



SEANAD ÉIREANN

Dé Luain, 8 Márta, 2021
Monday, 8th March, 2021

RIAR NA hOIBRE
ORDER PAPER

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10.30 a.m.

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Order Paper

GNÓ POIBLÍ
Public Business

1. Ráitis chun Lá Idirnáisiúnta na mBan a chomóradh.
 Statements to mark International Women's Day.

2. Ráitis maidir le Seachtain na Gaeilge
 Statements on Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Tíolactha:
Presented:

3. An Bille um Dhócmhainneacht Phearsanta (Leasú), 2020 – Ordú don Dara Céim.
 Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2020 – Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú an Achta um Dhócmhainneacht Phearsanta, 2012 chun na critéir incháilitheachta le haghaidh Fógraí Faoisimh Fiachais a leasú; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le cruinnithe áirithe a thionól faoin Acht sin ar mhodh cianda; do dhéanamh socrú breise i ndáil le huastréimhse Comhshocraíochta Dócmhainneachta Pearsanta; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le daoine eile do chomhlíonadh feidhmeanna áirithe de chuid Cleachtóir Dócmhainneachta Pearsanta in imthosca áirithe; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le tréimhse deimhnithe chosantaigh a leathnú i gComhshocraíochtaí Socraíochta Fiachais agus i gComhshocraíochtaí Dócmhainneachta Pearsanta; d'fhadú na teorann ama chun iarratas a dhéanamh ar athbhreithniú cúirte ar Chomhshocraíocht Dócmhainneachta Pearsanta bheartaithe; do leasú na gcoinníollacha maidir le hathbhreithniú cúirte ar Chomhshocraíocht

Bill entitled an Act to amend the Personal Insolvency Act 2012 to amend the eligibility criteria for Debt Relief Notices; to make provision for the holding of certain meetings under that Act by remote means; to make further provision in relation to the maximum duration of a Personal Insolvency Arrangement; to provide for the performance of certain functions of a Personal Insolvency Practitioner by other persons in certain circumstances; to provide for the extension of the period of a protective certificate in Debt Settlement Arrangements and Personal Insolvency Arrangements; to extend the time limit for applying for a court review of a proposed Personal Insolvency Arrangement; to amend the conditions for a court review of a proposed Personal Insolvency Arrangement; to make provision for the making of confirmations of truth; and to provide for related matters.

Dócmhainneachta Pearsanta bheartaithe; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le daingniúcháin fírinne a dhéanamh; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*

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4. Ráitis maidir le coinneáil an Uas. Richard O’Halloran sa tSín.
Statements on the detention of Mr. Richard O’Halloran in China.

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5. Ráitis maidir le freagairt na Roinne Coimirce Sóisialaí do Covid-19 (*atógáil*).
Statements on the Department of Social Protection’s response to Covid-19 (*resumed*).

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6. Ráitis maidir le Ag Climatise - An Plean Oibre Náisiúnta Aeir agus Aeráide don Earnáil Talmhaíochta (*atógáil*).
Statements on Ag Climatise - The National Climate and Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector (*resumed*).
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Tugadh Isteach:

Introduced:

7. An Bille um Cháilíocht i Sainfháil Phoiblí (Conarthaí a Ullmhú agus Critéir Dhámhachtana), 2021 – An Chéad Chéim.
Quality in Public Procurement (Contract Preparation and Award Criteria) Bill 2021 – First Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do thabhairt tuilleadh éifeachta do Threoir 2014/24/AE ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 26 Feabhra 2014 agus, chun na críche sin, do dhéanamh socrú maidir le critéir dámhachtana conarthaí i gconarthaí poiblí, do chur úsáid cúinsí sóisialta agus an chóimheasa is fearr idir praghas agus cáilíocht chun cinn agus do bhunú nós imeachta le haghaidh imeacht ón gcóimheas is fearr idir praghas agus cáilíocht, dá chinntiú go mbeidh feidhm ag alt 3 den Acht fán gCoinbhinsiún Eorpach um Chearta an Duine, 2003 maidir le gach údarás conarthach lena mbaineann an Treoir sin i leith conradh atá comhionann le tairseach airgid inchinnte nó is mó ná sin, do dhéanamh socrú maidir le treoirlínte a bhaineann le cúinsí sóisialta a eisiúint, dá cheangal tuairisciú bliantúil a dhéanamh do gach Teach den Oireachtas maidir le nithe áirithe agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an méid sin.

