**Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality invites submissions on the issues raised by the Brighter Evenings Bill 2012.**

The Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality would like to invite further submissions which may be relevant to the issues raised during the Second Stage Debate of the Brighter Evenings Bill 2012, the text of which can be viewed [here](http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/takes/dail2013070500001?opendocument). The Committee has already conducted a discussion on this topic in November 2011, the transcript of which can be accessed [here](http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/JUJ2011113000007?opendocument).

The Bill proposes allow the Minister to report on the costs and benefits of moving Ireland to the Central European Time Zone. The Bill also proposes to allow the Minister to move the clocks forward by one hour on a three year trial period, and then to do so permanently if required, and for connected purposes. The Bill can be accessed [here](http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2012/9612/b9612d.pdf).

Written submissions should be sent electronically by email (MS Word or equivalent) and should be received not later than 3pm on Friday 12th September 2014 at the following email address only: [brightereveningsbill@oireachtas.ie](mailto:brightereveningsbill@oireachtas.ie)

It is essential that submissions are concise and to the point. Submissions should address that specific matter under consideration, and should not contain any unnecessary or superfluous material that does not relate directly to the subject. If reference is made to other publications, a link to this publication is sufficient and it is not necessary to send these as separate attachments. **Pages in submissions should be numbered.**

Submissions and communications should only be sent to the email address above and **not** to individual members of the Committee. Please note that the Clerk will ensure that all members of the Committee receive, in due course, copies of all submissions and communications received. To avoid confusion and duplication, please **do not** forward hard copies of submissions made electronically.

In a **separate** document from your electronic submission, please include a covering letter outlining in brief why you are making a submission. The covering letter should include your name, your postal address, email address and contact telephone number. **You should also indicate in your letter if you would be prepared to appear in public session at any Committee meeting.**

The Committee will consider any suitable written submissions received and may decide to invite a number of contributors to public hearings should it be considered necessary.

IMPORTANT

1. Submissions sent to any other e-mail address may not be accepted.
2. Anonymous submissions cannot be accepted and will be rejected.
3. Petitions and Form letters may not be accepted or published.
4. Submissions made to a Committee may be published as received either as part of a Committee report, or separately, if the Committee decides to do so.

**Format of Submissions**

As a general guideline, submissions should always consist of a separate document accompanied by a covering letter. The covering letter should contain your name and contact details (phone number and postal address and, if available, an email address). If the submission is on behalf of an organisation, you should indicate your position in the organisation.

The main document should contain the following information:

1. A brief introduction, for example, explaining your area of expertise;
2. Any factual information that you have to offer from which the Committee might be able to draw conclusions, or which could be put to other parties for their reactions;
3. Any recommendations to the Committee which should be as specific as possible and should be summarised at the end of the document; and
4. An executive summary of the main points made in the submission, if your document is more than 10 pages long.

As already indicated, submissions should, where possible, be made by electronic means and it is **not** necessary to also forward a hard copy of your submission.

**Making a submission is a public process**

The Committee is not obliged to accept your document once it has been submitted, not is it obliged to publish any or all of the submissions if it has been accepted. However, the operations of a parliament are a public process, and you should be aware that any submissions made to a Committee may be published either as part of a Committee report, or separately, if the Committee decides to do so.

A more detailed document outlining the guidelines for making a written submission is available from the Clerk to the Committee by clicking [here](http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/oireachtasbusiness/www.oireachtas/committees/fact-sheets/) and accessing document number 5.

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| Members of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality |
| **Deputies:**  David Stanton (Chairman)  Anne Ferris (Vice-Chairman)  Niall Collins  Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy  Alan Farrell  Seán Kenny  Pádraig MacLochlainn  Finian McGrath  John Paul Phelan |
| **Senators:**  Ivana Bacik  Martin Conway  Tony Mulcahy  Rónán Mullen  Denis O’Donovan  Katherine Zappone. |

***Closing Date***

The closing date for receipt of submissions is ***Friday 12th September 2014 at 3pm***.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact:  
  
Alan Guidon   
Clerk to the Committee   
01 618 3899