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Oireachtas

# **An Comhchoiste um Thurasóireacht, Cultúr, Ealaíona, Spórt agus Meáin**

Clár Oibre 2024

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## **Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media**

Work Programme 2024

TCASM/24/02



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## Related information

### Publications

All publications for this committee are available on the [Oireachtas website](#).

### Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the [Committee videos page](#).

### Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the [Committee page](#).

### Terms of reference

Read the [terms of reference](#) for the Committee.

## Committee Membership

### Cathaoirleach

[Niamh Smyth TD](#), Fianna Fáil

### Leas-Cathaoirleach

[Senator Malcolm Byrne](#), Fianna Fáil

### Members

[Chris Andrews TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Ciaran Cannon TD](#), Fine Gael

[Peter Fitzpatrick TD](#), Independent

[Brendan Griffin TD](#), Fine Gael

[Mattie McGrath TD](#), Independent

[Imelda Munster TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Christopher O'Sullivan TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Michael Ring TD](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Micheál Carrigy](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Shane Cassells](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Annie Hoey](#), Labour Party

[Senator Fintan Warfield](#), Sinn Féin

### Committee Membership History

[Alan Dillon TD](#), Fine Gael | Sep 2020 - Apr 2024

[Johnny Mythen TD](#), Sinn Féin | Sep 2020 - Apr 2023

## **Introduction**

The Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann on 31 July 2020 and 16 September 2020 respectively. Standing Orders 100(4) (Dáil Éireann) and 77(4) (Seanad Éireann) require that “as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann”.

This Work Programme of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media for 2024 was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. In accordance with the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

## Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media was established by Order of Dáil Éireann on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

The function of the Select Committee is to consider

- a) Bills,
- b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 220,
- c) Estimates for Public Services,
- d) other matters as referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil,
- e) annual output statements, and
- f) such value-for-money and policy reviews as the Select Committee may choose in relation to the relevant Department.

### Estimates and other financial matters

The Estimates for Public Services are the spending plans of the Minister for a given financial year. When the Estimates are referred to Select Committees for examination, the Committee has an opportunity to question the relevant Minister in relation to proposed spending. Note: The Select Committee is required to consider the Estimates but is not empowered to amend same.

In 2024, the Select Committee may be required to address the Programme Areas of Estimates, Revised Estimates, and Further Revised Estimates for Public Services in respect of Vote 33 (Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media) that are within the Committee's remit—namely, Programme Areas A, B, D, and E.

Supplementary Estimates may be considered by the Committee if additional monies are required by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

It is the intention of the Committee, in its scrutiny of financial matters, to focus on:

- that which the Department has committed to achieving;
- the manner in which monies are allocated across services; and
- the policy issues underpinning any spending provisions.

Furthermore, in keeping with a whole-of-year approach, it is the intention of the Committee to engage with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in advance of Budget 2025 in order to determine the emerging position on areas within the Committee's remit for that financial year.

The Committee may also examine value-for-money (VFM) reviews, if and when these arise, as part of its scrutiny of Government expenditure.

### Referrals of motions and other matters

On occasion, miscellaneous matters may arise and may be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil. It is not possible to determine the nature of these matters, nor to determine at which point in time these might arise.

### Legislation

The 2024 Spring Legislation Programme lists the following Bills which fall or may fall within the remit of the Committee:

- Registration of Short-Term Letting Bill 2022.

### Pre-legislative scrutiny

In accordance with Standing Order 174A(1), prior to its presentation or introduction to the Dáil, the general scheme or draft heads of a Bill shall be given by a member of the Government or Minister of State to the Committee empowered under Standing Order 95 to consider Bills published by the member of the Government: Provided that the Business Committee may waive this requirement, in accordance with Standing Order 30, on foot of a request by the member of Government or Minister of State. Committees are empowered to consider the draft Heads of Government Bills, but they are not required to do so. It is the prerogative of the Committee to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether it wishes to engage in pre-legislative scrutiny in respect of any Government Bill.



## Joint Committee

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two distinct manners:

- consideration of items referred to the Committee by one or both Houses of the Oireachtas; and
- consideration of items selected for business by the Committee itself, drawing upon the areas within its orders of reference.

### European Union engagements

As a sectoral Committee, the remit of the relevant Department in respect of European affairs delineates the remit of the Committee in this regard. In its scrutiny of European matters, the Committee may consider issues as they arise, in addition to the following:

- European Union legislative and non-legislative proposals;
- engagements with Ministers in advance of European Council meetings;
- engagements with the relevant Department's Secretary General in relation to statutory Departmental EU Scrutiny Reports, as per Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002;
- attendance at European interparliamentary committee meetings; and
- engagement with relevant bodies at European level, including, but not limited to, the European Commission, the European Parliament and its committees, and the European Council, in addition to EC committees and working groups.