Bill entitled an Act to give further effect to Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 and for that purpose to provide for contract award criteria in public contracts, to promote the use of social considerations and the best price-quality ratio and to establish a procedure for departing from best price-quality ratio, to ensure that section 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003 applies to every contracting authority to which the said Directive relates in respect of a contract equal to or greater than a determinable monetary threshold, to provide for the issuing of guidelines concerning social considerations, to require annual reporting to each House of the Oireachtas concerning certain matters and to provide for matters connected therewith.

– *Senators Alice-Mary Higgins, Lynn Ruane, Frances Black, Eileen Flynn.*

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8. An Bille um Dhrugaí Rialaithe agus um Dhochar a Laghdú, 2017 – An Dara Céim.
Controlled Drugs and Harm Reduction Bill 2017 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Lynn Ruane, Alice-Mary Higgins, Frances Black, David Norris, Michael McDowell, Gerard P. Craughwell, Victor Boyhan, Ivana Bacik.*
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9. An Bille um Aerfoirt Stáit (Grúpa na Sionainne) (Leasú), 2020 – An Dara Céim.
State Airports (Shannon Group) (Amendment) Bill 2020 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Martin Conway, Garret Ahearn, Aisling Dolan.*
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10. Bille na gColáistí Teicniúla Réigiúnacha (Leasú), 2017 – An Dara Céim.
Regional Technical Colleges (Amendment) Bill 2017 – Second Stage.
– *Senator Paddy Burke.*
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11. An Bille um Tháirgí Míosta (Soláthar Saor in Aisce), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Period Products (Free Provision) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Rebecca Moynihan, Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall.*
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12. An Bille um Nós Imeachta Coiriúil agus Nithe Gaolmhara, 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Criminal Procedure and Related Matters Bill 2021 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Barry Ward, Mary Seery Kearney, Martin Conway.*
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13. An Bille Cosanta (Srian le Teidil Áirithe a Úsáid), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Defence (Restriction on Use of Certain Titles) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Malcolm Byrne, Fiona O'Loughlin, Pat Casey.*
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14. An Bille um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Leasú), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.
– *Senators Malcolm Byrne, Fiona O'Loughlin, Pat Casey.*
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15. An Bille Toghcháin (Saoirse na Sochaí Sibhialta) (Leasú), 2019 – An Dara Céim (*atógáil*).
Electoral (Civil Society Freedom) (Amendment) Bill 2019 – Second Stage (*resumed*).
– *Senators Rebecca Moynihan, Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall.*
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16. Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Comhaltaí Ollscoile) (Leasú), 2020 – An Dara Céim (*atógáil*).
Seanad Electoral (University Members) (Amendment) Bill 2020 – Second Stage (*resumed*).
– *Senators Malcolm Byrne, Shane Cassells, Pat Casey.*
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17. An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Coireacht Fuatha), 2020 – An Dara Céim (*atógáil*).
Criminal Justice (Hate Crime) Bill 2020 – Second Stage (*resumed*).

– *Senators Fiona O’Loughlin, Lisa Chambers, Robbie Gallagher.*

- 18.** An Bille um Chiontuithe mar gheall ar Chionta Gnéasacha Áirithe (Leithscéal a Ghabháil agus Saoradh), 2016 – An Coiste.

Convictions for Certain Sexual Offences (Apology and Exoneration) Bill 2016 – Committee.

– *Senator Ivana Bacik.*

- 19.** An Bille fán nGníomhaireacht um Shábháilteacht Feirme, 2018 – An Coiste.

Farm Safety Agency Bill 2018 – Committee.

