



Coimisiún Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Commission

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Monday 10 July 2023

The sixth meeting of the Commission of 2023 took place at 12:00 noon via MS Teams.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson); Senator Jerry Buttimer, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson); Senator Paddy Burke; Deputy Francis Noel Duffy; Senator Rónán Mullen; Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor; Deputy Michael Ring; Deputy Louise O'Reilly; Deputy Jennifer Whitmore; and Mr Peter Finnegan, Clerk of the Dáil and Secretary General.

Apologies were received from Senator Ned O'Sullivan.

2. CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION

The Commission noted that Senator Lynn Ruane had resigned her membership of the Commission and thanked for her work. The Commission welcomed new member, Senator Rónán Mullen, who was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Commission membership.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2023 were agreed by the Commission.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Commission appointed Senator Rónán Mullen to serve on the Commission's Finance Committee to fill the vacancy arising as a consequence of the resignation of Senator Lynn Ruane from the Commission.

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

The Commission received an update from the Chair of the Steering Group on the programme of work for Leinster House.

6. WORKING GROUP ON PORTRAITURE AND OTHER ART

The Commission received an update on the programme work to date of the Working Group on Portraiture and other Art.

The Commission noted that a bust of the late Lord David Trimble would be unveiled in Leinster House in December 2023, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to him and the late John Hume. It also noted that discussions were ongoing with the UK House of Commons with a view to having a replica unveiled in Westminster.

The Commission appointed Deputy Michael Ring to serve on the Working Group.

7. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES BY THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL ADVISERS

The Commission approved two Service Level Agreements (SLAs) on the provision of legal services by the Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers:

- (i) SLA for the Provision of Services to Members of the Houses; and
- (ii) SLA for the Provision of Services to the Houses of the Oireachtas Service and Committees of the Houses.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence

The Commission noted correspondence from:

- (a) Deputy Louise O'Reilly in relation to the Media Protocol for the Houses and access to the fitness room;
- (b) Deputy Mary Lou McDonald in relation to the introduction of maternity leave for members of the Houses of the Oireachtas;
- (c) Deputy Deputy Louise O'Reilly in relation to the introduction of maternity leave for members of the Houses of the Oireachtas;
- (d) the Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee on Environment and Climate Action in relation to the allocation of additional staff resources to support members in preparing the Committee's response to the report of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss.

Postal facilities

The Commission noted that the Service proposes to review the regulations governing postal facilities for members to determine if they require to be updated.

Additional Seating in the Dáil Chamber

The Commission noted that work would commence in the Dáil chamber over the summer recess to accommodate an increase in membership of the Dáil following the next general election.

Future Meeting Schedule

The Commission approved a schedule of future meetings for the period October to December 2023.

9. Next Meeting: Monday 2 October 2023.

Seán Ó Fearghaíl T.D.
Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission
Dated: