

Dé Céadaoin, 24 Feabhra, 2010
Wednesday, 24th February, 2010

10.30 a.m.

RIAR NA hOIBRE

Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ

Public Business

1. An Bille Eadrána 2008 [*Dáil*] — An Coiste.
 Arbitration Bill 2008 [*Dáil*] — Committee.

2. Ráitis maidir leis “An Tuarascáil Deiridh ar an mBille um an Ochtú Leasú is Fiche ar an mBunreacht 2007 — Togra maidir le leasú bunreachtach chun cearta leanaí a dhaingniú”.
 Statements on the “Final Report on the Twenty-eight Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007 — Proposal for a constitutional amendment to strengthen children’s rights”.

3. (*l*) An Bille um Bunachais Pórúcháin Madraí 2009 — (*leasú 3, atógáil*).
 (a) Dog Breeding Establishments Bill 2009 — (*amendment 3, resumed*).

4. An Bille Fuinnimh (Oibleagáid Bhithbhreosla agus Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2010 — An Coiste.
 Energy (Biofuel Obligation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2010 — Committee.

5. An Bille um Chúram Leanáí (Leasú) 2009 — An Coiste.
 Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2009 — Committee.

6. (*l*) An Bille Meabhair-Shláinte (Bearta Ainneonacha) (Leasú) 2008 — An Coiste (*alt 1, atógáil*).
 (a) Mental Health (Involuntary Procedures) (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Committee (*section 1, resumed*).

7. An Bille um Fhorbairtí Ilaonad 2009 — An Coiste.
 Multi-Unit Developments Bill 2009 — Committee.

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

9. An Bille um Sheirbhísí Maoine (Rialáil) 2009 — An Coiste.
Property Services (Regulation) Bill 2009 — Committee.
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10. An Bille um an Dlí Coiriúil (Gealtacht) 2010 — An Coiste.
Criminal Law (Insanity) Bill 2010 — Committee.
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11. An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Sciúradh Airgid agus Maoiniú Sceimhlitheoireachta) 2009 [*Dáil*] — An Dara Céim.
Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Bill 2009 [*Dáil*] — Second Stage.
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12. Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2005 — An Dara Céim.
Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2005 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Joe O’Toole, Paul Coghlan, David Norris.*
-
13. 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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14. 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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15. An Bille um Chosaint Tomhaltóirí (Leasú) 2008 — An Dara Céim.
Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill 2008 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Brendan Ryan, Alex White, Dominic Hannigan, Michael McCarthy, Phil Prendergast.*
-
16. 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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17. 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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18. An Bille chun Airm Úráiniam Laghdaithe a Thoirmeasc 2009 — An Dara Céim.
Prohibition of Depleted Uranium Weapons Bill 2009 — Second Stage.
—*Senators Dan Boyle, Fiona O’Malley.*
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Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

19. 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.*

Bille (atógáil) (0.03 n. fágtha):

Bill (resumed) (0.03 m. remaining):

20. 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.*

Tíolactha:

Presented:

21. 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.*

22. 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.*

23. 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):

24. Ráitis maidir le Conradh Liospóin um Athchóiriú (atógáil).

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

25. 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*).

26. Ráitis maidir leis an mBuiséad 2010 (*atógáil*).

Statements on Budget 2010 (*resumed*).

27. Ráitis maidir le rialáil a dhéanamh ar dhíol substaintí contúirteacha trí *Head Shops* (*atógáil*).

Statements regarding the regulation of the sale of dangerous substances through Head Shops (*resumed*).

Tairiscintí:

Motions:

28. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tríú Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Athrú Aeráide agus Áirithiú Fuinnimh dar teideal ‘Ag Freastal do Riachtanais Fuinnimh na hÉireann tar éis 2020’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 2ú Nollaig, 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Third Report of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security entitled ‘Meeting Ireland’s Electricity Needs Post 2020’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 2nd December, 2009”.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[4 December, 2009]

29. “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 2010,

Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2010,

Ordú ar leagadh cóip de ina dhréacht faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 15 Nollaig 2009.

a copy of which Order in draft was laid before Seanad Éireann on 15th December 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

30. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 29: COM (2009) 499, 500, 501, 502 agus 503 — Dréachtphacáiste reachtach maidir le hathchóiriú ar chreat maoirseachta agus rialála airgeadais AE’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 13 Eanáir 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘EU Scrutiny Report No. 29: COM (2009) 499, 500, 501, 502 and 503 — Draft legislative package on reforming the EU’s financial supervisory and regulatory framework’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 13th January 2010”.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[20 January, 2010]

31. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Dhlí agus Ceart, Comhionannas, Cosaint agus Cearta na mBan dar teideal “An Dara Tuarascáil — Rannpháirtíocht na mBan i gCúrsaí Polaitíochta”, a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 28 Deireadh Fómhair 2009.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women’s Rights entitled “Second Report — Women’s Participation in Politics”, which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 28 October 2009.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[3 February, 2010]

32. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha dar teideal, “Tuarascáil maidir le Rannchuidiú an Chomhchoiste leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach maidir leis an Straitéis don todhchaí “EU2020” a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 3 Feabhra 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Affairs, entitled “Report on the Joint Committee’s Contribution to the European Commission on the future “EU2020” Strategy” which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 3 February 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[9 February, 2010]

33. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste ar an mBunreacht dar teideal ‘*Torthaí Suirbhé ar Chomhaltáí Dhá Theach an Oireachtais — An Córas Toghcháin, Ról Ionadaíochta Teachtaí Dála agus Tograí maidir le hAthrú*’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 4 Feabhra 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitution entitled ‘*Results of Survey of Members of Both Houses of the Oireachtas — The Electoral System, Representative Role of TDs and Proposals for Change*’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 4 February 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[9 February, 2010]

34. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Shláinte agus Leanaí dar teideal ‘*Tuarascáil maidir le Cúram Príomha Liachta i measc an Phobail*’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 11 Feabhra 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on Health and Children entitled ‘*Report on Primary Medical Care in the Community*’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 11 February 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[16 February, 2010]

35. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um an Leasú Bunreachtá maidir le Leanaí dar teideal ‘*An Tuarascáil Deiridh ar an mBille um an Ochtú Leasú is Fiche ar an mBunreacht 2007 — Togra maidir le leasú bunreachtá chun cearta leanaí a dhaingniú*’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 16 Feabhra 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children entitled ‘*Final Report on the Twenty-eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007 — Proposal for a constitutional amendment to strengthen children’s rights*’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 16 February 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*
[17 February, 2010]

36. “Go gceadaíonn Seanad Éireann an Stát d’fheidhmiú an roghnaithe nó na rogha faoi Phrótaicail Uimh. 21 maidir le seasamh na Ríochta Aontaithe agus na hÉireann i dtaca leis an réimse saoirse, slándála agus ceartais, atá i gceangal leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh, a bheith páirteach i nglacadh agus i bhfeidhmiú an bhirt bheartaithe seo a leanas:

tionscnamh le haghaidh Treorach ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle maidir leis na cearta chun ateangaireacht agus aistriúchán a fháil in imeachtaí coiriúla,

That Seanad Éireann approves the exercise by the State of the option or discretion under Protocol No. 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, to take part in the adoption and application of the following proposed measure:

an initiative for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the rights to interpretation and to translation in criminal proceedings,

ar leagadh cóip de faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 20 Eanáir, 2010.

a copy of which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 20 January 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[18 February, 2010]

37. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá haire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghrinnscrúdú Eorpach dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil Iniúchta AE Uimh. 30: COM(2009)362 críochnaitheach — Togra le haghaidh Treorach ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle lena leasaítear Treoracha 2006/48/CE agus 2006/49/CE maidir le ceanglais chaipitil le haghaidh an leabhair trádála agus athurrúsuithe, agus leis an athbhreithniú maoirseachta ar bheartais luacha saothair’ a leagadh faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 23 Feabhra 2010.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny entitled ‘EU Scrutiny Report No. 30: COM(2009)362 final — Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC as regards capital requirements for the trading book and for re-securitisations, and the supervisory review of remuneration policies’ which was laid before Seanad Éireann on 23rd February 2010.”

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

[24 February, 2010]

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

1. “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]

2. “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]

3. “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]

4. “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]

5. “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]

6. “That Seanad Éireann noting:

- that Ireland has one of the highest levels of alcohol consumption in the world;
- that the level of alcohol consumption in Ireland and the economic and social problems which it creates is now such as to amount to a crisis for this country, tarnishing its image both at home and abroad;
- the persistent and serious problem of alcohol related violence, anti-social behaviour and other offences throughout the country;
- that 97% of all public order offences are alcohol related (National Crime Council 2003);
- that alcohol is a significant contributing factor in physical and sexual assaults, domestic violence, fatal road accidents, criminal damage and that almost half of homicides were perpetrated by intoxicated persons (HSE Report on Alcohol Related Harm 2008);
- that alcohol was found to be responsible for 6,584 deaths in the 5 year period 2000-2004 and in the same period 3 million hospitalisations at a cost of €930m, according to research presented at the 2009 Summer Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland;

- the fact that alcohol is a gateway drug for many young people amounting to an illegal industry of €145m annually;

and considering:

- the widespread and extensive exposure of alcoholic products through media outlets such as television, radio, cinema, and billboard advertising;
- the strong links that alcohol advertising has to sponsorship of sport and other cultural activities;
- that advertising of alcohol portrays a simple social activity and one to be encouraged;
- that alcohol advertisements hold a strong appeal for young people and are considered by young people to be stylish and humorous, showing alcohol as promoting a desirable lifestyle, and helping to improve confidence in social skills (the Impact of Alcohol Advertising on Teenagers in Ireland 2001);
- that measures are needed to curtail the demand for alcohol, to complement the measures introduced in the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008, which restricts the supply of alcohol;
- that voluntary codes of practice on the promotion and advertising of alcoholic drinks is entirely ineffective;
- advice from the Irish Medical Organisation's former President, and public health specialist, Dr. Joe Barry that all alcohol advertising should be banned;
- a call from the Irish College of Psychiatrists (September, 2008) for a complete ban on all alcohol advertising in Ireland;
- the positive impact of France's ban on all televised advertising of alcohol and sponsorship of sport by the alcohol industry introduced in its 1991 Law, Loi Evin;

calls on the Government to:

- introduce without delay a total ban on all advertising of alcohol in Ireland.”.
- *Senators Eugene Regan, Frances Fitzgerald, Paddy Burke, Paul Bradford, Jerry Buttimer, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Fidelma Healy-Eames, Nicky McFadden, Joe O'Reilly, John Paul Phelan, Liam Twomey, David Norris.*

[28 May, 2009]

7. “That Seanad Éireann acknowledging the results of the local and European elections condemns the Government for its failure:

- to protect the most vulnerable in society;
- to acknowledge the anger and frustration of the people of Ireland caused by the outcome of Government policy over the last decade; and

P.T.O.

— to outline the actions it proposes to protect the future of our economy and social policy.”.

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

[10 June, 2009]

8. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to include membership of any secretive religious organisations with campaigning or political briefs among items to be declared to the Standards in Public Office Commission.”.

—*Senators David Norris, Joe O’Toole, Ivana Bacik, Feargal Quinn, Alex White, Michael McCarthy, Dominic Hannigan.*

[16 June, 2009]

9. “That Seanad Éireann, in light of the exorbitant fees being charged by Senior and Junior Counsel, calls on the Government to introduce a Maximum Fees Order, of not more than €969 per diem for Senior Counsel, and, €646 per diem for Junior Counsel (as decided by the Government in July 2004 in respect of Counsels fees for Tribunals of Inquiry).”.

—*Senators Jim Walsh, Mary White, Terry Leyden, Deirdre De Búrca, Mark Daly, Feargal Quinn, Lisa McDonald, Ivor Callely, Cecilia Keaveney, Eoghan Harris, Marc MacSharry.*

[30 June, 2009]

10. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to review as a matter of urgency the changes to state funding for Protestant, voluntary and Jewish schools in Budget 2009 as well as certain recommendations of the McCarthy Report in so far as they affect the Protestant voluntary and Jewish schools in order to avoid unintentional but serious discriminatory effects.”.

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

[23 September, 2009]

11. “That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Report of the UN Inquiry into War Crimes committed during the Israeli Invasion of Gaza in September 2008.”.

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

[23 September, 2009]

12. “That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to give serious and detailed consideration to the proposal to move the Abbey Theatre to the GPO.”.

—*Senators David Norris, Donie Cassidy, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Coghlan, Alex White, Pearse Doherty, Joe O’Toole, Eoghan Harris.*

[13 October, 2009]

13. “That Seanad Éireann deplores the delay in implementing the recommendations of the Report on Seanad Reform and demands of Government that it do so immediately.”.

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

[21 October, 2009]

14. “That Seanad Éireann sets up a special committee to investigate the origins and causes of the banking crisis.”.

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

[20 January 2010]

15. “That Seanad Éireann urges the Government to introduce legislation aimed at regulating the sale of dangerous, non quality controlled and indeterminately compounded substances through so called ‘Head Shops’.”.

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

[20 January 2010]

16. “That Seanad Éireann:—

recognising:

- tourism revenue dropped by €1.1bn in 2009 to €5.2bn, its lowest level since 2004;
- overseas visitor numbers fell by close to one million in 2009 compared to 2008;
- Ireland’s largest tourism market, the United Kingdom, declined by 16%;
- access to Ireland has become worryingly restricted with the ongoing removal of routes and restrictions in airline capacity at both Shannon and Dublin airports;

considering:

- the introduction of a departure tax was short-sighted, counterproductive and a deterrent to the survival of the tourism industry;
- the yield from the departure tax in 2009 at €84.4m was a counterproductive measure considering the overall drop in tourism revenue;
- other European countries such as Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain and Greece have moved to reduce airport charges and withdraw tourist taxes in an effort to boost tourism; and

calls on Government to immediately abolish the departure tax.”.

