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Understanding the Legislative Process and Effective Communications

February 2025

ronan.kennedy@iccl.ie

Today's Schedule:

Part 1:

Understanding the Irish Political System, How Legislation is Passed and When to Intervene in the Political Process

- *1.1 National Government Structures*
- *1.2 Local Government Structures*

Part 2:

Finding Information and Building Your Advocacy Case to TDs and Senators

Part 3:

Communications: Presenting Your Arguments and Communicating Your Messages Effectively to Politicians

Part 4:

Group Exercises

Oireachtas App:

Android



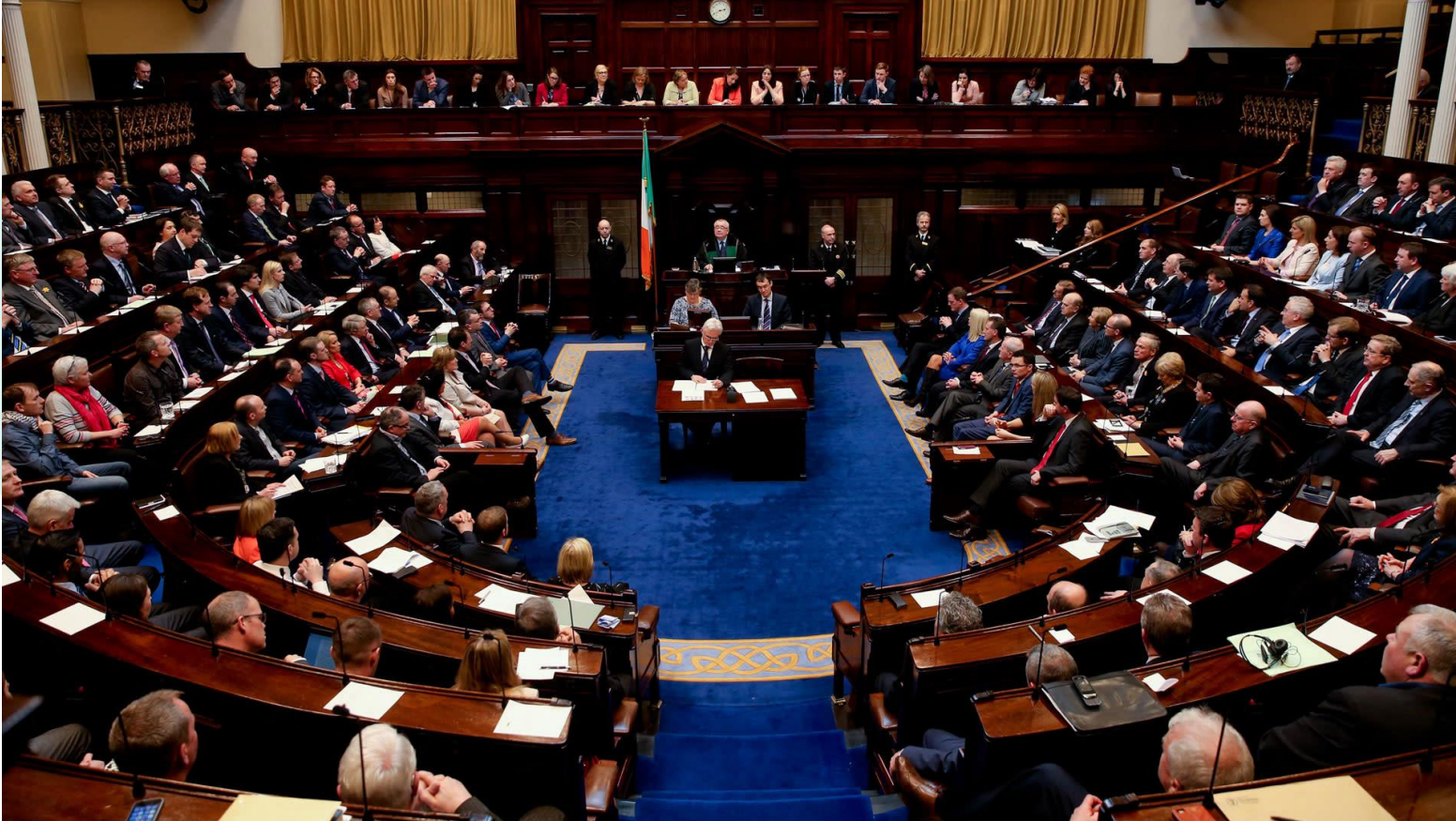
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Part 1: Understanding the Irish Political System, How Legislation is Passed and When to Intervene in the Political Process

Part 1.1: National Government Structures

What are we talking about in this section?



