

Dé Céadaoin, 25 Márta, 2009
Wednesday, 25th March, 2009

10.30 a.m.

RIAR NA hOIBRE
Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ
Public Business

1. (l) An Bille Toghcháin (Leasú) 2009 [*Dáil*] — An Coiste.
 (a) Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2009 [*Dáil*] — Committee Stage.
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Tairiscint:
Motion:

2. “Go gcomhthoilíonn Seanad Éireann, de bhun fho-alt 2^o d’alt 2 d’Airteagal 25 den Bhunreacht, leis an Rialtas in achainí chun an Choimisiúin atá comhdhéanta mar a shocraítear in alt 2 d’Airteagal 14 den Bhunreacht, go gcuirfidh sé a lámh leis an mBille Toghcháin (Leasú) 2009 ar dháta is luaithe ná an cúigiú lá tar éis an dáta a thairgtear an Bille dó.

That pursuant to subsection 2^o of section 2 of Article 25 of the Constitution, Seanad Éireann concurs with the Government in a request to the Commission constituted as provided in section 2 of Article 14 of the Constitution to sign the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2009 on a date which is earlier than the fifth day after the date on which the Bill shall have been presented to it.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

3. Ráitis maidir leis na dúshláin atá os comhair na hearnála turasóireachta agus fáilteachais.

Statements on the challenges facing the tourism and hospitality sector.

4. Ráitis Réamh-Bhuiséid.
 Pre-Budget Statements.
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5. (l) An Bille Uchtála 2009 — An Coiste (*Alt 77, atógáil*).
 (a) Adoption Bill 2009 — Committee (*Section 77, resumed*).
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6. An Bille Cróinéirí 2007 — An Coiste.
 Coroners Bill 2007 — Committee.
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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, Ivana Bacik, Rónán Mullen.*
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9. An Bille um Chumas Meabhrach agus Caomhnóireacht 2008 — An Dara Céim.
Mental Capacity and Guardianship Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Joe O'Toole, David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross, Ivana Bacik.*
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10. An Bille um Chosaint Tomhaltóirí (Leasú) 2008 — An Dara Céim.
Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Brendan Ryan, Alex White, Dominic Hannigan, Alan Kelly, Michael McCarthy, Phil Prendergast.*
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11. An Bille um Dhliteanas Sibhialta (Leasú) (Uimh. 2) 2008 — An Dara Céim.
Civil Liability (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Maurice Cummins.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

12. 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.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

13. An Bille Meabhair-Shláinte (Bearta Ainneonacha) (Leasú) 2008 — An Dara Céim
(atógáil).
Mental Health (Involuntary Procedures) (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Second Stage
(resumed).
—*Senators Dan Boyle, Déirdre de Búrca, David Norris.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

14. An Bille um Orgáin de chuid Chorp an Duine agus Fíocháin Dhaonna 2008 — An
Dara Céim (atógáil).
Human Body Organs and Human Tissue Bill 2008 — Second Stage (resumed).
—*Senator Feargal Quinn.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

15. An Bille um Thaighde Gaschille (Suthanna Daonna a Chosaint) 2008 — An Dara
Céim. (atógáil).
Stem-Cell Research (Protection of Human Embryos) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
(resumed).
—*Senators Rónán Mullen, Jim Walsh, John Hanafin.*
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Tíolactha:

Presented:

- 16.** 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.*

- 17.** Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Rolla-Chomhaltaí) (Leasú) 2008 — Ordú don Dara Céim.

Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Order for Second Stage.

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.*

- 18.** An Bille um Fhorais Chultúir Náisiúnta (Leasú) 2008 — Ordú don Dara Céim.

National Cultural Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú an Achta um Fhorais Chultúir Náisiúnta 1997.

Bill entitled an Act to amend the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

—*Senator Alex White.*

Ráitis (atógáil):

Statements (resumed):

- 19.** Ráitis maidir le Conradh Liospóin um Athchóiriú (*atógáil*).

Statements on the Lisbon Reform Treaty (*resumed*).

