

Dé Céadaoin, 27 Feabhra, 2008
Wednesday, 27th February, 2008

10.30 a.m.

RIAR NA hOIBRE
Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ
Public Business

Tairiscint:

Motion:

1. “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an tOrdú seo a leanas ina dhréacht: That Seanad Éireann approves the following Order in draft:

An tOrdú um Theorainn Chathair Limerick City Boundary Alteration Luimnigh a Athrú 2008, Order 2008,

ar leagadh cóipeanna de ina dhréacht faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 12 Feabhra 2008. copies of which have been laid in draft form before Seanad Éireann on 12th February 2008.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

2. Ráitis maidir leis an Straitéis Dramhaíola Náisiúnta (*atógáil*).
 Statements on the National Waste Strategy (*resumed*).

3. Ráitis maidir le Stáisiúin Gharda Cósta Chionn Mhálanna agus Dhairbhre.
 Statements on Malin Head and Valencia Island Coastguard Stations.

Tíolactha:

Presented:

4. An Bille um Sheirbhísí Rialtais Áitiúil (Comhlachtaí Corpraithe) (Orduithe a Dhaingniú) 2008.

Local Government Services (Corporate Bodies) (Confirmation of Orders) Bill 2008.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do thabhairt éifeacht reachtúil d’orduithe áirithe arna ndéanamh faoin Acht um Sheirbhísí Rialtais Áitiúil (Comhlachtaí Corpraithe) 1971, agus do leasú na n-orduithe sin, agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

Bill entitled an Act to give statutory effect to, and amend, certain orders made under the Local Government Services (Corporate Bodies) Act 1971, and to provide for related matters.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

5. An Bille Cróinéirí 2007 — An Coiste.
 Coroners Bill 2007 — Committee.

6. An Bille um Chlúmhilleadh 2006 — An Tuarascáil.
Defamation Bill 2006 — Report Stage.

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7. Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2005 — An Dara Céim.
Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2005 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Joe O'Toole, Paul Coghlan, David Norris.*

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8. An Bille um Chosaint Coigiltis Comhair Creidmheasa 2008 — An Dara Céim
Credit Union Savings Protection Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Joe O'Toole, David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross and Ivana Bacik.*

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9. An Bille um Chumas Meabhrach agus Caomhnóireacht 2008 — An Dara Céim.
Mental Capacity and Guardianship Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senator Joe O'Toole*

Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

10. An Bille um Chosaint Aeráide 2007 — An Dara Céim (*atógáil*).
Climate Protection Bill 2007 — Second Stage (*resumed*).
—*Senators Ivana Bacik, Joe O'Toole, Shane Ross, David Norris, Feargal Quinn.*

Tíolactha:

Presented:

11. An Bille um Príobháideacht 2006 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Privacy Bill 2006 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le Tort arb éard é Príobháideacht a Shárú; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an méid sin.

Bill entitled an Act to provide for a Tort of Violation of Privacy; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

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12. Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Rolla-Chomhaltaí) (Leasú) 2008.
Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) (Amendment) Bill 2008.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú Acht Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Rolla-Chomhaltaí) 1947 i ndáil le clárú maidir leis an rolla riaracháin.

Bill entitled an Act to amend the Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) Act 1947 in relation to registration in respect of the administrative panel.

—*Senators Maurice Cummins, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Coghlan.*

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13. An Bille um Bonneagar Leathanbhanda 2008.
Broadband Infrastructure Bill 2008.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht dá chinntiú go ndéanfar leathanbhanda ardcháilíochta incheannaithe a sholáthar ar bhonn náisiúnta trí spriocanna socraithe cáilíochta

Bill entitled an Act to ensure the provision of high quality and affordable broadband nationwide by setting given quality and uptake targets; to place duties

agus glactha a leagan síos; do leagan dualgas ar an Aire maidir leis na spriocanna sin a bhaint amach; do shonrú nósanna imeachta tuairiscithe a bheidh le glacadh mura n-aimseofar spriocanna; do bhunú Gréasáin Leathanbhanda agus Coimisiúin Leathanbhanda d'fhonn cuspóirí an Achta a éascú; d'athchóiriú rialachán áirithe a bhaineann le soláthar leathanbhanda; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an méid sin.

