



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 21 Deireadh Fómhair, 2020
Wednesday, 21st October, 2020

RIAR NA hOIBRE
ORDER PAPER

Dé Céadaoin, 21 Deireadh Fómhair, 2020
Wednesday, 21st October, 2020

10 a.m.

ORD GNÓ
ORDER OF BUSINESS

4. An Bille um Shábháilteacht Iarnróid (Tionóiscí Tromchúiseacha, Tionóiscí agus Teagmhais a bhaineann le hIarnróid Áirithe a Thuairisciú agus a Imscrúdú), 2020 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Railway Safety (Reporting and Investigation of Serious Accidents, Accidents and Incidents Involving Certain Railways) Bill 2020 — Order for Second Stage.
1. An Bille um Thaifid an Choimisiúin Imscrúdúcháin (Árais Máithreacha agus Naíonán agus Nithe áirithe gaolmhara), agus um Ní eile, 2020 [*Seanad*] — An Dara Céim.
Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters) Records, and another Matter, Bill 2020 [*Seanad*] — Second Stage.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

89. (l) Tairiscint *maidir leis* an Líonra Postoifigí.
(a) Motion *re* the Post Office Network.

I dTOSACH GNÓ PHOIBLÍ
AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Billí ón Seanad: Bills from the Seanad

1. An Bille um Thaifid an Choimisiúin Imscrúdúcháin (Árais Máithreacha agus Naíonán agus Nithe áirithe gaolmhara), agus um Ní eile, 2020 [*Seanad*] — An Dara Céim.
Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters) Records, and another Matter, Bill 2020 [*Seanad*] — Second Stage.

Billí a thionscnamh: Initiation of Bills

Tiolactha:
Presented:

4. An Bille um Shábháilteacht Iarnróid (Tionóiscí Tromchúiseacha, Tionóiscí agus Teagmhais a bhaineann le hIarnróid Áirithe a Thuairisciú agus a Imscrúdú), 2020 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Railway Safety (Reporting and Investigation of Serious Accidents, Accidents and Incidents Involving Certain Railways) Bill 2020 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le tionóiscí tromchúiseacha, tionóiscí agus teagmhais a bhaineann le hiarnróid áirithe a thuairisciú agus a imscrúdú.

Bill entitled an Act to provide for the reporting and investigation of serious accidents, accidents and incidents involving certain railways.

—An tAire Iompair.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógraí Tairisceana:
Notices of Motions:

89. “That Dáil Éireann:

recognises:

- that transactions within the post office network are down by an estimated 25 per cent due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which heightens the serious viability challenges facing the network; and
- the need to put the post office network on a sustainable operational and financial footing in line with the Cabinet decision in 2017; and

calls on the Government to:

- designate the post office network as the ‘offline gateway’ of choice for citizens availing of State services due to its unique nationwide network and existing strong relationship with offline citizens;
- commence the provision of offline Government services with the availability of motor tax renewal through the post office network; and
- give recognition to the existing post office network as both a rural economic lifeline service and a locus for future development of financial services outside of the existing

banking framework.” — *Cathal Berry, Seán Canney, Peter Fitzpatrick, Noel Grealish, Michael Lowry, Verona Murphy, Denis Naughten, Matt Shanahan, Peadar Tóibín.*

[13 October, 2020]

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

1. (a) To insert the following after “recognises:”:

“— that post offices form a vital part of communities, and have suffered long-term neglect by successive Governments, with hundreds of closures since 2000;

— that successive Governments have allowed the post office network to decline and have failed to allow alternative services to be established and expanded;”

(b) to insert the following after “Cabinet decision in 2017;”:

“notes the findings and recommendations contained in the ‘Review of the economic contribution and financial sustainability of the Irish Post Office Network’ report, commissioned by the Irish Postmasters’ Union, which recognises the huge challenges facing our post office network and includes a recommendation to provide a Public Service Obligation of approximately €17 million per annum; and”

and

(c) to insert the following after “calls on the Government to:”:

“— reinvigorate the network of post offices by extending the services which post offices provide and by retaining existing services such as social welfare payments;

— implement proposals contained in the Final Report of the ‘Post Office Network Business Development Group’ (Kerr Report) from 2016 which included post offices providing alternative services such as financial services and Government services;

— commit to a new model of community banking through the post office network;

— explore the possibility of using our post offices as one stop shops for those enquiring about and applying for Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants, in order to increase the uptake of these grants and open them up to those who cannot apply for them online;