– *Senators Paul Daly, Robbie Gallagher, Diarmuid Wilson.*

- 20.** An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Ord Poiblí) (Leasú), 2019 – An Coiste.

Criminal Justice (Public Order) (Amendment) Bill 2019 – Committee.

– *Senators Robbie Gallagher, Lorraine Clifford-Lee, Diarmuid Wilson.*

- 21.** An Bille um Gharchabhair agus Meabhairshláinte i Scoileanna (Múinteoirí Reatha), 2018 – An Coiste.

First Aid and Mental Health in Schools (Existing Teachers) Bill 2018 – Committee.

– *Senators Robbie Gallagher, Diarmuid Wilson.*

- 22.** An Bille um Gharchabhair agus Meabhairshláinte i Scoileanna (Oiliúint Tosaigh ar Mhúinteoirí), 2018 – An Coiste.

First Aid and Mental Health in Schools (Initial Teacher Training) Bill 2018 – Committee.

– *Senators Robbie Gallagher, Diarmuid Wilson.*

- 23.** An Bille um Rannpháirtíocht Phobail (Míchumas) (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2019 – An Coiste.

Community Participation (Disability) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2019 – Committee.

– *Senators Lynn Ruane, Frances Black, Ivana Bacik, Victor Boyhan, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

- 24.** An Bille um Údaráis Phoiblí agus Gnóthais Fóntais (Conarthaí a Ullmhú agus Critéir Dhámhachtana), 2019 – An Coiste.

Public Authorities and Utility Undertakings (Contract Preparation and Award Criteria) Bill 2019 – Committee.

– *Senators Alice-Mary Higgins, Frances Black, Lynn Ruane.*

- 25.** An Bille um Inscne a Aithint (Leasú), 2017 – An Coiste.

Gender Recognition (Amendment) Bill 2017 – Committee.

– *Senators Fintan Warfield, David Norris.*

- 26.** An Bille um Thoirmeasc ar Theiripí Tiontúcháin, 2018 – An Coiste.

Prohibition of Conversion Therapies Bill 2018 – Committee.

– *Senators Fintan Warfield, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Paul Gavan, Ivana Bacik, David Norris, Victor Boyhan, Gerard P. Craughwell, Frances Black, Alice-Mary Higgins, Lynn Ruane, Jerry Buttimer, Catherine Ardagh.*

- 27.** An Bille um Tháirgí Míosta a Sholáthar Saor in Aisce, 2021 – An Coiste.
Free Provision of Period Products Bill 2021 – Committee.

– *Senators Lorraine Clifford-Lee, Catherine Ardagh, Mary Fitzpatrick.*

- 28.** Bille na nAltraí Foghlama (Pá), 2021 – An Coiste.

Student Nurses (Pay) Bill 2021 – Committee.

– *Senators Annie Hoey, Ivana Bacik, Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall.*

- 29.** An Bille um Aosaigh a Chosaint, 2017 – An Coiste.

Adult Safeguarding Bill 2017 – Committee.

– *Senators Lorraine Clifford-Lee, Frances Black, Alice-Mary Higgins, Jerry Buttimer, Victor Boyhan, Lynn Ruane, Ivana Bacik.*

- 30.** An Bille um Threalamh Tarrthála Beatha, 2017 – An Coiste.

Life Saving Equipment Bill 2017 – Committee.

– *Senators Paul Daly, Robbie Gallagher, Diarmuid Wilson.*

- 31.** Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Leasú), 2015 – An Coiste.

Seanad Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Committee.

– *Senators Diarmuid Wilson, Mark Daly, Denis O'Donovan, Ned O'Sullivan.*

- 32.** An Bille Rialtais Áitiúil (TCI a Úsáid le linn Cionta a Ionchúiseamh), 2021 – An Coiste.

Local Government (Use of CCTV in Prosecution of Offences) Bill 2021 – Committee.

– *Senators Mark Wall, Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock.*

- 33.** (l) Bille Náisiúntachta agus Saoránachta Éireann (Eadóirsiú Mionaoiseach a Rugadh in Éirinn), 2018 – An Coiste (*alt 1, atógáil*).