- 20.** Ráitis faoin Tuarascáil maidir le Grinnscrúdú AE (Uimh. 21) dar teideal Faisnéis faoi Bhia a Sholáthar do Thomhaltóirí (*atógáil*).

Statements on the Report on EU Scrutiny (No. 21) entitled Provision of Food Information to Consumers (*resumed*).

Tairiscintí:

Motions:

- 21.** “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 21: COM(2008) 40 críochnaitheach — Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ó Pharlaimint na

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘EU Scrutiny Report No. 21: COM(2008) 40 final — Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Provision of Food

hEorpa agus ón gComhairle maidir le Faisnéis faoi Bhia a Sholáthar do Thomhaltóirí' a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 13 Samhain, 2008.

Information to Consumers' which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 13th November, 2008."

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[27 January, 2009]

22. "Go ndéanann Seanad Éireann:

That Seanad Éireann:

— a thabhairt dá aire an tuarascáil maidir leis an scrúdú neamhspleách a rinne an tUasal Paul Coffey AS ar ábhair inní Choiste Íospartach Stardust i ndáil leis an imscrúdú ar an gcúis a bhí leis an tubaiste dóiteáin;

— notes the report of the independent examination by Mr. Paul Coffey SC of the concerns of the Stardust Victims Committee in relation to the investigation of the cause of the fire disaster;

— a aithint nach eol cén chúis a bhí leis an dóiteán, gur míniú barúlach amháin an fhionnachtain bhunaidh gur choirloscadh a bhí ann agus nach bhfianaítear an méid sin le haon fhianaise agus nach féidir a mheas go bhfuil aon daoine de na daoine a bhí i láthair oíche an dóiteáin freagrach as;

— acknowledges that the cause of the fire is unknown, the original finding of arson is a mere hypothetical explanation and is not demonstrated by any evidence and that none of the persons present on the night of the fire can be held responsible for it;

— glacadh le tuairim an Uasail Coffey nárbh é leas an phobail é Binse nua a bhunú chun an chúis a bhí leis an dóiteán a fhiosrú d'éagmais aon fhianaise sainaitheanta;

— accepts the view of Mr. Coffey that to establish a new Tribunal to investigate the cause of the fire in the absence of any identified evidence would not be in the public interest;

— tacú leis an Rialtas le linn Coiste a bhunú chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar riachtanais comhairleoireachta agus liachta na ndaoine sin a tháinig slán as agus mhuintir na ndaoine a fuair bás; agus

— supports the Government in establishing a Committee to monitor the counselling and medical needs of the survivors and bereaved; and

— a fhíor-chomhbhrón leanúnach d'íospartaigh thragóid Dhóiteán Stardust agus do mhuintir na ndaoine a fuair bás a chur in iúl.

— expresses its continuing and deep sympathy with all of the victims and bereaved of the Stardust Fire tragedy."

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[3 March, 2009]

23. "Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an tOrdú seo a leanas ina dhréacht:

That Seanad Éireann approves the following Order in draft:

Na Rialacháin um an gCiste Rásaíochta Capall agus Con 2009,

Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2009

Ordú ar leagadh cóip de ina dhréacht faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 23 Márta, 2009.

a copy of which Order in draft was laid before Seanad Éireann on 23 March 2009".

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

24. Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas:
Non-Government Motions:

1. “That Seanad Éireann ask FARC to release immediately on humanitarian grounds, Ingrid Betancourt and other ill hostages held in Colombia.”
 —*Senators David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Joe O’Toole, Feargal Quinn, Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

[8 April, 2008]

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2. “That Seanad Éireann regrets and distances itself from the comments of Senator Jim Walsh at the Order of Business on Tuesday 22 April 2008 in relation to Chairmen of Tribunals established by these Houses.”

—*Senators Frances Fitzgerald, Joe O’Toole, Alex White, David Norris.*

[24 April, 2008]

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3. “That Seanad Éireann condemns the Government for:

- squandering significant budget surpluses,
- its failure to control inflation,
- its failure to deliver necessary infrastructure on time and within budget, and,
- its failure to reform the public service;

and, in light of the changing economic outlook for our economy calls on the Government to outline the results of measures taken (if any) to stress test our economy and provide detail cost benefits analysis of major projects, and

to outline the steps that are being taken to:

- restore competitiveness,
- restore the low rates of inflation that were the hallmark of our economy,
- prevent rising unemployment, and
- ensure that vital health services, education services and infrastructural projects will be available to the citizens of Ireland.”.