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

[18 February, 2010]

17. “That Seanad Éireann:

noting—

- the withdrawal of approximately 1200 Special Needs Assistants from schools throughout the country;
- the Government’s failure to implement the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004;
- the abolition of over 120 special needs classes last year;

- the Minister for Education and Science’s failure to publish advice from the National Council for Special Education on special needs provision;

considering—

- the enormous pressure this places on mainstream teachers to manage diversity, multi-culturalism, language needs as well as special needs of students;
- the fact that the Department of Education and Science has not clarified whether schools which have lost an SNA or special class will be provided with additional special needs supports;
- many mainstream teachers have not had access to specialist training in special needs teaching;
- the potential impact withdrawing such supports will have on the overall quality of education;

calls on Government to:—

- publish the National Council for Special Education’s advice on this issue;
 - provide a timeline for the implementation of the EPSEN Act 2004; and
 - clarify what additional resources will be provided to schools which have lost special needs supports.”.
- *Senators Fidelma Healy-Eames, Frances Fitzgerald, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Jerry Buttimer, Ciaran Cannon, Paudie Coffey, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Paschal Donohoe, Nicky McFadden, Joe O’Reilly, John Paul Phelan, Eugene Regan, Liam Twomey.*

[23 February, 2010]

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

“recognising that:

- in the last 10 years major improvements have been made to the range of supports available for children with special educational needs;
- investment in supports for special needs is now over €1bn;
- there are over 8,600 resource and learning support teachers in our schools;
- there are over 10,000 Special Needs Assistants in our schools;
- in total, there are over 20,000 adults supporting children with special educational needs in our schools;
- the inclusion of students with special educational needs in mainstream schools is a national and international development that is supported in national legislation and in statements, reports and conventions that have emanated from such international bodies as the United Nations and the Council of Europe;
- improved collaboration between the education and health sectors has been prioritised, with the appointment of a Minister of State with that specific responsibility;

commends the Government's determination, in a difficult economic environment with many competing demands for funding, to continue to prioritise investment for children with special educational needs by:

- continuing to implement its long-standing policy of allocating Teachers and Special Needs Assistants to mainstream and special schools as required;
- developing, in consultation with stakeholders, a costed multi-annual plan to implement some priority aspects of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 focussing on measurable, practical progress in education and health services for children with special needs;
- increasing the number of Educational Psychologists to provide support for every school in the country;
- enhancing the capacity of the National Council for Special Education to co-ordinate the provision of services to children with special educational needs; and
- funding the provision of expert support, professional development and training opportunities in special education for principals, class and subject teachers, special class teachers, learning support and resource teachers and special needs assistants.

—*Senator Donie Cassidy.*

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

BILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL
Seanad Bills with the Dáil

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

An Bille Uchtála 2009.
Adoption Bill 2009.

An Bille Caidrimh Thionscail (Leasú) 2009.
Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2009.

An Bille um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Leasú) 2009.
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009.

An Bille um Nós Imeachta Coiriúil 2009.
Criminal Procedure Bill 2009.

An Bille um Shábháilteacht Peitri Liam (Taiscéaladh agus Astarraingt) 2010.
Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety Bill 2010.

MEMORANDA

Dé Céadaoin, 24 Feabhra, 2010.
Wednesday, 24th February, 2010.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste ar an mBunreacht i Seomra Coiste 2, TL 2000, ar 9.30 a.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Constitution in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Shláinte agus Leanaí i Seomra Coiste 2, TL 2000, ar 1 p.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Health and Children in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, at 1 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Rialála Geilleagair i Seomra Coiste 1, TL 2000, ar 3 p.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Regulatory Affairs in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, at 3 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Iompar i Seomra Coiste 1, TL 2000, ar 3.45 p.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Transport in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, at 3.45 p.m.

Déardaoin, 25 Feabhra, 2010
Thursday, 25th February, 2010

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Oideachas agus Eolaíocht i Seomra Coiste 2, TL 2000, ar 10 a.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Education and Science in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, at 10 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Airgeadas agus an tSeirbhís Phoiblí i Seomra Coiste 2, TL 2000, ar 2.30 p.m.
 Meeting of the Joint Committee on Finance and the Public Service in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, at 2.30 p.m.

PÁIPÉIR A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID AN tSEANAID
Papers laid before the Seanad

Reachtúil:

1) An Coiste Gairmoideachais: Contae na Mí — Ráiteas Airgeadais Bliantúil don bhliain dar chríoch 31 Nollaig, 2008.

2) An Bord um Ghearáin i gcoinne an Gharda Síochána. Cuntais Iniúchta, 2008.

Statutory:

1) Vocational Education Committee: County Meath — Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2008.

2) Garda Síochána Complaints Board. Audited Accounts, 2008.
