



Coimisiún Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Commission

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Monday 19 June 2023

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

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil, Ceann Comhairle (Chairperson); Senator Jerry Buttimer, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad (Deputy Chairperson); Senator Paddy Burke; Deputy Francis Noel Duffy; Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor; Senator Ned O'Sullivan; Deputy Michael Ring, Senator Lynn Ruane; and Mr Peter Finnegan, Clerk of the Dáil and Secretary General.

Apologies were received from Deputy Louise O'Reilly and Deputy Jennifer Whitmore.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of 8 May 2023 were agreed by the Commission.

3. SECURITY MATTERS

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

4. 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.

It also received a proposal on the display of the flag of the 69th New York Regiment.

The Commission agreed that the flag should be displayed in Room 114, Leinster House, and requested that the room be prepared in accordance with the conservator's advice.

5. MATERNITY AND PATERNITY LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

The Commission received an update on the supports currently available for members who wish to take leave of absence in the case of childbirth or adoption of a child.

6. LEGAL BRIEFING

The Commission agreed to sponsor the tabling of a motion in Dáil Éireann to seek authorisation, pursuant to section 4(2)(f)(iv) of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts 2003-2021, to conduct the defence of legal proceedings (High Court Record No. 2023/1810P) arising solely out of the performance by a member of their parliamentary functions as a member of Dáil Éireann.

7. HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Commission approved the draft annual report on its activities in 2022 to be laid before the Houses in accordance with section 6 of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts.

8. Any Other Business

(i) *Information items*

The Commission noted an update on the organisation of *Bystander Intervention Training* for members and members' staff.

(ii) *Correspondence*

The Commission noted correspondence from:

- (a) the Seanad Committee on Parliamentary Procedure and Oversight forwarding correspondence from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters;
- (b) the Ceann Comhairle to the Cathaoirleach of the Working Group of Committee Cathaoirligh concerning correspondence from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters.
- (c) Deputy Michael Ring concerning the allocation of printing paper.

9. Next Meeting: Monday 10 July 2023.

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