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

[7 May, 2008]

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4. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism, in the light of the proposed redevelopment of a very large site at the north end of O’Connell Street which includes the former Carlton Cinema, to take steps to ensure that the Abbey Theatre is located in the former Carlton site which all authorities agree is by far the best and most practical location.”.

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

[20 May, 2008]

5. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism as a matter of urgency, to immediately outline the Government’s programme and intention regarding the construction of a new Abbey National Theatre, dealing with all aspects of the project.”

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

[22 May, 2008]

6. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism to reform the current system for the funding of the arts in Ireland to ensure that there is a coherent, transparent and accessible basis for funding the arts, and artists in Ireland and to develop clear criteria against which funding applications can be prepared, submitted and assessed so that *ad hoc* funding decisions are not taken by disparate bodies, agencies or the Department without regard to any wider strategic issues; and entrusts the Arts Council with primary responsibility to allocate funding to the arts.”

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

[24 September, 2008]

7. “That Seanad Éireann is appalled by and deplores the outrageous decision by the Department of Education and Science to close the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education; and this decision represents a significant set-back for the early childhood sector and in particular the promotion of consistent, high quality standards in this crucial area.”

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

[30 September, 2008]

8. “That Seanad Éireann expresses grave concern at water quality in Ireland; recent cases of lead pollution in County Louth, contamination of water supplies in major urban areas such as Galway city and the possible detrimental effect of the fluoridation scheme presently in operation.”

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

[7 October, 2008]

9. “That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Annual Report 2007 of the Irish Human Rights Commission.”

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

[14 October, 2008]

10. “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, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

11. “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, Shane Ross.*

[21 October, 2008]

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12. “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, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

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13. “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, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

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14. “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, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross.*

[21 October, 2008]

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15. “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, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

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16. “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, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross.*

[21 October, 2008]

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17. “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, Ivana Bacik, Shane Ross, Joe O’Toole, Rónán Mullen, Feargal Quinn.*

[21 October, 2008]

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

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

[21 October, 2008]

19. “That Seanad Éireann strongly recommends that the Government:

- excludes the minimum wage from the proposed 1% income levy;
- reinstates in full, the universal entitlement of the over 70s to a medical card and;
- reverses the budget proposal to worsen class size in primary and post primary schools.”

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

[22 October, 2008]

20. “That Seanad Éireann demands the immediate reversal of the Government decision to withdraw the automatic entitlement to a medical card from citizens aged over 70 years.”

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

[22 October, 2008]

21. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to explain the Government’s actions in imposing savage cut backs and other negative measures on the Equality Agency, the Combat Poverty Agency, the Irish Human Rights Commission and other state established bodies which have the responsibility of representing the marginalised and vulnerable in our Society.”

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

[13 November, 2008]

22. “That Seanad Éireann noting:

- the findings of the Health Information and Quality Authority whereby the introduction of the HPV cervical cancer vaccination programme could see a 34 per cent reduction in pre-cancers, a 56 per cent reduction in cervical cancer and a 56 per cent reduction in deaths from cervical cancer;
- that the total cost of introducing the vaccine is estimated to be €9.7 million according to the Health Information and Quality Authority;
- that the direct savings in treatment costs due to the disease being avoided is more than €2.7 million per annum according to the Health Information and Quality Authority, excluding broader savings;
- the breakthrough nature of this medical advance; and
- that the total health budget is more than €16,000 million this year;

condemns the decision of the Minister for Health and Children to abandon this programme as short-sighted and unjustifiable, and calls on the Minister for Health and Children to immediately reverse her decision.”

