

Dé Céadaoin, 29 Aibreán, 2009
Wednesday, 29th April, 2009

10.30 a.m.

RIAR NA hOIBRE
Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ
Public Business

1. (l) An Bille Leasa Shóisialaigh agus Pinsean 2009 *athraithe* ó An Bille Leasa Shóisialaigh 2009 [*Dáil*] — An Dara Céim.
 (a) Social Welfare and Pensions Bill 2009 *changed from* Social Welfare Bill 2009 [*Dáil*] — Second Stage.

2. Ráitis maidir le Coireacht Drongcheantair.
 Statements on Gangland Crime.

3. An Bille Uchtála 2009 — An Tuarascáil.
 Adoption Bill 2009 — Report Stage.

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

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

6. 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.*

7. 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.*

8. 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.*

9. 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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10. An Bille um Fhorais Chreidmheasa (Tacaíocht Airgeadais) (Leasú) 2009 — An Dara Céim.
Credit Institutions (Financial Support) (Amendment) Bill 2009 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Frances Fitzgerald.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):
Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

11. 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):

12. 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):

13. 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):

14. 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:

15. 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.*

16. Bille na gCuideachtaí (Leasú) 2009 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Companies (Amendment) Bill 2009 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do chur deiridh le heisceachtaí áirithe atá in Achtanna na gCuideachtaí agus a bhfuil feidhm acu i gcásanna cuideachtaí a shealbhaíonn ceadúnais faoi alt 9 d'Acht an Bhainc Ceannais 1971 (nó cuideachtaí sealbhaíochta de chuid cuideachtaí den sórt sin) maidir le hiasachtaí do stiúrthóirí agus idirbhearta atá ar aon dul leo a nochtadh, do leasú Achtanna na gCuideachtaí thairis sin maidir le hiasachtaí ag cuideachtaí (is cuma cén cineál) do stiúrthóirí nó do pháirtithe gaolmhara áirithe agus maidir le hidirbhearta atá ar aon dul leo, agus, go háirithe, do leasú alt 40 d'Acht na gCuideachtaí 1990 i dtaca le dliteanas coiriúil ina leith sin, do thabhairt cumhachtaí breise don Stiúrthóir um Fhorfheidhmiú Corparáideach i ndáil le rochtain ar fhaisnéis atá i seilbh cuideachtaí, lena n-áirítear faisnéis arna coimeád acu i gcláir nó i leabhair áirithe, nó atá i seilbh tríú páirtithe, do leasú ailt 20 agus 23 d'Acht na gCuideachtaí 1990 i ndáil le barántais chuardaigh agus nósanna imeachta atá le leanúint i gcásanna ina n-éilítear pribhléid ghairmiúil dlí, do leasú ailt 43 agus 44 d'Acht na gCuideachtaí (Leasú) (Uimh. 2) 1999 agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

Bill entitled an Act to remove certain exceptions contained in the Companies Acts that apply in the cases of companies holding licences under section 9 of the Central Bank Act 1971 (or holding companies of such companies) regarding disclosure of loans to directors and transactions of an analogous nature, to otherwise amend the Companies Acts in respect of loans by companies (of whatever type) to directors or certain related parties and transactions of an analogous nature and, in particular, to amend section 40 of the Companies Act 1990 concerning criminal liability in that regard, to confer additional powers on the Director of Corporate Enforcement with respect to access to information in the possession of companies, including information kept by them in certain registers or books, or in the possession of third parties, to amend sections 20 and 23 of the Companies Act 1990 in relation to search warrants and procedures to be followed in cases of claims of legal professional privilege, to amend sections 43 and 44 of the Companies (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1999 and to provide for related matters.

—*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 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]

22. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha dar teideal Cuairt Staidéir ar na Balcáin Thiar: An Chróit agus An Bhoisnia-Heirseagaivéin — *Aontachas AE agus Peirspicéacht Eorpach*; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 7 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs, entitled *Study Visit to the Western Balkans: Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina — EU Accession and a European Perspective*; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 7 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[22 April, 2009]

23. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha ina ndéantar comhghairdeas le Comhairle na hEorpa ar ócáid a Cothroim 60 Bliain agus ina n-aithnítear an rannchuidiú ollmhór atá déanta ag an gComhairle i réimse chearta an duine agus trí fhóram a sholáthar do Thíortha na hEorpa chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheisteanna is cás leo go léir; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 7 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs congratulating the Council of Europe on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary and acknowledging the enormous contribution the Council has made in the field of human rights and in providing a forum for the Countries of Europe to address issues of mutual concern; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 7 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[22 April, 2009]

24. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘*Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 22: COM (2008) 721 — Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ón gComhairle lena mbunaítear córas rialaithe Comhphobail chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar rialacha an Chomhbheartais Iascaigh*’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 15 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘*EU Scrutiny Report No. 22: COM (2008) 721 — Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy*’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 15th April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[22 April, 2009]

25. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil maidir le rannchuidiú an Chomhchoiste leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach i dtaca lena Pháipéar Uaine ‘*I dtreo Margaidh Fuinnimh Eorpaigh a bheidh daingean, inmharthana agus iomaíoch*,’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 17 Aibreán, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee’s contribution to the European Commission on its Green Paper ‘*Towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Energy Market*,’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 17 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[22 April, 2009]

26. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil maidir le tráchtáil an Chomhchoiste i ndáil leis na moltaí ón

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee’s comments on the recommendations of the High Level Group

nGrúpa Ardleibhéil ar Mhaoirseacht Airgeadais san AE; a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 17 Aibreán, 2009.

on Financial Supervision in the EU; which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 17 April, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[22 April, 2009]

27. “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an Stát d’fheidhmiú an roghnaithe, arna chur ar fáil le hAirteagal 3 den cheathrú Prótacal atá leagtha amach i gConradh Amstardam, fógra a thabhairt d’Uachtarán na Comhairle gur mian leis a bheith páirteach i nglacadh agus i bhfeidhmiú an bhirt bheartaithe seo a leanas:

That Seanad Éireann approves the exercise by the State of the option, provided by Article 3 of the fourth Protocol set out in the Treaty of Amsterdam, to notify the President of the Council that it wishes to take part in the adoption and application of the following proposed measure:

togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle lena mbunaítear Oifig Eorpach um Thacaíocht Tearmainn

a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Asylum Support Office

ar beart beartaithe é ar leagadh cóip de faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 18 Márta, 2009.

a copy of which proposed measure was laid before Seanad Éireann on 18 March, 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[29 April, 2009]

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

1. “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]

2. “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]

3. “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]

4. “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]

5. “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]

6. “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]

7. “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]

8. “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]

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9. “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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10. “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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11. “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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12. “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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13. “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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14. “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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15. “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]

16. “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]

17. “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]

18. “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]

19. “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]

20. “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]

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21. “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]

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22. “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]

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23. “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]

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24. “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]

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25. “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]

26. “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]

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27. “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]

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28. “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]

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29. “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]

30. “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]

31. “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]

32. “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]

33. “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]

34. “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]

35. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to establish as a matter of urgency an expert committee to examine in an impartial fashion the feasibility, benefits and potential hazards of nuclear energy generation.”

—*Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn.*
[7 April, 2009]

36. “That Seanad Éireann,

- noting the Government’s proposal to establish a National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) to purchase up to €90 billion of developer loans from banks;
- noting the testimony from the Financial Regulator last October that at least €15 billion of these loans are secured only on the underlying lands properties, and noting market reports that the value of these underlying lands and properties has declined by as much as 80%;
- noting the inconsistency of the objectives for NAMA set by Government of (i) purchasing the distressed loans from the banks at a fair price; (ii) ensuring that the banks remain adequately capitalised; and (iii) keeping the banks in private ownership;
- noting the vastly superior information available to senior bank executives in the valuation of these loans, and their incentives to over-value them;
- noting that the establishment of so-called ‘bad banks’ in other countries — such as the USA and Sweden — involved fundamentally different processes that did not create the same problems in bad loan valuation;
- noting that the purchase of over-valued loans from the banks has the potential to further undermine Ireland’s already damaged credit rating in international markets, and to drain resources away vital public services over the next two decades.

calls on the Government

- to reverse its decision to establish NAMA; and
- to commission swiftly a study into Fine Gael’s alternative, superior proposal to capitalise ‘good banks’ that are ready to lend, and to minimise taxpayers’ exposure to loan losses by ensuring that the vast bulk of banking losses are absorbed by the providers of risk capital and debt to the banks.”

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

[22 April, 2009]

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

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

- “• notes that the Government’s proposed National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) will pay significantly less than the estimated €80-90bn potential book value of the loans to be transferred to it;
- notes that account will be taken of the loss in value of the underlying assets and that this will be reflected in the amount that NAMA will pay;
- notes that the State will not take all of the risk in the acquisition of assets because they will be valued on a basis that is sustainable for the taxpayer and which will entail losses by the banks. In the longer term, if the Agency were to fall short of recouping all of the costs, the Government intends that a levy should be applied to recoup any shortfall;
- notes that Developers will be required to repay their loans and to the extent that they have made losses, they will have to recognise those — it will not be the function of NAMA to ‘go easy’ on them: NAMA’s mandate will be a commercial one;
- notes that banks have to take the appropriate write-down in value of loans, as the aim of NAMA is to operate commercially and optimise the return on such loans over time;
- notes that the clear and consistent objective of NAMA is to provide the banks with stronger balance sheets, considerably reduced uncertainty over bad debts and as a consequence underpin the flow of credit on a commercial basis to individuals and businesses in the real economy;
- notes that Government has had, and NAMA will have, expert financial, economic, legal and valuation advice;
- notes that NAMA will not be a bank, it will not be taking deposits and it will not have a banking licence. It will be an asset management company dealing with a mix of loans, good and bad, transferred from banks;
- affirms the importance for the Irish economy of a functioning banking system which includes banks having market presence, operating within market disciplines and constraints;
- supports the Government’s decision to establish NAMA as part of a structured and measured approach to the issues facing the financial sector. This approach includes:
 - the Guarantee on Deposits up to September 2010 to stabilise the funding position of the banks and add a further level of protection for depositors;
 - recapitalisation programme of Allied Irish Banks and Bank of Ireland and the commitment to look at the needs of other institutions
 - the nationalisation of Anglo Irish Bank, necessitated by particular circumstances at the time, to provide protection and support;
 - the Government also intends in line with its previous indication to put a State guarantee in place for the future issuance of debt securities with a maturity of up to five years;