—*Senators Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn, David Norris, Joe O'Toole, Rónán Mullen, Ivana Bacik.*

Tairiscintí:

Motions:

14. “Go mbeartaíonn Seanad Éireann go leanfaidh alt 17A (a cuireadh isteach le halt 2(1) den Acht um Ghalair Ainmhithe (Leasú) 2001 (Uimh. 3 de 2001)) den Acht um Ghalair Ainmhithe 1966 (Uimh. 6 de 1966) i bhfeidhm ar feadh na tréimhse dar críoch an 8 Márta 2009.

That Seanad Éireann resolves that section 17A (inserted by section 2(1) of the Diseases of Animals (Amendment) Act 2001 (No. 3 of 2001)) of the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (No. 6 of 1966) shall continue in force for the period ending on 8 March 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

15. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha dar teideal “Rannchuidiú le comhchomhairliúchán an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh dar teideal ‘Réaltacht Shóisialta na hEorpa’” a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 20 Feabhra 2008.”

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs entitled “A contribution to the European Commission’s consultation entitled ‘Europe’s Social Reality’” which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 20 February 2008.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

16. *Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas:*
Non-Government Motions:

1. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to examine the status of charities and charitable collections and in particular to investigate the practice of so called ‘chugging’ or charity mugging by street collectors.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Joe O'Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*

[13 September, 2007]

2. “That Seanad Éireann, in the light of recent tragic fires in France and other countries involving hostel accommodation of migrant workers and asylum seekers and in the light of our own recent narrow escapes from such tragedies, calls upon the Government to ensure that all such accommodation in Ireland is professionally vetted to ensure compliance with fire regulations, health, safety and hygiene provisions.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Joe O'Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

3. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Foreign Affairs to seek the establishment of a monitoring group to supervise the implementation of the Human Rights Attachments to the External Association Agreement between the European Union and the State of Israel.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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4. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism to come into the House to give a full account of the current situation regarding the future of the Abbey Theatre and its possible relocation.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*

[13 September, 2007]

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5. “That Seanad Éireann expresses its concern at growing reports of climate change in various parts of the world; and requests the Minister to come into the House and give a progress report on our position concerning Ireland reaching its target under the Kyoto Protocol.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*

[13 September, 2007]

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6. “That Seanad Éireann welcomes the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme of the World Council of Churches in arranging for human rights observers to work in Israel and Palestine; encourages the Government to work with intergovernmental organisations to establish a human rights observation force in the Occupied Territories, and to press for an end to the occupation in a just and peaceful solution to the conflict on the basis of UN resolutions and the international rule of law.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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7. “That Seanad Éireann, in the light of the Ferns Report, requests the Government to re-examine the exemption of the churches from the operations of equality legislation.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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8. “That Seanad Éireann supports:

the declaration of the 4th World Parliamentarians’ Convention on Tibet adopted by parliamentarians from 30 different countries on November 19, 2005 in Edinburgh, Scotland in support of Tibet’s goal of genuine autonomy;

supports His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Middle Way approach to resolve the conflict between the People’s Republic of China and the Tibetan Government in exile through negotiations in the spirit of non-violence and reconciliation;

commends the Chinese Government in inviting the Dalai Lama’s special envoys for four rounds of high-level meetings in Beijing and Berne between September 2002 and June 2005;

supports the creation of a zone of ahimsa (peace and non-violence) throughout the Tibetan plateau;

deplores the refusal of the Chinese Government to release political prisoners, in particular the Panchen Lama, Gebhum Choekyi Nyima, who has been held in a secret location since 1995, when he was only 6 years old; and