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

[13 November, 2008]

23. “That Seanad Éireann deplores the murder of an innocent victim in Limerick by gangland criminals last week, making him the 17th gangland murder victim this year; and calls on the Government to take definitive action steps to quell the activities of criminal gangs.”

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

[18 November, 2008]

24. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to cut off the source of gangland criminals’ wealth and weapons, namely drugs, by providing adequate resources to An Garda Síochána and the Customs and Excise Service with the necessary manpower and modern equipment.”

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

[18 November, 2008]

25. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, as a matter of urgency, to outline immediately the government’s plans regarding the construction of the proposed new prison, Thornton Hall, dealing with all aspects of the project.”

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

[18 November, 2008]

26. “That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to implement measures to reduce the high numbers of repeat offenders in Ireland as revealed in a 2006 UCD study.”

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

[18 November, 2008]

27. “That Seanad Éireann hereby states and resolves that the proposed deportation of Pamela Izevbekhai and her daughters was not the sort of action envisaged by this House when the original legislation was passed.”

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

[25 November, 2008]

28. “That Seanad Éireann condemns utterly the disgraceful action of the Government in destroying the Combat Poverty Agency and the Equality Agency and the gutting of the Irish Human Rights Commission and calls on the Government to rescind these decisions.”

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

[15 December, 2008]

29. “That Seanad Éireann condemns the Government for the abolition of the Combat Poverty Agency which successfully:

- represented the vulnerable and forgotten in Irish society;
- provided vital data on poverty and health inequalities;
- highlighted social welfare reform proposals;

for imposing excessive cutbacks of 43% of the annual budget of the Equality Authority and decentralising its offices resulting in a loss of expertise, thus

- purposely diminishing its ability to provide its services;
- effectively forcing its Chief Executive to resign his post;

for the cuts of 24% to the budget of the Irish Human Rights Commission, thus

- weakening its role within the context of the Good Friday agreement;
- “substantially hampering” its ability to execute its core activities; and

for severely impairing the ability of the Equality Authority and Irish Human Rights Commission to carry out their functions and thereby damaging Ireland’s reputation as a vigilant democracy in respect of human rights.”

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

[30 January, 2009]

30. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Irish Government to continue its support for moves to establish an International War Crimes Inquiry into certain aspects of the Israeli attack on Gaza including the use of white phosphorus in densely inhabited civilian areas, the use of dime munitions and the apparently deliberate shelling of the U.N. facilities, including schools which were being used as places of sanctuary by Palestinian civilians as well as the question of illegal collective punishment and to maintain discussions with the representatives of countries such as Cyprus, Sweden and Portugal who have also supported this move.”

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

[10 February, 2009]

31. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Irish Government to continue its support for moves to establish an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international humanitarian law during Israel’s military action in Gaza including the use of white phosphorus in densely inhabited civilian areas, the use of dime munitions and the shelling of the U.N. facilities, including schools which were being used as places of sanctuary by Palestinian civilians as well as the question of collective punishment and to maintain discussions with the representatives of countries such as Belgium, Cyprus, Sweden and Portugal who have also supported this move and that the independent international investigation also investigate the indiscriminate rocket attacks on civilians perpetrated by Hamas and others, the alleged storage of munitions in civilian locations and the allegations of the shooting of innocent Palestinians by Hamas, the alleged use of civilians as human shields by any actor and the alleged firing of rockets from positions adjacent to UN facilities, to schools and hospitals, furthermore, that the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs supports a two state

solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict with the objective of the State of Israel and an independent Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security and urges the Government to continue to fully support such resolution of the conflict and to take all appropriate steps in the UN, at EU level and in its bilateral international relations to promote and achieve such resolution; supports the International Quartet (EU, USA, Russia and the UN) in its work, and other initiatives to resolve the conflict; welcomes the appointment by President Obama of George Mitchell as his Middle East peace envoy; calls on Iran to end its opposition to a 2 state solution; commends the initiative taken by Egypt to mediate a durable ceasefire between Israel and Hamas; and urges all sides to fully co-operate with UNRWA to facilitate the provision by it in Gaza of humanitarian relief.”

