

Minutes of Commission Meeting Monday 17 June 2024

The fifth meeting of the Commission in 2024 took place at 12:00 pm via MS Teams.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Apologies were received from Deputy Jennifer Whitmore.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2024 were agreed by the Commission.

3. UPDATE FROM THE 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.

4. REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON SAFE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

The Commission was briefed on the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Safe Participation in Political Life.

It noted that an implementation and oversight group would be established to oversee and report on progress on implementing the recommendations.

The Commission requested a progress update on implementation of the recommendations at its monthly meetings.

5. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Business Case: Development of the Next Phase of the Digital Parliament Programme

The Commission approved a business case and budget to proceed with the development of the next phase of the Digital Parliament Programme: display of live updates and information on Dáil business on the Áis-Linn portal and the Dáil Business website; and display and publication of information on Seanad business to multiple endpoints.

6. MEMBERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Commission approved the signing of a new Participation Agreement to comply with new requirements under the European Union (Occupational Pension Schemes) Regulations, 2021, in respect of the AVC Pension Scheme for members of the Houses of the Oireachtas and Irish members of the European Parliament.

The Commission received confirmation that there will be no change to the conditions and benefits under the existing retirement plan for members of the Scheme.

7. LEGAL BRIEFING

The Commission received a legal briefing from the Chief Parliamentary Legal Adviser on ongoing cases concerning the Commission.

8. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS SERVICE

The Commission noted the updated Corporate Governance Framework for the Houses of the Oireachtas Service.

9. HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Commission approved the draft annual report on its activities in 2023 to be laid before the Houses in accordance with section 6 of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Information Note

The Commission noted an information note on the current rules on photography and videography in the Leinster House complex.

Correspondence

The Commission noted a copy of a letter to Dublin City Council from a group of Senators.

11. NEXT MEETING: Monday 8 July 2024.

Seán Ó Fearghaíl T.D. Ceann Comhairle and Chairperson of the Commission 11 July 2024