the recent forcible attempts by the Chinese authorities to introduce a brutal discipline known as ‘Patriotic re-education’ which has been inflicted upon monasteries in Tibet and which has resulted in injury and death to some of the monks at the Drepung Monastery in Tibet.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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9. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to give serious examination to the Dargan Metro Project involving an orbital metro route as well as an airport metro line and which, fully costed, presents a more economic prospect than the existing proposal.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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10. “That Seanad Éireann expresses concern at the impact on the environment caused by aircraft emissions in an era of growing mass transport.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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11. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government in the light of the fact that Ireland is one of the few EU countries that does not facilitate citizens living abroad but within the EU in the exercise of their voting rights in Dáil Elections, Presidential Elections and referenda to make appropriate provisions without delay.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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12. “That Seanad Éireann in the light of Report from Amnesty International and other groups which suggest that Ireland is involved in the inadequately regulated export of more than 1bn. worth of war materials and the fact that Forfás has identified serious legislative gaps in this area calls on the Government to introduce the necessary legislation to remedy these defects.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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13. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, notwithstanding their differences on Tibet’s historical relationship with China, to continue the dialogue in a forward-looking manner which will lead to pragmatic solutions that respect the Chinese constitutional framework, the territorial integrity of China and fulfil the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a unified and genuinely autonomous Tibet.”

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

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14. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Government to implement the recommendations of the 2004 ‘Report on Seanad Reform’ by the Seanad Committee on Procedure Privileges Sub-Committee on Seanad Reform.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*

[13 September, 2007]

15. “In the light of the European Parliament Report on Extraordinary Rendition which calls on the Irish Government to establish a Committee of Inquiry into the role played by Shannon Airport in this illegal process, that Seanad Éireann immediately recommence moves initiated in 2006 to establish a Special Committee to look into this matter and that in the light of further disclosures about ‘CIA Rendition Flights’ to torture destinations and the involvement in these practises as victims of women and children, condemns such activities in the most unequivocal manner; and calls for the establishment of an International War Crimes Tribunal to determine the guilt or innocence of the most senior US and British personnel.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole.*

[13 September, 2007]

16. “That in the light of the Government’s uncaring attitude as exemplified by the case of the repatriation of Great Agbonlahor, and their persistent ignoring of the CIA rendition flights through Shannon Airport, Seanad Éireann urges the Government to remove all references to humanity, compassion and religion in the Constitution.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik.*

[13 September, 2007]

17. “That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Environmental Protection Agency’s report ‘Key Meteorological Indicators of Climate Change in Ireland’.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Rónán Mullen.*

[13 September, 2007]

18. “That Seanad Éireann, expresses its full confidence in the integrity of the Mahon Tribunal (Tribunal of Inquiry Into Certain Planning Matters and Payments); and rejects all attempts to undermine the work of the Tribunal.”

—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald.*

[26 September, 2007]

19. “That Seanad Éireann, noting the recent difficulties experienced by many children in obtaining places in primary schools, and the consequent establishment on an emergency basis of a school in Bracken by Educate Together, calls on the Minister for Education to take steps to explore as a matter of urgency how best the management of the primary education system may be structured to ensure equality of access to national school places for all children, irrespective of their religious denomination.”

—*Senators Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn, Joe O’Toole, David Norris.*

[26 September, 2007]

20. “That Seanad Éireann calls upon the Government to bring forward legislation without delay criminalising the practice of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, noting that Ireland is at present in breach of its international and European obligations in failing to have such legislation in place.”

—*Senators Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, David Norris.*

[26 September, 2007]

21. “That Seanad Éireann calls upon the Government to bring forward legislation without delay specifically criminalising the practice of female genital mutilation.”

