements of the Programme in 2021 and 2022.

6. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM FOR RECORDING MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT LEINSTER HOUSE

The Commission received an update on implementation of the recommendation of the Independent Review of the System for Recording Attendance: Option 1(b), *VisionTime system observed by CCTV*.

It noted that the Service was examining implementation of the recommendation and would provide a further update at the next meeting of the Commission.

7. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

(i) Business Case for the Development of a Members' Portal Application

The Commission considered a business case seeking approval and funding for the development of a Members' Portal Application.

The Commission approved the business case and budget for the project of €781,543.

(ii) Business Case for Technology in the Chambers Contract

The Commission considered a business case seeking approval and funding to establish a framework agreement with a single operator in accordance with Public Procurement Guidelines for the provision of support and maintenance for equipment and systems in the chambers and meeting rooms.

The Commission approved the business case and budget for the project of €4,421,052.

(iii) Briefing on Cyber Security

The Chief Information Officer briefed the Commission on cyber security of the Service's computers, networks and systems. The Commission noted that a proposal on cloud storage would be brought to next meeting.

8. UPDATE FROM FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The Commission received an update from the Head of Facilities Management.

9. RETURN OF SITTINGS OF BOTH HOUSES TO LEINSTER HOUSE

The Commission was briefed on the outline plan for the resumption of the parliamentary sittings in Leinster House after the summer recess. It also received a presentation on the COVID-19 National Work Safety Protocol and current public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from the Health and Safety consultant engaged by the Service.

It noted that the outline plan will be developed further, taking into consideration the most up to date public health guidance, and will consider the matter again in September.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Information items and updates

The Commission noted:

- (a) an update on the SIPTU pay claim submitted for staff employed under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance for Members;
- (b) an information note on the operation of the Superannuation Scheme for Staff employed under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance to Members

- (c) the response issued to the request from Deputy Michael Ring for information relating to Dáil sittings.
- (ii) *Correspondence*

The Commission noted the following correspondence:

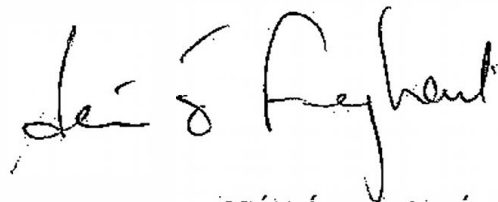
- (a) request on behalf of the Board of Directors of Irish Neonatal Health Alliance to light a candle in Leinster House in recognition of International Wave of Light day, 15 October 2021;
- (b) proposal from Senator Vincent P. Martin on the placement of a beehive on the grounds of Leinster House;
- (c) letter from the Seanad Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight submitting nominations to serve on the Commission's Advisory Working Group on Portraiture and other Art;
- (d) letter from the Dáil Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight in relation to the Commission's Advisory Working Group on Portraiture and other Art.

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

The Commission was briefed by the Parliamentary Legal Adviser on the case of *Denis O'Brien v. Clerk of Dáil Éireann, Members of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges of Dáil Éireann, Ireland and the Attorney General – Record Number 488P/2015*.

The Commission gave instructions in respect of the without prejudice costs settlement amount in the taxation of legal costs arising from the proceedings.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27 September 2021.



SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: