

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 15 Meán Fómhair, 2021
Wednesday, 15th September, 2021

2 p.m.

I dTOSACH GNÓ PHOIBLÍ AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Fógraí Tairisceana : Notices of Motions

15a. “Go bhfuil muintín ag Dáil Éireann as an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Cosanta, Síomón Ó Cómhanaigh, T.D. That Dáil Éireann has confidence in the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Simon Coveney T.D.”

—An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste agus Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, agus an tAire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, agus Iompair.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógraí Tairisceana:
Notices of Motions:

a180. “That Dáil Éireann:

recognises the importance of a well-functioning Freedom of Information (FOI) regime in establishing trust and transparency in public life;

notes, with concern:

- the recent admissions that the Tánaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have both deleted relevant material from their mobile phones; and
- that public confidence in political life has been eroded and will continue to be eroded without action; and

calls on the Government to:

- establish robust procedures in each Department to ensure that Ministers are no longer destroying records that should be maintained by the Department;
- ensure that all Ministers are aware of their responsibilities under FOI legislation, all relevant documents and materials are retained as required and all FOI requests are appropriately dealt with, and all relevant material is provided when requested;
- enhance the powers of the Information Commissioner’s Office to allow the

Commissioner to refer complaints under FOI legislation to the Standards in Public Office Commission for investigation, where it is believed that a public body, Minister or relevant person has intentionally or recklessly failed to fulfil their obligations under FOI legislation;

- ensure that all public bodies, including those established under Companies Acts, are immediately brought under the remit of FOI legislation upon establishment;
- commit to an annual review of all bodies to which FOI legislation applies, including any bodies to which a partial exclusion applies and whether this is consistent with the Act's principles of oversight, transparency and accountability; and
- bring pension payments related to former Taoisigh, Ministers, Presidents and Office holders under the remit of the FOI legislation.” — *Mairéad Farrell, 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, 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, Darren O'Rourke, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan, Patricia Ryan, Brian Stanley, Pauline Tully, Mark Ward, Violet-Anne Wynne.*