—*Senators Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, David Norris.*

[26 September, 2007]

22. “That Seanad Éireann deplores the failure of the Government to ensure broadband access in every home and business in Ireland.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.*

[18 October, 2007]

23. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Government to renew its commitment to reduce class sizes to 20 or less for all those under 9 years.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.*

[18 October, 2007]

24. “That Seanad Éireann calls for an end to political appointments to the Judiciary.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen.*

[18 October, 2007]

25. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to end the practice of making political appointments to semi-state bodies.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*

[18 October, 2007]

26. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to set up an All-Party Committee to investigate the practice of overcharging by banks.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.*

[18 October, 2007]

27. “That Seanad Éireann:

- acknowledges the major threat climate change poses to us all;
- welcomes the EU target of a 20% cut in emissions by 2020;
- condemns the failure of the Government to meet the targets it set itself in the National Climate Change Strategy;
- urges the government to meet the targets for renewable energy contained in the Energy White Paper and the Bio-energy Action Plan;
- encourages, in particular, investment in the development of sustainable and renewable energy technologies and
- presses the Government to take further environmental action in the transport and housing sectors.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen.*

[18 October, 2007]

28. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to actively embrace human rights and international humanitarian law by putting maximum pressure on the Chinese Government to end the genocide and the massive displacement of people in Darfur.”

—*Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Ivana Bacik.*

[18 October, 2007]

29. “That Seanad Éireann hereby annuls the Cockle (Fisheries Management and Conservation) (Waterford Estuary) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 531 of 2007).”

—*Senators Ivana Bacik, David Norris.*

[24 October, 2007]

30. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Committee on Procedures and Privileges to agree to an extension of the time allotted for discussion on the Order of Business from forty minutes to one hour.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross.*

[31 October, 2007]

31. “That Seanad Éireann, concerned at the dire economic and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, the plight of many millions of people suffering from food shortages, the suppression of political activists and interference with freedom of the press:

- welcomes the holding of the Second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon and the EU Presidency’s intention to ensure the current grave situation in Zimbabwe is appropriately raised and discussed at the Summit;
- calls on the Government to continue its efforts, including through the European Union, in support of the promotion of human rights and democracy in Zimbabwe;
- welcomes the mediation effort being undertaken by President Mbeki of South Africa on behalf of the Southern Africa Development Community aimed at promoting political dialogue and agreement between the Government of Zimbabwe and the opposition parties on the future democratic governance of Zimbabwe, and encourages the member countries of SADC to continue to be persuaders for change in Zimbabwe and to ensure the maximum flow of information from the current mediation process;
- emphasises the critical importance of a level playing field being established in order to guarantee the conduct of free, fair and democratic elections in Zimbabwe in 2008;
- calls for full compliance by the Zimbabwean Government and parties with the SADC Guidelines on the Conduct of Democratic Elections and encourages the broadest possible international observation of any elections held in Zimbabwe in 2008; and
- welcomes the continuing substantial direct assistance which Irish Aid is giving to the people of Zimbabwe, amounting to over €17 million in the past two years, and urges the Government to continue this support.”

—*Senators Ivor Callely, David Norris.*

[5 December, 2007]

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. After the second paragraph to insert the following new paragraph:

“— believes however that, given the deep unhappiness of the Irish people, and human rights organisations, at the human rights record of the Government of Robert Mugabe, and the failure of President Mugabe to respond positively to

attempts by Ireland and others to urge a greater commitment to human rights, it would be inappropriate for the Taoiseach and any member of the cabinet to attend the EU-Africa summit should President Mugabe also attend;”

—*Senators Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy-Eames, Nicky McFadden, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, Joe O'Reilly, David Norris, Ivana Bacik.*

32. “That Seanad Éireann:

- expressing its outrage at the kidnapping and detention for political ends of hostages, held by illegal armed groups in Colombia, including in 2002 that of Ms Ingrid Betancourt, a former member of the National Senate of Colombia and a candidate for the Presidency of Colombia;
- appalled by the written and photographic evidence recently recovered by the Government of Colombia that portray the inhuman conditions in which Ms Betancourt is being held;
- recalling further that Ms Betancourt has dual French-Colombian citizenship and is therefore also a citizen of Europe;
- regretting that in the last two years, proposals made to facilitate a humanitarian exchange resulting in a release of all hostages held by illegal armed groups, including efforts by the governments of France, Spain and Switzerland have not been successful to date;
- noting the renewed efforts made by the President of France with the full support and encouragement of all the Member States of the European Union;
- noting also efforts at intermediation made by the President of Venezuela, which were acknowledged in the Council Conclusions on Colombia of 19 November 2007, and further recent offers of intermediation made by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil;
- welcomes the recent offer of the Colombian Government to create a ‘zone of encounter’ for a humanitarian agreement and the offer of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia to act as mediators in securing the release of the hostages;
- calls upon the illegal armed groups in Colombia to release all hostages without delay and on all involved parties to demonstrate the necessary political will to bring an end to this brutal affront to human rights and dignity; and
- continues to support the Government of Colombia in its search for a negotiated solution to the internal armed conflict, including through direct engagement with those illegal armed groups which may be prepared to negotiate, and to bring lasting peace to Colombia.”

—*Senators Donie Cassidy, Frances Fitzgerald, Joe O'Toole, Alex White, Dan Boyle, Fiona O'Malley.*

[20 December, 2007]

33. “That Seanad Éireann notes the Irish Human Rights Commission’s Report on Rendition.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O'Toole.*

[30 January, 2008]

34. “That Seanad Éireann, acting upon the principles enunciated on behalf of the then Fianna Fáil/Labour Coalition Government in 1993 during the debate surrounding the decriminalisation of male homosexuality, in which the then Minister for Justice indicated that clear factual and cogent arguments rather than prejudice would be required to support discrimination in law against any Irish citizen, and in the light of the reports of various think tanks and Commissions but most particularly the Colley Report, urges the Government at last to introduce full equality under the law for gay citizens of Ireland including access to civil marriage.”

—*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole.*

[26 February, 2008]

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

1. To delete all words after “That” and substitute the following:

“Seanad Éireann notes the following legislative developments since 1992:

- the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 which decriminalised sexual relationships between men;
- the Unfair Dismissals (Amendment) Act 1993 which deemed as unfair dismissal on the ground of sexual orientation;
- the Refugee Act 1995 which included a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of sexual orientation within its ambit;
- the Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2007 and the Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2004, prohibiting discrimination on 9 grounds including that of sexual orientation;
- provisions in the Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2001, prohibiting the varying, on grounds including that of sexual orientation, of amounts payable by insurers in respect of the treatment and care of insured persons;
- the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003, which obliges organs of the State to perform their functions in a manner compatible with their obligations under the Convention. The Convention provides for non-discrimination on grounds such as sexual orientation in the enjoyment of rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention;
- provisions in the Parental Leave (Amendment) Act 2006, regarding force majeure leave for persons, including same-sex couples, in relationships of domestic dependency;

and further notes:

- that legislative reform must be fully consistent with the relevant provisions of the Constitution;
- the options identified by the Colley Group, including in particular for same-sex couples;
- the Tenth Report of the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution, on the Family, which recommended that civil partnership legislation should be provided for same-sex couples;
- the report of the Law Reform Commission on the Rights and Duties of Cohabitants, which recommended provision of a redress mechanism for vulnerable dependent cohabitants at the termination of a relationship; and

- the Government's decision reflected in the Government Legislative Programme published on 27th September, 2007 to prepare a scheme of a Bill;

and supports the commitment in the Agreed Programme for Government to legislate for Civil Partnership at the earliest possible date in the lifetime of the Government, so as to establish a supportive legal framework for same-sex couples in committed relationships."

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

2. To delete all words after "Seanad Éireann" and substitute the following:

"recognising the unequal and discriminatory position of Irish citizens in cohabitant relationships in respect of next of kin status and property, succession, pension, tax, social welfare and inheritance rights, calls on the Government to urgently introduce comprehensive civil partnership legislation for same sex couples in order to redress these inequalities."