(a) Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Naturalisation of Minors Born in Ireland) Bill 2018 – Committee (*section 1, resumed*).

– *Senator Ivana Bacik.*

- 34.** An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Tréimhsí Athshlánúcháin), 2018 – An Tuarascáil.

Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018 – Report Stage.

– *Senators Lynn Ruane, Frances Black, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

- 35.** Tuarascáil ón gCoiste um Nós Imeachta agus Pribhléidí maidir le Buan-Ordú 45 a leasú.

Report of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges on the amendment of Standing Order 45.

Tairiscint:

Motion:

36. “Go dtabharfaidh Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Iompar agus Líonraí Cumarsáide dar teideal ‘Saincheistanna a théann i gcion ar thionscal na heitlíochta’, ar leagadh cóipeanna di faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 9 Nollaig 2020.

Seanad Éireann shall take note of the Report of the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Networks entitled ‘Issues affecting the aviation industry’, copies of which were laid before Seanad Éireann on 9th December, 2020.”

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*
[11th December, 2020]

Tairiscint:

Motion:

37. “Go dtabharfaidh Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh dar teideal ‘Tograí maidir leis an gComhdháil ar Thodhchaí na hEorpa’, ar leagadh cóipeanna di faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 16 Nollaig 2020.

That Seanad Éireann shall take note of the Report of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs entitled ‘Proposals for the Conference on the Future of Europe’, copies of which were laid before Seanad Éireann on 16th December, 2020.”

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*
[16th December, 2020]

Tairiscint:

Motion:

38. “Go dtugann Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Oideachas, Breisoideachas agus Ardoideachas, Taighde, Nuálaíocht agus Eolaíocht dar teideal ‘Tuarascáil maidir le Tionchar COVID-19 ar Bhunoideachas agus ar Mheánoideachas’, ar leagadh cóipeanna di faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 20 Eanáir 2021.

That Seanad Éireann notes the Report of the Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science entitled ‘Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Primary and Secondary Education’, copies of which were laid before Seanad Éireann on 20th January, 2021.”

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*
[21st January, 2021]

Tairiscint:

Motion:

39. “Go dtabharfaidh Seanad Éireann dá aire an Tuarascáil ón gComhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht agus Muir dar teideal

That Seanad Éireann shall take note of the Report of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and the Marine entitled ‘Issues

‘Saincheisteanna a bhfuil tionchar acu ar Earnáil na Foraoiseachta in Éirinn’, ar leagadh cóipeanna di faoi bhráid Sheanad Éireann an 2 Márta 2021.

impacting the Forestry Sector in Ireland’, copies of which were laid before Seanad Éireann on 2nd March, 2021.”

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*
[4th March, 2021]

40. *Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas: Fóraim na Rolla-Chomhaltaí agus na gComhaltaí Ollscoile.*
Non-Government Motions: Panel and University members’ forums.

Ollscoil Bhaile Átha Cliath
University of Dublin

1. “That Seanad Éireann:

- calls for a debate on the bullying and sexual harassment that exists for faculty, students and staff in Ireland’s third-level institutions;
- notes there are concerning accounts of the use of non-disclosure agreements in such institutions which limits accountability of perpetrators; and
- calls on the Minister for Further and Higher Education to report on the number of such agreements being used within the education sector with a view to addressing the issue.”

– *Senators Lynn Ruane, Ivana Bacik, David Norris.*
[17th December, 2020]

An Rolla Oibreachais
Labour Panel

2. “That Seanad Éireann seeks action on the elimination of the gender pay gap.”