— introduce a Public Service Obligation to guarantee the current post office network and prevent any further closures, to ensure that all citizens have access to the important services they provide.” — *Darren O'Rourke, Chris Andrews, John Brady, Martin Browne, Pat Buckley, Matt Carthy, Sorca Clarke, Rose Conway-Walsh, Réada Cronin, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pa Daly, Pearse Doherty, Paul Donnelly, Dessie Ellis, Mairéad Farrell, Kathleen Funchion, Thomas Gould, Johnny Guirke, Martin Kenny, Claire Kerrane, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Johnny Mythen, Eoin Ó Broin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Louise O'Reilly, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan, Patricia Ryan, Brian Stanley, Pauline Tully, Mark Ward, Violet-Anne Wynne.*

2. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“recognises:

- the important role that An Post and post offices have played during the Covid-19 pandemic in its commitment to rural communities and to the elderly and vulnerable in our society, and its provision of a swift and sustained response to the crisis in the introduction of a number of initiatives, including check-ins on elderly and vulnerable customers, delivery of newspapers and a recent commitment to free mail to residents in care facilities until January next;
- that transactions within the post office network are down by an estimated 25 per cent due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- that post offices provide crucial public and financial services to communities all around Ireland, especially to those in rural and isolated areas;
- that the Programme for Government commits to supporting a modernised post office network that ‘will provide a better range of financial services and e-commerce services for citizens and enterprise, as part of our commitment to a sustainable nationwide post office network’;
- that An Post has potential to do more and make a further significant contribution across many areas of public, business and community life in Ireland, with an evolving mandate An Post can emerge as a central hub for a wide variety of valuable community focused services; and
- the strides made by An Post in offering an enhanced suite of financial services through the network; and

notes:

- that the Government is committed to a sustainable nationwide post office network as a key component of the economic and social infrastructure in both rural and urban areas;
- in pursuit of this objective, Government efforts to support An Post in the roll out of new services and the delivery of its strategic plan to ensure the financial viability of An Post and the continued fulfilment of its mandate to deliver a mails delivery service and a viable post office network, including:
 - the provision of State support to An Post of €30 million in 2017, €15 million of which was to support the post office network;
 - the approval of a capital expenditure programme, which as part of the Company’s commitment to the sustainability of its network is designed to develop the newer elements of An Post’s financial services business and mitigate declining core mail volumes and revenues on the retail side of the business;
 - the work under way, in consultation with An Post, to explore the scope to put more business through post offices; and
 - the Provision of Offline Services Report, which will be published in the coming months and considered as part of a national digital strategy and which proposes a more coherent approach to providing offline services to citizens; and
- the commitment from the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection that all weekly social welfare payments, which had been moved to a fortnightly schedule from the end of last March, will be fully restored to being paid weekly with effect from Monday, 2nd November, 2020, noting the value of these transactions to An Post.” — *An tAire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide.*

**SCRÍBHINNÍ A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID NA dTITHE
DOCUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE HOUSES¹**

<i>Reachtúil</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
<i>Tairiscint Ceadaithe ag Teastáil</i>	<i>Requiring Motion of Approval</i>
Níl aon scríbhinn á leagan faoin gCatagóir seo	None
<i>In-neamhnithe le Tairiscint</i>	<i>Open to Motion to Annul</i>
Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Oibríthe ar Bord Soithí Iascaireachta Farraige) (Eagrú Ama Oibre) (Uimh. 2), 2020 (I.R. Uimh. 441 de 2020).	European Union (Workers on Board Seagoing Fishing Vessels) (Organisation of Working Time) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 441 of 2020).
<i>Eile</i>	<i>Other</i>
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma. An Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2019.	Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education & Training Board. Annual Report, 2019.
Togra le haghaidh Treoir ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle lena leasaítear Treoir 2004/37/CÉ maidir le hoibríthe a chosaint ar na fiontair a bhaineann le risíocht le carcanaiginí nó só-ghineacha ag an obair mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2020) 571.	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work together with explanatory information note. COM (2020) 571.
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí. An Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2019.	Kerry Education and Training Board. Annual Report, 2019.
Comhairle Chomhairleach Bhuiséadach na hÉireann. An Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus na Cuntais don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2019.	Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2019.
<i>Neamhrechtúil</i>	<i>Non-Statutory</i>
Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Loingeas Ceannaíochta) (Imscrúdú Tionóiscí) (Leasú), 2020 (I.R. Uimh. 444 de 2020).	European Communities (Merchant Shipping) (Investigation of Accidents) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 444 of 2020).

¹ I gcás nach leagtar scríbhinn ach faoi bhráid aon Teach amháin, cuirfear (D) – Dáil nó (S) – Seanad ina diaidh dá réir sin.

Where a document is laid before one House only it will be appended with (D) – Dáil or (S) – Seanad accordingly.