—*Senators Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy-Eames, Nicky McFadden, Eugene Regan, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, Joe O'Reilly.*

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35. "That Seanad Éireann welcomes:

- (1) the role being played by the Government in international efforts to secure a total prohibition on the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of cluster munitions through its active participation in international initiatives to address the issue comprehensively, in line with its commitments in the Programme for Government;
- (2) the convening by the Government of a Diplomatic Conference in Dublin in May 2008 to negotiate a new instrument of international humanitarian law on cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians;
- (3) the intention of the Government shortly to establish a national committee on international humanitarian law which will have, as its first task, the preparation of comprehensive draft legislation to give effect to the new instrument, thereby enabling its early introduction in the Oireachtas;

and urges the Government

- (4) to support research, publication and awareness raising initiatives on this subject nationally and internationally;
- (5) to ensure that the draft legislation provides not just for the prohibition of use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions but also to make provision for assistance to victims of cluster munitions, for the clearance of areas contaminated by unexploded cluster munitions and for assistance in the destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions, amongst other matters to be agreed in negotiations on the future instrument at the Diplomatic Conference in Dublin in May;
- (6) to increase support for the clearance of contaminated land by land mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance;
- (7) to increase support for education on the risks of land mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance;

- (8) to increase support for rehabilitation of survivors and their socio-economic integration; and
- (9) to ensure that no public funds are invested in any company involved in or associated with the production of cluster munitions.”

—*Senators David Norris, Donie Cassidy, Frances Fitzgerald.*

[27 February, 2008]

17. An Seanad a chur ar athló.
Adjournment of the Seanad.

BILLÍ AR SIÚL AGUS GNÓ ATÁ ORDAITHE
Bills in Progress and Business Ordered

Dé Máirt, 11 Márta, 2008
Tuesday, 11th March, 2008

An Bille um an Dlí Coiriúil (Gáinneáil ar Dhaoine) 2007 [*Dáil*] — An Tuarascáil.
Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Bill 2007 [*Dáil*] — Report Stage.

BILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL
Seanad Bills with the Dáil

An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Cúnamh Frithpháirteach) 2005.
Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Bill 2005.

An Bille um Athchóiriú an Dlí Talún agus Tíolactha 2006.
Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Bill 2006.

An Bille um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí (Leasú) 2007.
Ethics in Public Office (Amendment) Bill 2007.

An Bille Árachais Sláinte Shaorálaigh (Leasú) 2007.
Voluntary Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2007.

MEMORANDA

Dé Céadaoin, 27 Feabhra, 2008.
Wednesday, 27th February, 2008.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Chumarsáid, Fuinneamh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha i Seomra Coiste 3, LH2000, ar 9.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste Riaracháin i Seomra Coiste 1, LH2000, ar 12.15 p.m.

Meeting of the Joint Administration Committee in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 12.15 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Iompar i Seomra Coiste 1, LH2000, ar 3.45 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Transport in Committee Room 1, LH2000,
at 3.45 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Ealaíon, Spóirt, Turasóireachta, Pobail, Tuaithe
agus Gaeltachta i Seomra Coiste 2, LH2000, ar 4.15 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Arts, Sport, Tourism, Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 4.15 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um an Leasú Bunreachta maidir le Leanaí
i Seomra Coiste 4, LH2000, ar 5 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children
in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 5 p.m.

Déardaoin, 28 Feabhra, 2008.
Thursday, 28th February, 2008.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Oideachas agus Eolaíocht i Seomra Coiste 4, LH2000,
ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Education and Science in Committee Room 4,
LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Athrú Aeráide agus Áirithiú Fuinnimh i Seomra
Coiste 4, LH2000, ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security in Committee
Room 4, LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha i Seomra Coiste 3 LH2000,
ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on European Affairs in Committee Room 3 LH2000,
at 9.30 a.m.