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

[17 February, 2009]

32. “That Seanad Éireann make special provision for a 90 minute rolling debate on the economy to be taken on a weekly basis following the Order of Business.”

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

[23 February, 2009]

33. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Government to accept the recommendations of Transparency International including:

- the introduction of laws, similar to those in the UK, to protect whistleblowers in the public and private sector who report concerns of public importance;
- the introduction of a Register of Lobbyists that would bring more transparency to the relationship between government, regulators, business and interest groups.
- the ratification of international conventions against corruption, including the UN Convention described as the “Kyoto Protocol” on global corruption.
- the establishment of a Garda Anti-Corruption Unit and more resources for law enforcement agencies including the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the Competition Authority, the Criminal Assets Bureau, and the Garda Fraud Squad;
- the reform of the Freedom Information fee system as the Irish FOI fees and costs of appeals are the highest in the developed world;
- the publication of local Councillors’ declarations of interest on the internet;
- the scrapping of Government plans to treble the amount of gifts and loans politicians can receive and keep secret;
- the publication of an annual report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on some of the most costly public contracts each year;
- the opening of all appointments to the Boards of State bodies to public competition; and
- the publication of clear no-bribe and conflict of interest policies by newspaper organisations and journalist unions.”

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

[3 March, 2009]

34. “Ag cuimhneamh:

- go ndearnadh gnó na Chéad Dála 90 bliain ó shin go hiomlán trí Ghaeilge; agus
- gurb í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta agus an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil faoi Airteagal 8 den Bhunreacht;

beartaíonn an Seanad:

- úsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú i ngnó an tSeanaid i 2009 go céatadán a bheidh aontaithe idir na páirtithe; agus
- tús a chur leis seo le linn ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ sa Dáil an 10, 11, 12 Márta nuair a dhéanfar 50% de ghnó an tSeanaid trí mheán na Gaeilge.”

—*Senators Pearse Doherty, Joe O’Toole.*

[10 March, 2009]

35. “Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Transport to ensure:

- an immediate Moratorium on the issuing of taxi plates;
- the initiation of a comprehensive and coherent reform of the Taxi Service Industry under the aegis of the Framework for Progress;
- the absorption of the Taxi Regulator’s office into the Department of Transport;
- the granting of legal power to Local Authorities to establish and regulate appropriate numbers of taxi licences in their areas; and
- the reclassification of taxi drivers for PRSI purposes to enable protection in adverse financial or health circumstances under the social welfare code.”

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

[10 March, 2009]

36. “That Seanad Éireann welcomes the various Government interventions in broadband which have led to improved choice, quality and prices of services and the National Broadband Scheme which will make broadband available in those parts of the country not currently served.”

—*Senators Donie Cassidy, Martin Brady, Larry Butler, Peter Callanan, Ivor Callely, John Carty, Maria Corrigan, Mark Daly, John Ellis, Geraldine Feeney, Camillus Glynn, John Hanafin, Cecilia Keaveney, Tony Kett, Terry Leyden, Marc Mac Sharry, Lisa McDonald, Francis O’Brien, Brian Ó Domhnaill, Denis O’Donovan, Labhrás Ó Murchú, Ann Ormonde, Ned O’Sullivan, Kieran Phelan, Jim Walsh, Mary White, Diarmuid Wilson.*

[24 March, 2009]

*Leasú:**Amendment:*

To delete all words after “Seanad Éireann” and substitute the following:

- “— recognises the critical importance of broadband services in the development of the knowledge economy nationally and regionally;
- condemns the government for its failure to deal effectively with regional disparities in the provision of broadband services,

and calls on the Government to:

- deliver on its commitment to provide as a matter of urgency adequate broadband availability and speed to 100 per cent of the population;
 - set clear ambitious targets on average speeds, availability and penetration rates to be achieved within set time-frames in the short and medium term;
 - require the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to report in detail to the Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources every six months on these targets and on Government policy.”
- Senators Joe O’Reilly, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohue, Fidelma Healy Eames, Nicky McFadden, John Paul Phelan, Eugene Regan, Liam Twomey.*

37. “That Seanad Éireann,

- while acknowledging that recent budgetary provisions have led to serious inequities and that these inequities will require to be addressed in the near future;
- recognising the crucial role that the trade union movement continues to play in Irish life; and
- having regard to the urgency of the economic situation and the need for unity among all sectors of the community in dealing with this situation;

views with concern the proposal by ICTU to organise a one-day strike on Monday 30th March, 2009 and calls on the leadership of ICTU to cancel the proposed day of action in order to facilitate the best national effort in dealing with the current economic crisis.”

