

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

Held in the ACT Boardroom, Dublin Castle, 8.00am – 18th January 2024

In attendance:

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

An Coimisiún Executive: Art O’Leary (AOL), Tim Carey (TC), Mary Clare O’Sullivan (MCOS), Karen Kehily (KK), Brian Dawson (BD) Annmarie Power (AMP), and Andrea Jones (secretariat)

**Prof. C Fennell attended the meeting remotely*

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed members.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Legal overview and perspective of proposed amendments to the Constitution

Eileen Barrington SC and Raymond Byrne BL discussed with the Commission members a draft text of the information booklet for the proposed thirty-ninth amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023, and the fortieth amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023. The referendums will be held on 8 March 2024.

The Bills propose for two amendments to the Constitution which will:

- amend Article 41 of the Constitution to provide for a wider concept of Family; and
- delete Article 41.2 of the Constitution to remove text on the role of women in the home, and insert a new Article 42B to recognise family care.

The Commission agreed to reflect on the text of the booklet and revert with suggested amendments.

AOB

- Date of next meeting 22nd January 2024

Ms. Justice Marie Baker (signed)
Chairperson