What are we talking about in this section?



The Oireachtas: Structure

Taoiseach & Ministers and Ministers of State (Junior Ministers)

Dáil Éireann: Lower Chamber

174 TDs:

Elected from 43 multi-seat constituencies.

The government must retain a majority of at least 88 to have the "confidence" of the Dáil.

10 political parties and three "technical groups".

Dáil Select Committees (TDs only)

Seanad Éireann: Upper Chamber

60 Senators:

11 nominated by Taoiseach

6 Elected by National University of Ireland & Trinity College graduates. (3+3)*

43 Elected from "vocational panels" by TDs and Councillors

Entire chamber sits a committee for Seanad committee stage debates.

***Last elections with this system**

Joint Committees (TDs and Senators)

The President



Signs Bills into law or refers them to the Supreme Court to test their compatibility with the constitution

The Oireachtas: Structure

Party/Group	Leader/Composition	TDs	Senators
 Fianna Fáil	Micheál Martin- Taoiseach	48	19
FINE GAEL 	Simon Harris- Tánaiste	38	18
Independents supporting Government	Regional Independent Group (6) + 5 MoS	11 (6 TDs 5 MoS)	0
 Sinn Féin	Mary Lou McDonald	39	6
 Labour	Ivana Bacik	11	2
Social Democrats	Holly Cairns (Cian O'Callaghan, Acting)	10	1
Independent Group	Independent Ireland (4) + 1 Independent + Aontú (2)	7	1 (Aontú)
Independents & Smaller Parties Group	PBP-Solidarity (3) + 100% Redress (1) + Green Party (1) + 3 Independents	8	1
Other	1 TD (ex SocDem)	1	11

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The Oireachtas & its Business:

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, 20 - 22 FEBRUARY 2024

(AS AGREED AT ITS MEETING ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024)

Tuesday 20 February 2024 (2:00 p.m. - 10:02 p.m.)

Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional Group, Rural Independent Group</i>)	2.00 p.m. - 2.34 p.m. (34 mins)
Order of Business and Questions on Policy or Legislation	2.34 p.m. - 3.04 p.m. (30 mins)
Motion(s) without debate	3.04 p.m. - 3.05 p.m. (1 min)
- Motion re the Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community meeting in Galway city on 8 March 2024 (<i>Committee on Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community</i>)	
Taoiseach's Questions	3.05 p.m. - 3.50 p.m. (45 mins)
Government Business	3.50 p.m. - 5.42 p.m. (1 hr 52 mins)
- Statements on the Second Anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine (<i>not to exceed 1 hr 52 mins</i>) (<i>Dept of Foreign Affairs</i>)	
Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin)	5.42 p.m. - 7.44 p.m. (122 mins)
- Motion re Paediatric Orthopaedic and Urology Services	
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Social Protection	7.44 p.m. - 9.14 p.m. (90 mins)
Topical Issues	9.14 p.m. - 10.02 p.m. (48 mins)
Adjournment	10.02 p.m.

Wednesday 21 February 2024 (9:10 a.m. - 9:03 p.m.)