—*Senators Rónán Mullen, Shane Ross.*

[25 March, 2009]

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

BILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL
Seanad Bills with the Dáil

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 um Chlúmhillleadh 2006.
Defamation Bill 2006.

An Bille Craolacháin 2008.
Broadcasting Bill 2008.

Bille na dTithe (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2008.
Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2008.

An Bille um Fhorbairt Tionscail 2008.
Industrial Development Bill 2008.

An Bille Cuanta (Leasú) 2008.
Harbours (Amendment) Bill 2008.

MEMORANDA

Dé Céadaoin, 25 Márta, 2009.
Wednesday, 25th March, 2009.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste ar an mBunreacht i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitution in Committee Room 4, LH2000,
at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Chumarsáid, Fuinneamh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha
i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 9.45 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 9.45 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Athrú Aeráide agus Áirithiú Fuinnimh i Seomra
Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 11.15 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security in Committee
Room 1, LH2000, at 11.15 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste Riaracháin i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, 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, TL2000, 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 an Leasú Bunreachta maidir le Leanaí i Seomra
Coiste 2, TL2000, ar 5 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children
in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 5 p.m.

Déardaoin, 26 Márta, 2009.
Thursday, 26th March, 2009.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Oideachas agus Eolaíocht i Seomra Coiste 2, TL2000,
ar 10 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Education and Science in Committee Room 2,
LH2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Iascach agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 10 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eachtracha i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 3 p.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 3 p.m.

PÁIPÉIR A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID AN tSEANAID

Papers laid before the Seanad

Reachtúil:

1) Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 93.

2) Fondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann. An Geilleagar Cliste a Thiomáint: Straitéis Fhondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann 2009-2013.

3) Na Rialacháin um an gCiste Rásaíochta Capall agus Con 2009 (Dréacht).

4) Ráitis i leith Comhairleoirí Speisialta don Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, Seán Ó hEochaidh, T.D., de réir na nAchtanna um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí 1995 agus 2001 [2008] [24 Márta, 2009].

5) Ráitis i leith Comhairleoirí Speisialta don Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, Parthalán Ó Caoimh, T.D., de réir na nAchtanna um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí 1995 agus 2001 [2008] [24 Márta, 2009].

Neamhrechtúil:

1) Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Muirear a Ghearradh ar Fheithiclí Earraí Troma as Bonneagair Áirithe a Úsáid) 2009 (I.R. Uimh. 87 de 2009).

2) Dréacht-Chreachinneadh ón gComhairle maidir le prionsabal an aitheantais fhrithpháirtigh a fheidhmiú idir Ballstáit an Aontais Eorpaigh i leith cinntí ar bhearta maoirseachta mar mhalairt ar choinneáil shealadach.

Statutory:

1) Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 93.

2) Science Foundation Ireland. Powering the Smart Economy: Science Foundation Ireland Strategy 2009-2013.

3) Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2009 (Draft).

4) Statements in respect of Special Advisers to the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, Seán Haughey, T.D., in accordance with the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 [2008] [24 March, 2009].

5) Statements in respect of Special Advisers to the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe, T.D., in accordance with the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 [2008] [24 March, 2009].

Non-Statutory:

1) European Communities (Charging of Heavy Goods Vehicles for the Use of Certain Infrastructures) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 87 of 2009).

2) Draft Council Framework Decision on the application between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention.

3) Coiste Iniúchóireachta na Roinne 3) Audit Committee of the Department of
Gnóthaí Eachtracha. Tuarascáil bhliantúil, Foreign Affairs. Annual report, 2007.
2007.
