

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

**Held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, 8.30am – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

*In attendance:*

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

*Apologies:*

Peter Finnegan (PF)

*An Coimisiún Executive:* Art O’Leary (AOL), Tim Carey (TC), Mary Clare O’Sullivan (MCOS), Karen Kehily (KK), Brian Dawson (BD), Nick Callan (NC)\*, Sarah Keaveney (SK)\*, Eunice Delaney (ED)\*, Aoife O’Sullivan (AOS)\* and Andrea Jones (secretariat)

*\*Prof. C Fennell, Nick Callan, Sarah Keaveney, Eunice Delaney and Aoife O’Sullivan attended the meeting remotely*

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**1. Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed members.

**2. Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared.

**3. Presentation by the Director of the National Cyber Security Centre**

Eileen Barrington (Senior Counsel) and Raymond Byrne (Barrister) presented the Commission members with a legal overview and perspective of 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 discussed the campaign for the proposed referendum and the key dates in order to fulfil the statutory requirement to publish and distribute referendum information.*

<i>Bills passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas</i>	<i>- no later than 23 January;</i>
<i>Polling Day Order and sample ballot papers</i>	<i>- no later than 23 January;</i>
<i>Final info booklet text to the printer</i>	<i>- no later than 26 January;</i>
<i>Booklets to An Post for nationwide delivery</i>	<i>- no later than 9 February.</i>

## **AOB**

- Date of next meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (TBC)

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Ms. Justice Marie Baker (signed)  
Chairperson