Topical Issues	9.10 a.m. - 9.58 a.m. (48 mins)
Private Members' Business (Rural Independent Group)	9.58 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (122 mins)
- Motion re Healthcare Provision in Rural Communities	
Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, Regional Group</i>)	12.00 p.m. - 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)
Questions on Policy or Legislation	12.34 p.m. - 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)
Motion(s) without debate	1.04 p.m. - 1.05 p.m. (1 min)
- Motion re Consideration of Estimates by Committee	
Taoiseach's Questions	1.05 p.m. - 1.50 p.m. (45 mins)
SOS	1.50 p.m. - 2.50 p.m. (60 mins)
Government Business	2.50 p.m. - 8.33 p.m. (5 hrs 43 mins)
- Motion re Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022 (Section 4(2)) (Scheme Termination Date) Order 2024 (<i>to conclude within 57 mins</i>) (<i>Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i>)	

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12.34 Questions on Policy or Legislation

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The Oireachtas & its Business:

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☒ Dáil Éireann Daily Schedule

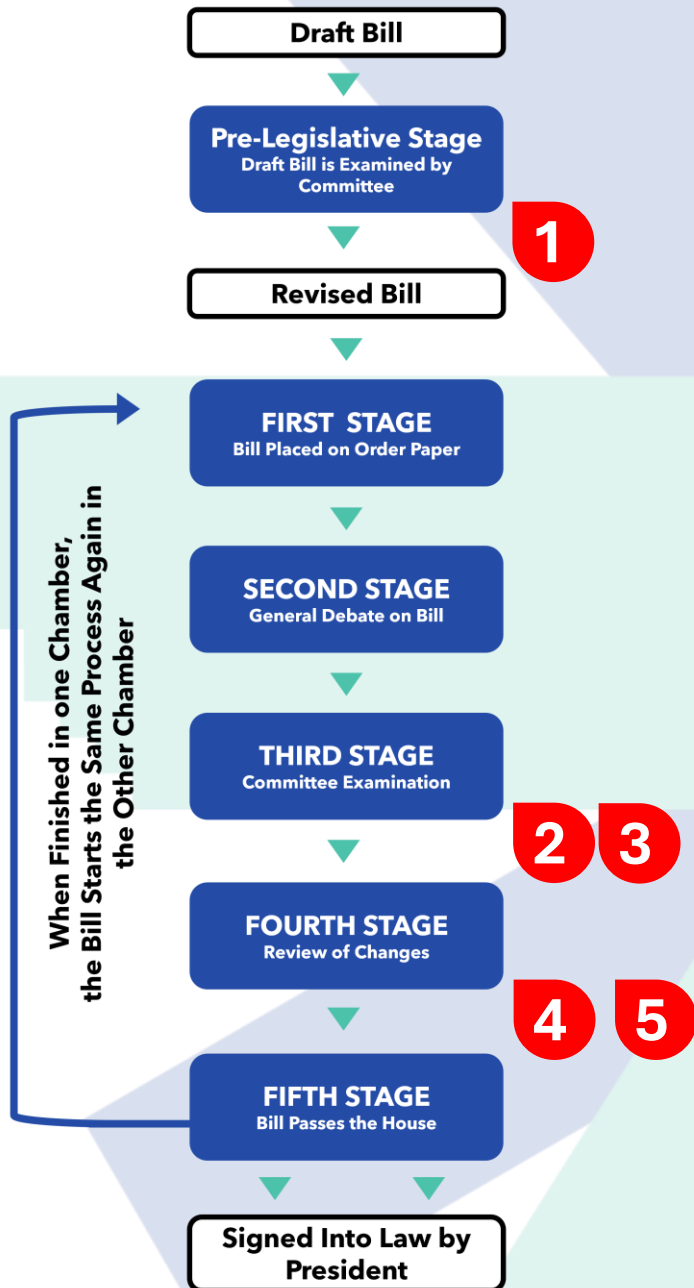
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12.34 Questions on Policy or Legislation

The Legislative Process



1

The pre-legislative stage allows time for the draft bill to be scrutinised by the relevant Oireachtas Committee. This is the stage when stakeholders can be invited in to appear at the committee to outline their views on the draft bill and to suggest improvements. When the examination is finished, the Committee publishes a report with recommendations on how the draft bill could be improved. There is however no obligation on the part of the Minister or the relevant Department to accept these recommendations or offer an explanation as to why they weren't accepted.

