



Tithe an  
Oireachtais  
Houses of the  
Oireachtas

# Oifig na gComhairleoirí Dlí Parlaiminteacha

## The Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers (OPLA)

### Who We Are

The OPLA is the Oireachtas' in-house legal team. We offer a range of independent legal services to Members, the Oireachtas Commission and the Oireachtas Service. The OPLA is headed by the Chief Parliamentary Legal Adviser and comprises lawyers, each of whom is professionally qualified as a solicitor or barrister in the State.

### What We Can Do For You

We provide professional, independent, and confidential legal services to you including:

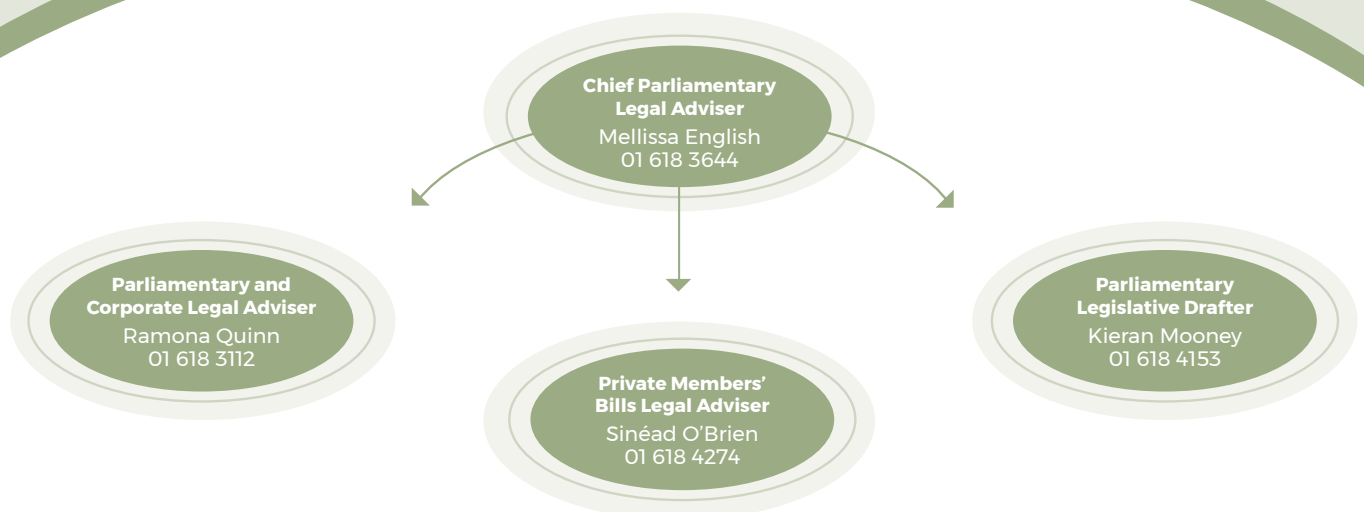
#### Parliamentary & Corporate

- ▶ Advice in relation to any legal issues arising from your membership of the Oireachtas;
- ▶ Advise you and your Committee colleagues in relation to legal issues that arise in Parliamentary Committees;
- ▶ Conduct litigation, as specified in the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Acts;
- ▶ Support and provide legal advice to you in the examination and testing of Government supported policy matters; and
- ▶ Advise Oireachtas Officeholders, the Oireachtas Commission and the Oireachtas Service on a broad range of corporate and parliamentary legal issues.

#### Private Members' Bills

- ▶ Explore and develop legal issues arising from your PMB policy proposals;
- ▶ Draft your PMB;
- ▶ Support you through all stages of your PMB; and
- ▶ Legally advise Committees at Pre-Committee Stage Detailed Scrutiny of PMBs.

### Our Structure



Phone: 01 618 3657



Email: [OPLA@oireachtas.ie](mailto:OPLA@oireachtas.ie)



[www.oireachtas.ie/OPLA](http://www.oireachtas.ie/OPLA)



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# How the OPLA can support you with your PMB

## Develop

- ▶ Professional legal advice
- ▶ Assist you in developing your PMB policy proposal
- ▶ Targeted research
- ▶ Liaise on your behalf to ensure procedural compliance.



## Draft

- ▶ Draft the PMB
- ▶ Assist in the preparation of the Explanatory Memorandum
- ▶ Draft Committee and Report Stage amendments for Bills we have drafted for you.



## Scrutiny

- ▶ Legal analysis to Committees conducting PMB scrutiny
- ▶ Advice covering the 6 legal questions as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding on PMBs between government and Dáil Éireann.



## Support

- ▶ Dedicated legal adviser to support you through all stages of your PMB
- ▶ Anticipate issues and offer solutions to legal problems.



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