– *Senators Robbie Gallagher, Shane Cassells, Pat Casey, Ned O’Sullivan.*

[6th November, 2020]

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

1. “That Seanad Éireann:

- calls on the Government to set a date for the long-promised referendum on extending the right to vote in presidential elections to citizens resident outside the State, as set out in the Programme for Government; and
 - calls on all parties and groups in Seanad Éireann and Dáil Éireann to work to ensure the swift passage of the necessary Referendum Bill through the Oireachtas.”
- *Senators Niall Ó Donnghaile, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Fintan Warfield.*

[6th July, 2020]

2. “That Seanad Éireann:

- condemns the ruling by An Bord Pleanála to allow for the demolition of another historic Dublin landmark, The O’Rahilly’s house at 40 Herbert Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, to make way for the development of luxury accommodation;
- calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to make a statement on the matter and on the need to protect our historical built heritage;
- agrees that it is now more important than ever to take the initiative in order to ensure that further aspects of our history are not erased in the name of private profit, especially historic buildings and areas related to our revolutionary heritage;

given the preceding, as well as the fact that we are in the midst of commemorating the Decade of Centenaries:

- calls on the Government to purchase the remainder of the full terrace of houses on Moore Street, Dublin 1, not currently in State ownership, so that this important street can be fully developed into a revolutionary and cultural quarter worthy of the history of the area, that respectfully and proudly tells the story of the Easter Rising and the struggle for Irish freedom, as well as becoming a must-see tourist destination and place for study, research, education and understanding of our past, present and future.”

– *Senators Niall Ó Donnghaile, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Fintan Warfield, Victor Boyhan.*

[14th September, 2020]

3. “That Seanad Éireann:

notes:

- with deep concern and disappointment, the recent announcement by Bus Éireann that it proposes to suspend several ‘Expressway’ routes between Dublin and other cities across the island;
- the significant economic, social and environmental impact the removal of these services will have on the communities and areas most impacted and the wider implications throughout the rest of Ireland;

understands:

- the difficult circumstances faced by service providers in the context of Covid-19 and shares the concerns of the many workers and commuters who will be detrimentally impacted by Bus Éireann’s proposed move;

agrees:

- that it is unacceptable that a sustainable funding plan has not been put in place for our public transport network during the ongoing pandemic;

and calls:

- on the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, and the Government to urgently intervene in order to ensure that Bus Éireann has adequate funding to maintain these crucial routes.”
 - *Senators Niall Ó Donnghaile, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Fintan Warfield.*
- [29th September, 2020]**

4. “That Seanad Éireann:

acknowledges:

- families, carers and service providers have been stretched to incredible lengths, many to breaking point throughout the course of this pandemic;
- the personal toll and long-term impact of the withdrawal of care and supports for people with disabilities, their families and their carers is deeply worrying;
- due to Covid-19, disability services that rely on voluntary fundraising to meet operating costs have been unable to do so;
- services are suffering from chronic underfunding which has resulted in unmet need exacerbated by Covid-19;
- reopened disability day services are operating at approximately 40 per cent capacity;
- service providers submitted their funding requirements to the Health Service Executive in mid-June; and
- the Government’s allocation of €10 million in additional funding to day services and home support services for disability service users is insufficient and will not meet the urgent Covid-19 related costs for service providers, community and home support;

recognises:

- that Ireland’s ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires progressive implementation; and
- the innovative and committed response of disability and dementia service providers in the delivery of care and support for people with disabilities and their families throughout this pandemic; and

calls on the Government to:

- provide the funding required to fully reopen day and other essential disability services to implement all Covid-19 related protocols; and
 - provide the additional funding, resources and capital investment required to guarantee sustainable capacity within disability and dementia services.”
- Senators Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield, Frances Black, Eileen Flynn, Alice-Mary Higgins, Lynn Ruane, Michael McDowell, Victor Boyhan, Gerard*

Craughwell, Sharon Keogan, Rónán Mullen.

[6th October, 2020]

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5. “That Seanad Éireann, in recognising the gallantry of the soldiers of ‘A’ company during the siege of Jadotville in 1961, calls on the Minister for Defence to award Distinguished Service Medals and Military Medals for Gallantry to the men of ‘A’ company, 35th Infantry Battalion.”