### Key policy priorities

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider such policy issues as it may choose from within its orders of reference. From January to December 2024, the Committee will focus on key priority topics as these fall within the remit of both the Committee and the relevant Department, in addition to conducting its core business in relation to legislation and other matters.

The key policy issues identified for examination by the Joint Committee in 2024 are as follows:

## General

- Science, research, development, and innovation within the remit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media;
- Progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, insofar as is the responsibility of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media;
- Progress on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Oireachtas Special Committee on Climate Action insofar as is the responsibility of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; and
- The identification of skills shortages in the tourism, culture, arts, sport, and media sectors.

## Tourism

### State agencies and other bodies

- The work of Fáilte Ireland; and
- The work of Tourism Ireland.
- The impact of Brexit on tourism;
- Sustainable tourism, including the development of blueways and greenways, as well as means of attracting tourists to the regions;
- Progress made on the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 under the National Development Plan 2018-2027; and
- The differences in standards between Airbnb and accommodation approved by Fáilte Ireland.

### Specific tourism initiatives

- Joint regional marketing initiatives;
- The Wild Atlantic Walkway;
- The Irish Sea Way (Carlingford to Cobh); and
- The role and future role of regional tourism cooperatives, such as Reeks District.

## Culture and Arts

### Cultural and Arts policy

- The Basic Income Scheme for Artists;

- Progress made on the delivery of Government commitments for the night-time economy;
- Arts strategy, including Culture 2025;
- Commemoration in the cultural sector, including consideration of the lasting legacy of commemorative events connected with the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 and
- The impact of Artificial Intelligence on Content Creation and Intellectual Property in the Arts and Design Sectors.

### **Cultural infrastructure**

- The implementation of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 in respect of progress made on large capital projects and national cultural infrastructure capital schemes;
- Capital investment in cultural infrastructure, including the consideration of cultural spaces in new constructions, the provision of affordable workspaces for artists and creative practitioners, and “meanwhile use” legislation for vacant buildings; and
- The development of and support for National Cultural Institutions and Cultural Infrastructure, such as the National Gallery, the National Library, the National Museum of Ireland, the National Opera House, and the National Theatre.

### **Development of specific artforms**

- The development of professional musical theatre in Ireland;
- Supports for Irish writers;
- The Section 481 film incentive and the development of Ireland as a global centre for film and content creation; and
- Support for the development of Regional Film and TV Production.

## **Sport**

### **State agencies and other bodies**

- The work of Sport Ireland;
- The work of Local Sports Partnerships;
- Progress made in improving capacity and governance in sport, specifically in relation to adoption of the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary, and Charity Sector;
- Integration of national governing bodies for men’s and women’s Gaelic Games; and

- Further engagement with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association.

#### **Sporting policy**

- The implementation of the National Sports Policy;
- Progress made in developing a Major Events Strategy, and consideration of major sporting events including preparations for UEFA European Championships 2028; and
- Supports for athletics in Ireland, including supports for professional athletes and general participation in running.

#### **Performance strategy**

- Progress made in improving standards of performance and in developing sports facilities at national, regional, and local level;
- Ireland's preparation for the Summer Olympics and Paralympics and what supports can be made by the State; and
- Progress made in moving toward the publication of a High-Performance Strategy that stipulates Ireland's direction for at least 12 years, establishing clear and ambitious medal targets over three Olympic and Paralympic cycles.

#### **Sporting infrastructure and capital development**

- Progress made regarding the Sports Capital Programme and the large-scale sports infrastructure fund (LSSIF);
- National sporting infrastructure and funding sources for infrastructural development; and
- The development of the National Sports Campus.

### **Media**

#### **Media and broadcasting policy**

- The State's response to online disinformation and media/digital literacy, including social media and fake news; and
- Non-court based conflict resolution mechanisms for the handling of media related complaints.

#### **Cultural and creative content**

- The role of streaming services, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney Plus, in the growth of the Irish content creation industry.

## Chairpersons designate of state boards

In accordance with Standing Order 96(7), the Committee has the power to require that the Chairperson designate of a body or agency under the aegis of a Department shall, prior to his or her appointment, attend before the Committee to discuss his or her strategic priorities for the role. It presents an opportunity for Chairpersons designate to discuss, with the Committee, the approach they will take as Chairperson and to give their views as to their projected contributions to the agency or body to which it is proposed they be appointed.

**Niamh Smyth, T.D.**

Cathaoirleach

21 February 2024