



**Coimisiún Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Commission**

*Minutes of Commission Meeting
Wednesday 24 October 2022*

The ninth meeting of the Commission of 2022 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 Joe Carey; Senator Seán Kyne; Deputy Louise O'Reilly; Senator Ned O'Sullivan; Senator Lynn Ruane and Mr. Peter Finnegan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Francis Noel Duffy and Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting of 14 September were agreed by the Commission.

3. PROPOSALS FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON PORTRAITURE AND OTHER ART

The Commission approved proposals from the *Working Group on Portraiture and other Art* on the display of artworks in Leinster House.

4. UPDATE FROM STEERING GROUP ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR LEINSTER HOUSE

The Commission noted an update from the Chairperson of the Steering Group on the Programme of Work for Leinster House.

Ms Rosemary Collier, Head of Heritage Services and Capital Works Delivery, Office of Public Works, provided an update on a number of OPW led projects for the campus.

The Commission noted that the planning application for the installation of covered bicycle spaces on the Merrion Street side of Leinster House had been submitted to the planning authority.

The Commission also noted a proposed draft scheme of a Commemorative Garden for the Leinster Lawn prepared by OPW Heritage Services and agreed to consider the draft scheme at a future meeting.

5. SCHEME FOR SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS

(i) Update on SIPTU pay claim submitted for staff employed under the Scheme

The Commission received an update on the SIPTU pay claim submitted for staff employed under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance for Members.

The Commission also noted a letter from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform confirming his acceptance of the recommendations of the independent review relating to the terms and conditions of employment of staff serving as Secretarial Assistants under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance for Members.

(ii) Resolution of Seanad Éireann

The Commission noted a resolution adopted by Seanad Éireann on 12 October 2022 with respect to the SIPTU pay claim.

6. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Business Case for a Chamber Business Manager Application

The Commission approved a business case and budget for the development of a Committee Task Manager application which will be implemented as part of the Digital Parliament System.

7. LEGAL BRIEFING

The Commission received a legal briefing from the Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers.

8. PROPOSED SURVEY OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

The Commission approved a proposal for the conduct of the survey by a UCD research team of members of both Houses of the Oireachtas.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Information items

The Commission noted information notes on the following:

- (a) guided tours of the Houses of the Oireachtas;
- (b) pension arrangements for staff employed under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance;

Correspondence

The Commission noted the following:

- (a) email from Deputy Joe Carey in relation to school tours of the Houses;
- (b) Emails from Deputy Joe Flaherty and Deputy Mark Ward in relation to accessibility of the AV Room;
- (c) Email from Deputy Louise O'Reilly in relation to access to period products, free of charge, in the parliamentary workplace;

- (d) Letter from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the recommendations of the independent review of the terms and conditions of employment of staff serving as Secretarial Assistants under the Scheme for Secretarial Assistance for Members.

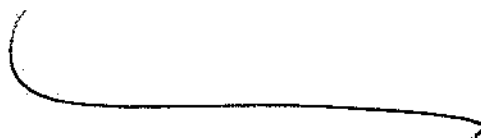
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán Ó Fearghaíl', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL T.D.

Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission

Dated: 22 November 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping curve that ends in a small hook.