– *Senators Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Fintan Warfield, Gerard Craughwell, Victor Boyhan, Alice-Mary Higgins, Frances Black, Rónán Mullen, Eileen Flynn.*

[28th October, 2020]

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6. “That Seanad Éireann:

acknowledges that:

- Ireland recognises the contribution young people make to our society, including volunteering in their communities and through their advocacy on national and global issues;
- the Thirty-first Amendment of the Constitution enshrined the rights of the child in Irish law;
- the establishment of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth was the express provision by Government to ensure the vindication of those rights;
- year on year since the establishment of the Department it has received increased funding; we welcome the increase of €5m in funding for youth services in Budget 2021, bringing the annual investment to €70m in funding for youth services nationwide, to benefit youth organisations and their work supporting young people throughout the country;
- the youth of our country have been stoic in the face of considerable challenges to their quality of life and opportunity throughout this pandemic;
- youth can be often portrayed negatively; we strongly reject this unfair characterisation of young people, and instead commend young people as they navigate the unique challenges they experience, for instance they cannot meet in each other’s homes, they cannot meet in their youth and sports activities, they have no social outlet, and have been denied some of the events that are their rite of passage;
- young people have been disproportionately impacted in their ability to work and earn their own money, and consequently disadvantaged in their own agency during this pandemic;

calls on the Government to:

- recognise the unique challenges affecting our country’s youth;

- create channels of engagement, traditional or otherwise, to ensure that the voice of young people and their needs are respected and heard;
- take action in accordance with their needs, as expressed by them.”
 - *Senators Mary Seery Kearney, Regina Doherty, Sean Kyne, Garret Ahearn, Micheál Carrigy, Martin Conway, Emer Currie, Aisling Dolan, Tim Lombard, John McGahon, Joe O’Reilly, Barry Ward.*

[6th November, 2020]

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

1. To insert the following after “their needs are respected and heard;”:

“- facilitate the direct political participation and empowerment of young people by lowering the voting age to 16;”

– *Senators Lynn Ruane, Alice-Mary Higgins, Eileen Flynn, Frances Black, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Fintan Warfield, Victor Boyhan.*

2. To insert the following after “as expressed by them.”:

“- actively pursue the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Ombudsman for Children’s Annual Report 2019, as well as those of the Children’s Rights Alliance Report Card 2020, and to lay a report before Seanad Éireann on such implementation no later than 1st March, 2021.”

– *Senators Victor Boyhan, Michael McDowell, Sharon Keogan, David Norris.*

[9th November, 2020]

7. “That Seanad Éireann:

recognises that:

- post offices serve a vital social and economic role in their communities;
- there is a very specific commitment in the Programme for Government to protect the postal network;
- rural and small urban post offices, which are mostly run by independent postmasters, have had their income and footfall greatly reduced;
- many small post offices are now operating on the equivalent of the national minimum wage;
- Grant Thornton has predicted that 885 post offices will cease to exist by July 2021; and
- if footfall and incomes are not improved then the post office network will be decimated; and

calls on the Government to:

- act on its commitment as outlined in the Programme for Government;

- implement an action plan for the post office network within three months;
 - implement a new community banking service operated by An Post to be made available in all post offices throughout the country; this post community bank could be based on either the New Zealand Kiwibank model or the German Sparkassen model, both of which have been found to be valid models;
 - consider a once-off capital investment fund for the further modernisation of the post office network to enable the widespread provision of banking services in rural and disadvantaged urban areas, most of which have been completely abandoned by the current banking model;
 - ensure that the provision of all over-the-counter services relating to Government Departments must be tendered for on the basis of both social and economic grounds, to include rural Ireland in any future growth;
 - ensure that all business previously identified by Grant Thornton, the former Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communications and the Post Office Network Business Development Group must be implemented;
 - establish a working group to identify the potential for local post offices to act as hubs to facilitate other services such as health, transport, agriculture, etc., and to act as a one-stop-shop for Government services as committed to in the Programme for Government;
 - strongly consider committing funds, while the above measures are being implemented, to ensure no more downward pay reviews to post offices which will make them uneconomical and have the effect of closure by a thousand cuts;
 - ensure that a five-year holding plan will be put in place while these changes are being implemented or there will be no network left to salvage; and
 - recommends that An Post be invited before the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Networks to outline their plan for the future of the post office network.”
- *Senators David Norris, Victor Boyhan, Gerard Craughwell, Sharon Keogan, Michael McDowell, Rónán Mullen, Frances Black.*

