



Meeting of An Coimisiún Toghcháin (ACT), The Electoral Commission.

Held in the Office of the Ombudsman, 8.00am – 7th March 2023

In attendance:

Coimisiún Members: Justice Marie Baker (Chairperson), Alex Atwood (AA), John Curran (JC), Ger Deering (GD), Peter Finnegan (PF), Maura Quinn (MQ)* and Prof. Caroline Fennell (CF)*.

An Coimisiún Executive: Art O’Leary (AOL), Karen Kehily, Tim Carey (TC), Emer Grenville, Ian Stuart–Mills (ISM) and Aodha Molloy.

*Maura Quinn and Prof Fennell attended remotely on Zoom

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed members and acknowledged the full agenda for the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by all. It was agreed that the minutes and agenda for all meetings will be published on the ACT Website.

2. Conflict of Interest

The Chairperson referred to the Conflict of Interest documentation and declaration which issued to all members prior to the meeting. All members confirmed that they were happy to sign said declaration. Members were reminded that, as agreed, declarations will be made at the beginning of each meeting and a confidential register of interests will be kept by the Secretary of the Commission.

3. Code of Conduct

The Chair invited observations on the proposed Code of Conduct which issued to Commission members. A number of suggestions were made and a revised Code of Conduct will issue to Commission members for approval.

The Commission discussed attendance at meetings and at conferences and events abroad and agreed to return to the subject at a future meeting, and as the issue arose.

4. Constituency Review

ISM made a presentation to Commission members on the upcoming Constituency Review and the framework which may be used to assist in their decision making. Commission

members will consider all submissions and options available to them prior to making any final decisions.

The Commission will also consider a communications and public engagement plan for the Review in the weeks ahead.

5. Appeal against Decision to register a political party

The Commission considered an appeal against a recent decision to register a political party and agreed to write to the appellant seeking further information within 7 days, following which it will proceed to make a decision on the matter.

6. Date of next meeting and frequency of meetings

The Commission agreed that meetings would be held weekly for the next three weeks and Commission members will have the option of attending in person or remotely. The date and times of the next three meetings will be decided later.

7. AOB

The Chair indicated that she will be representing ACT on the selection board for the new CEO.

Ms. Justice Marie Baker
Chairperson