

## Minutes

### Meeting of An Coimisiún Toghcháin, The Electoral Commission.

ACT Boardroom, Dublin Castle | 8.00am | 5 June 2025

#### Attendance

*An Coimisiún:*

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

*\* Caroline Fennell attended the meeting remotely*

#### Apologies

Peter Finnegan (PF), John Curran (JC)

*Executive:*

Art O'Leary (AOL) - Items 1-8

Diane Duggan (DD), Sean Garvey (SG), Karen Kehily (KK), Kieran Lenihan, Mary Clare O'Sullivan (MCOS) and Muireann Ní Thuairisg, (Secretariat) - Items 1 – 7 -

Luke Davis- Item 1

Catherine Lynch (CL) and Anthony Trindle- Item 5

Sarah Keaveney - Item 6

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#### 1. Welcome and Draft Minutes

The Chairperson welcomed members, and the draft minutes of the meetings held on 10 April and 2 May were approved.

#### 2. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

#### 3. ICT Overview

Members were given an overview of An Coimisiún's ICT environment, including the role of An Coimisiún's service provider Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), security, infrastructure, website management and printer management.

#### **4. Review of 1997 Act**

Members discussed the review of the Electoral Act 1997 in respect of powers that are currently administered by the Standards in Public Office Commission.

It was agreed to further discuss the matter at the meeting in September.

#### **5. Ballot Paper Design Research Paper**

Members discussed the research paper, ‘Ballot Paper Design: Address of Candidates on the Ballot Paper’. Members agreed to include a separate document “Commission Recommendations” also for publication alongside the research paper and to use this model going forward. The separate document will be circulated in advance of the next Commission meeting for agreement

It was noted the Seanad Peer will be published in the coming weeks.

#### **6. Summary of Education Consultation submissions**

Members were given an overview of the submissions received on the Education and Public Engagement Strategy - 441 in total. The next steps will be to use the information from the public consultation to inform initial discussions with the four working groups representing the areas of focus – formal education, adult & community education, groups experiencing barriers and large-scale public engagement. Each group will hold four meetings, following which a draft strategy and implementation plan will be drafted leading to a second round of public consultation.

#### **7. Governance**

##### **(a) Final Terms of Reference**

The draft final terms of reference were approved.

##### **(b) Division of Responsibilities**

Following a discussion on the document on the division of responsibilities, it was agreed to table the matter for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **8. Long Term Resourcing**

The Commission met in closed session to discuss long term resourcing, including recruitment preparation in progress to recruit additional Commission members.

## **9. Appeal**

Commission members considered an appeal against a decision of the Registrar of Political parties. It was decided that a further meeting would be required, following further consideration.