[25th November, 2020]

8. “That Seanad Éireann:

- condemns the unlawful and protracted detention of Richard O’Halloran, a citizen of Ireland, in the People’s Republic of China;

and calls on:

- the Chinese authorities to release him immediately; and
 - the Irish Government to raise in every appropriate venue, including the United Nations and the European Union, its demand for his immediate release.”
- *Senators Michael McDowell, Gerard Craughwell, Victor Boyhan, Sharon Keogan, Rónán Mullen, David Norris, Lynn Ruane, Eileen Flynn, Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey,*

Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall, Vincent P. Martin, Mary Seery Kearney, Malcolm Byrne, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield, Frances Black, Diarmuid Wilson, Mary Fitzpatrick, Barry Ward.

[9th February, 2021]

9. “That Seanad Éireann:

notes that:

- the private rental sector is dysfunctional with ever increasing rents and decreasing standards;
- the average State-wide rent now stands at €1,414 per month and the average new rent in Dublin city is €1,951, €1,370 in Galway city, €1,452 in Cork city, €1,265 in Limerick city and €1,067 in Waterford city - an annual increase of 0.9% State-wide;
- too many working people cannot access secure or affordable accommodation, and too many young people are forced to reside with parents and relatives;
- renters do not have the same protections as those who can afford to own their own home;
- Government policy favours subsidy to big developers and institutional landlords over local authorities and approved housing bodies;
- investment funds pay virtually no tax but charge sky-high rents;
- despite being banned, there are still planning applications lodged for over 2,000 co-living spaces;
- co-living remains an entirely unsuitable housing model and is a threat to the fight against Covid-19;
- public health experts have warned that sub-standard and overcrowded private rental accommodation poses a significant risk to the continued spread of Covid-19;
- sub-standard and overcrowded properties continue to be advertised on letting sites such as daft.ie and rent.ie, with floorspace well below 29 metres squared - the minimum area recommended by the Co-Living/Shared Accommodation Report, published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in October 2020;
- short term lets without adequate planning permission continue to be advertised on platforms such as Airbnb;
- local authorities do not have the capacity or resources to fully assess and inspect private rental properties and therefore cannot be effective in ensuring compliance with standards;
- in the first nine months of 2020, 87 per cent of properties in Dublin city were deemed on a first inspection to be non-compliant with the standards;

calls on the Government to:

- enact legislation to immediately ban rent increases for three years;
- give renters a break by allowing renters to claim up to one month's rent back in tax credits;
- state clearly what is meant by affordable rent and who will be eligible for the proposed cost rental housing scheme;
- resource local authorities and approved housing bodies to deliver affordable cost rental homes at a scale that would cost between €700 and €900 per month depending on the size of a property;
- urgently legislate for tenancies of indefinite duration, as promised in the Programme for Government, to provide tenants with more security;
- publish a plan to deal with the disorderly exit of accidental and semi-professional landlords from the rental market;
- adequately fund local authorities to ensure that 25 per cent of all private rental properties are inspected once a year so that renters can be sure that their accommodation is safe;
- immediately enact the Property Services (Advertisement of Unfit Lettings) (Amendment) Bill 2019, debated in the Seanad in April 2019;
- publish the results of the six-month survey of issues surrounding the advertisement of unfit rental lettings as promised in 2019; and
- immediately amend and update the minimum standards as set out in section 65 of the Housing Act, 1966, and provide for robust penalties for breaches relating to overcrowding.”

