

(Supplementary Order Paper)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 22 Eanáir, 2019
Tuesday, 22nd January, 2019

2 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh Leasú ar Thairiscint: Notice of Amendment to Motion

207. “That Dáil Éireann:

notes:

- the importance of a reliable and sustainable national broadband network to all homes and businesses in Ireland;
- the significant delays to date regarding the roll-out of a procedurally sound National Broadband Plan (NBP);
- the escalating estimate of total cost for the delivery of the NBP and the lack of clarity regarding those costs;
- that the structure of the sole remaining bidding entity has changed substantially over the course of the process and the significant concerns which exist regarding the robustness of the current iteration of the NBP and the structure of the sole remaining bidding consortium;
- the intrinsic connection between the contracts for, and the operation of, the Municipal Area Networks (MANs) and the roll-out of the NBP;
- that the company with the contracts to operate the MANs is now also a key component part of the sole remaining consortium bidding for the NBP;
- that concerns have been raised by major telecommunication companies regarding the efficacy of operations of the MANs by a company which is a key component of the sole remaining bidding consortium for the NBP;
- that the Analysys Mason review of the operation and management of MANs pricing and access has not yet been made public;
- that concerns have arisen in relation to the review, by Mr. Peter Smyth, Independent Process Auditor, in November 2018, commissioned into the current process for the NBP, in relation to its completeness and the rigour of its scrutiny of the key relationships and interactions between interested parties, the then Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten T.D., and Departmental officials; and

P.T.O.

- that the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, having accepted the review, by Mr. Peter Smyth, informed the Dáil in December 2018 that a decision on the contract for the NBP was imminent but that as yet no decision has been notified to the Dáil; and

calls on the Government to provide:

- an immediate update on the status of the process for the awarding of the contract for the NBP;
- a statement from the Minister regarding the report about which its author, Mr. Peter Smyth, made a public comment confirming that, when conducting his report, he didn't ask for written statements from those involved because he said he didn't feel it was appropriate to 'interrogate' people;
- an assurance that the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and his Department have been satisfied as to the competitiveness of a process with only one bidder;
- an assurance that rigorous scrutiny has been given to assessing the long-term viability of the sole remaining bidder and its ability to deliver on the project;
- a commitment that no decision will be taken on the NBP contract until the Analysys Mason report is made public; and
- a commitment that any NBP roll-out will prioritise affordability for the end-user to connect to the network.” — *Catherine Murphy, Róisín Shortall.*

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To insert the following after “for the end-user to connect to the network”:

- “— a guarantee that costs will not escalate over the course of the rollout of the NBP; and
- an alternative plan, encompassing the use of State infrastructure, is ready to be put forward in the event of the current procurement process failing.” — *Brian Stanley, Gerry Adams, John Brady, Pat Buckley, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pearse Doherty, Dessie Ellis, Martin J. Ferris, Kathleen Funchion, Martin Kenny, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Jonathan O'Brien, Eoin Ó Broin, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Louise O'Reilly, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan.*