

SEANAD PUBLIC CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 25TH SEANAD

ORDERS OF REFERENCE

Go ndéanfar, de réir an mholta ón gCoiste um Nós Imeachta agus Pribhléidí de bhun Bhuan-Ordú 96(1)(a) –

(1) Roghchoiste a cheapadh, ar a dtabharfar Coiste Comhairliúcháin Poiblí an tSeanaid (“an Coiste”), chun plé agus comhairliúchán díreach idir daoine den phobal agus Seanad Éireann a éascú ar shaincheistanna áirithe a bhaineann le cumhachtaí reachtúla an tSeanaid nó le saincheist beartais phoiblí.

(2) 11 chomhalta a bheidh ar an gCoiste ar a n-áirítear an Leas-Chathaoirleach a bheidh, *ex officio*, ina Chathaoirleach nó ina Cathaoirleach ar an gCoiste agus cúigear is córam don Choiste.

(3) Maidir leis an gCoiste–

(a) déanfaidh sé saincheistanna sonracha a bhaineann le cumhachtaí reachtúla an tSeanaid nó le saincheist beartais phoiblí a aithint lena scrúdú;

(b) beidh aige, chun críocha fhomhír (a), na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71(1) agus (2);

(c) déanfaidh sé, maidir le haon cheist a aithneoidh sé lena scrúdú de réir fhomhír (a), a chumhacht faoi Bhuan-Ordú 71(2) a fheidhmiú trí fhógra poiblí ina sonrófar an tsaincheist a n-iarrtar aighneachtaí i scríbhinn maidir léi agus an dáta

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges pursuant to Standing Order 96(1)(a) –

(1) A select committee, which shall be called the Seanad Public Consultation Committee (“the Committee”), shall be appointed to facilitate direct engagement and consultation between members of the public and Seanad Éireann on specific issues related to the legislative powers of the Seanad or an issue of public policy.

(2) The Committee shall consist of 11 members including the Leas-Chathaoirleach who, *ex officio*, shall be Chairman of the Committee and the quorum of the Committee shall be five.

(3) The Committee –

(a) shall identify for examination specific issues related to the legislative powers of the Seanad or an issue of public policy;

(b) shall, for the purposes of subparagraph (a), have the powers defined in Standing Order 71(1) and (2);

(c) shall, in respect of any issue it identifies for examination in accordance with subparagraph (a), exercise its power under Standing Order 71(2) by public notice which shall specify the issue on which written submissions are invited and the

ar faoi nach foláir na haighneachtaí a bheith faighte ag an gCoiste: ar choinníoll go bhféadfaidh an Coiste aighneachtaí i scríbhinn a iarraidh go díreach freisin ar dhaoine nó comhlachtaí leasmhara,

date by which they must be received by the Committee: provided that the Committee may also invite written submissions directly from interested persons or bodies;

- (d) athbhreithneoidh sé aighneachtaí a gheobhaidh sé, cinnfidh sé cibé acu atá nó nach bhfuil na haighneachtaí sin inghlactha de réir na gcritéar atá leagtha amach i mír (8) den Bhuan-Ordú seo, diúltóidh sé d'aon aighneachtaí a rialaíonn sé go bhfuil siad neamh-inghlactha agus breithneoidh sé cén gníomh, más ann, a bheidh le déanamh i ndáil le haighneachtaí is dóigh leis a bheith inghlactha; agus
- (d) shall review submissions received by it, determine whether or not such submissions are admissible in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph (8) of this Standing Order, reject any submissions which it rules to be inadmissible and consider what action, if any, to take in relation to submissions which it judges to be admissible; and
- (e) tiocfaidh sé le chéile go príobháideach chun críocha fhomhíreanna (a) agus (d) den mhír seo.
- (e) shall, for the purposes of subparagraphs (a) and (d) of this paragraph, meet in private.
- (4) Féadfaidh an Coiste teacht le chéile go poiblí i Seomra an tSeanaid chun fianaise ó bhéal a ghlacadh.
- (4) The Committee may meet in public in the Seanad Chamber for the purpose of taking oral evidence.
- (5) Ní bheidh feidhm ag míreanna (2) go (6), go huile, de Bhuan-Ordú 76 maidir leis an gCoiste.
- (5) Paragraphs (2) to (6) inclusive of Standing Order 76 shall not apply to the Committee.
- (6) I dteannta a oibleagáide faoi Bhuan-Ordú 76(1) gach tuarascáil a dhéanfaidh sé a leagan faoi bhráid an tSeanaid, féadfaidh an Coiste aon tuarascáil a dhéanfaidh sé a tharchur chuig an gcomhchoiste iomchuí.
- (6) In addition to its obligation under Standing Order 76(1) to lay every report made by it before the Seanad, the Committee may refer any report made by it to the relevant joint committee.
- (7) Luafar go soiléir in aighneachtaí i scríbhinn chuig an gCoiste ainm an duine nó an chomhlachta atá ag
- (7) Written submissions to the Committee shall clearly indicate the name of the person or body making

déanamh na haighneachta agus seoladh poist nó ríomhphoist.

the submission and a postal or e-mail address.

(8) Tá aighneacht inghlactha mura rud é –

(8) A submission is admissible unless it –

(a) go n-iarrtar léi ar an Seanad aon ní a dhéanamh seachas ní a bhfuil cumhacht ag an Seanad é a dhéanamh;

(a) requests the Seanad to do anything other than the Seanad has power to do;

(b) nach gcomhlíonann sí na Buan-Orduithe nó nach bhfuil sí i bhfoirm chuí ar shlí eile;

(b) does not comply with Standing Orders or is otherwise not in proper form;

(c) go bhfuil aon ní inti atá *sub judice* de réir bhrí Bhuan-Ordú 47;

(c) it contains any matter which is *sub judice* within the meaning of Standing Order 47;

(d) go nochtar tuairim inti i dtaobh duine lasmuigh den Teach, nó i dtaobh oifigigh, nó go gcáintear é nó í inti nó go ndéantar líomhaintí inti ina choinne nó ina coinne, cibé acu as a ainm nó as a hainm nó ar shlí ar furasta é nó í a aithint;

(d) comments on, criticises or makes charges against a person outside the House or an official, either by name or in such a way as to make him or her identifiable;

(e) go bhfuil teanga inti atá colúil nó clúmhillteach;

(e) contains language which is offensive or defamatory;

(f) gurb ionann í agus aighneacht, nó go bhfuil sí i dtéarmaí atá go substaintiúil de shamhail aighneachta, a rinne an duine céanna nó an comhlacht céanna, nó a rinneadh thar a cheann nó thar a ceann, le linn shaolré an Choiste.

(f) is the same as, or in substantially similar terms to, a submission made by or on behalf of the same person or body during the lifetime of the Committee.