– *Senators Fintan Warfield, Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile.*

[11th February, 2021]

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

- “- the Government remains fully committed to ensuring an increase in the supply of affordable high quality rental accommodation through continued significant capital investment, including cost rental and other means, and in a manner that respects the security of tenure for renters by ensuring equity and fairness for landlords and tenants;
- the recent rental reforms introduced, in particular the development and expansion of Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs), has led to a moderation of the rate of increase of private sector rents whilst ensuring that the supply of private rental property remains unaffected by these price control mechanisms;
- the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Acts relating to RPZs are due to expire at

the end of December, 2021, and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is considering what balanced measures may be necessary from 2022, taking into account the constitutionally protected property rights of landlords;

- the Government is committed to improving the security of tenure for tenants through legislating for tenancies of indefinite duration, subject to legal advices;
- the sustained funding provided to local authorities to inspect rental properties and the strong legislative framework under which they operate the regime is making a positive contribution to ensuring that standards are maintained and improved as and when appropriate and is sufficient to enable the required level of oversight of rental standards;
- as per the commitment in the Programme for Government, the new whole-of-Government Plan for Housing – ‘Housing for All’, that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage intends to publish later this year, will ensure the provision of an adequate supply of high quality affordable rental accommodation remains a cornerstone of Government policy under the Plan.”

– *Senator Regina Doherty.*

[3rd March, 2021]

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

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

Dé hAoine, 12 Márta, 2021
Friday, 12th March, 2021

An Bille Uchtála (Faisnéis agus Rianú), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.

– *Senators Ivana Bacik, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Marie Sherlock, Mark Wall.*

An Bille um Rialáil Tacsaithe (Leasú), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Taxi Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.

– *Senators Joe O’Reilly, Jerry Buttimer, Barry Ward.*

An Bille Árachais Sláinte (Mic Léinn Idirnáisiúnta) (Leasú), 2021 – An Dara Céim.
Health Insurance (International Students) (Amendment) Bill 2021 – Second Stage.

– *Senators Malcolm Byrne, Lisa Chambers, Shane Cassells.*

Déardaoin, 30 Meán Fómhair, 2021
Thursday, 30th September, 2021

An Bille fá Choiste Comhairleach Náisiúnta um Braitheoireacht, 2020 – Ordaíodh é a léamh an dara huair an 30 Meán Fómhair 2021.

National Screening Advisory Committee Bill 2020 – Ordered to be read a second time on 30th September, 2021.

– *Senators David Norris, Victor Boyhan, Gerard P. Craughwell.*

Dé hAoine, 31 Nollaig, 2021

Friday, 31st December, 2021

An Bille um an Seanad, 2020 – Ordaíodh é a léamh an dara huair an 31 Nollaig 2021.

Seanad Bill 2020 – Ordered to be read a second time on 31st December, 2021.

– *Senators Michael McDowell, Gerard Craughwell, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

BILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL

Seanad Bills with the Dáil

An Bille um Chultúr agus Stair an Lucht Siúil san Oideachas, 2018.

Traveller Culture and History in Education Bill 2018.

An Bille fá Choimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas (Faisnéis faoin Difríocht Pá idir na hInscní), 2017.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (Gender Pay Gap Information) Bill 2017.

An Bille um Pá Íosta Náisiúnta (Séisíní Fostaithe a Chosaint), 2017.

National Minimum Wage (Protection of Employee Tips) Bill 2017.

An Bille Oideachais (Cairt Mac Léinn agus Tuismitheoirí), 2019.

Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill 2019.

An Bille um Mionnú Éithigh agus Cionta Gaolmhara, 2018.

Perjury and Related Offences Bill 2018.

An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Cionta Gadaíochta agus Calaoise) (Leasú), 2020.

Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2020.

Bille na Leanaí (Leasú), 2020.

Children (Amendment) Bill 2020.

DOCUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE HOUSES¹

Reachtúil:	Statutory:
Tairiscint Ceadaithe ag Teastáil	Requiring Motion of Approval
Níl aon scríbhinn á leagan faoin gCatagóir seo	None
In-neamhnithe le Tairiscint	Open to Motion to Annul
Níl aon scríbhinn á leagan faoin gCatagóir seo	None

¹ I gcás nach leagtar scríbhinn ach faoi bhráid aon Teach amháin, cuirfear (D) – Dáil nó (S) – Seanad ina diaidh dá réir sin.
Where a document is laid before one House only it will be appended with (D) – Dáil or (S) – Seanad accordingly.