- review and reform of the structures, role and functioning of the Financial Regulator and the relationship with the Central Bank in light of the current situation; and
- the ongoing commitment to work with the EU to frame a common approach to the issues faced by the financial services sector;
- expresses its confidence in the Government’s actions to stabilise and revitalise the banking system including establishment of NAMA as part of this range of considered measures.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

2. To delete all words after “calls on the Government” and substitute the following:

“to engage in meaningful discussions with the opposition parties prior to any further steps being taken by the Government or the NAMA regarding the banks, and to consider as part of said discussions whether the main banks should be taken into public ownership as the best way to protect the interests of the Irish taxpayers.”

—*Senators Alex White, Dominic Hannigan, Alan Kelly, Phil Prendergast, Brendan Ryan, Michael McCarthy.*

29. 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, 29 Aibreán, 2009.

Wednesday, 29th April, 2009.

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 Fhiontair, Trádáil agus Fostaíocht i Seomra Coiste 3, TL2000, ar 10 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh i Seomra Coiste 2, TL2000, ar 11 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Social and Family Affairs in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 11 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Iascaigh agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 11.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 11.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Athrú Aeráide agus Áirithiú Fuinnimh i Seomra Coiste 1, TL2000, ar 2.30 p.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security in Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 2.30 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, 30 Aibreán, 2009.

Thursday, 30th April, 2009.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht Iascaigh agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, TL2000, ar 9.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Dhlí agus Ceart, Comhionannas, Cosaint agus Cearta na mBan i Seomra Coiste 2, TL2000, ar 10.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights, in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, at 10.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta i Seomra Coiste 3, TL 2000, ar 11.30 a.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 11.30 a.m.

PÁIPÉIR A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID AN tSEANAID

Papers laid before the Seanad

Reachtúil:

Statutory:

1) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle maidir le seasamh Comhphobail a bhainfidh le Rialacha Nós Imeachta Chomhchomhairle CARIFORUM-CE, an Choiste Trádála agus Forbartha agus na gCoistí Speisialta dá bhforáiltear leis an gComhaontú Comhpháirtíochta Eacnamaíochta idir Stáit CARIFORUM, de pháirt, agus an Comhphobail Eorpach agus a Bhallstáit, den pháirt eile, mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2009) 61.

1) Proposal for a Council Decision on a Community Position concerning the Rules of Procedure of the Joint CARIFORUM-EC Council, the Trade and Development Committee and the Special Committees provided for by the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 61.

2) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle maidir leis an seasamh a bheidh le glacadh ag an gComhphobal Eorpach laistigh de Chomhairle Airí ACC-CE maidir le cinneadh chun Iarscríbhinn II a ghabhann le Comhaontú Comhpháirtíochta ACC-CE Cotonou a athbhreithniú mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2009) 72.

2) Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the European Community within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers regarding a decision to revise Annex II to the Cotonou ACP-EC Partnership Agreement together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 72.

3) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle maidir le críochnú na gcomhchomhairliúcháin le Poblacht Ioslamach na Máratáine faoi Airteagal 96 de Chomhaontú athbhreithnithe Cotonou mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2009) 92.

3) Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of consultations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under Article 96 of the revised Cotonou Agreement together with explanatory information note. COM (2009) 92.

4) An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil. Tuarascáil Achomair ón Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil don tréimhse sé mhí ó Iúil go Nollaig, 2008 faoi Alt 2(5) d'Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú) 2002.

4) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Summary Report from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the six month period from July to December, 2008 under Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.

5) An Coimisinéir Faisnéise. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2008.

5) Information Commissioner. Annual Report, 2008.

6) Coimisiún na hÉireann-na Stát Aontaithe um Malartú Oideachasúil. Ráitis Airgeadais don bhliain dar chríoch 30 Meán Fómhair, 2008.

6) The Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange. Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September, 2008.

Neamhrechtúil:

Non-Statutory:

1) An Fhoireann Straitéise Náisiúnta Drugaí. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2007.

1) National Drugs Strategy Team. Annual Report, 2007.