2

This stage in the process differs slightly depending on if it is in the Dáil process or the Seanad. If it is in the Dáil third stage, the bill is sent to the relevant "Select Committee". This just means, the relevant committee but without the Senator members, just the TDs. When it is in the Seanad, the entire Seanad act as a single committee.

3

This stage is when bills are examined in great detail by the relevant Oireachtas Select Committee/Seanad. Bills are most frequently amended at this stage. Any TD/Senator can put forward an amendment (as can the Minister) but they must be present in the room to "move" the amendment for discussion. Depending on the complexity/length of the Bill, there may be several sessions of examination before it progresses.

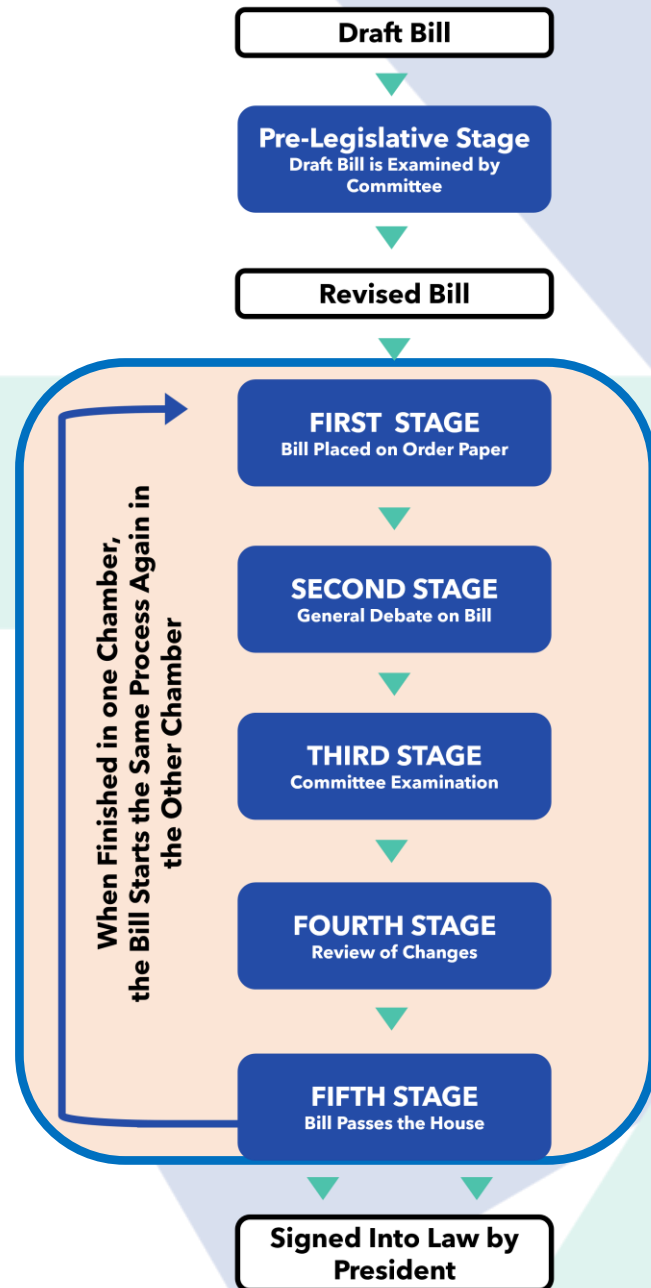
4

Fourth Stage, (also known as report stage) is the stage when the Dáil/Seanad debates the amendments (if any) which the Committee has made to the Bill. While additional amendments are allowed be made at fourth stage, they can only relate to matters which were previously discussed at Third Stage.

5

Before the Bill is finally passed in the Dáil/Seanad, if amendments were made in either, the Bill is subject to a short perfunctory debate in the other chamber. This acts as a final sign off before the Bill is sent to the president for signature.

The Legislative Process



Critical Points to Remember:

- All laws and legislation must go through every step of this process*
- When people refer to a “Bill” it means that it is not yet finished in the legislative process
- When people refer to an “Act” this means the legislation has gone through all the steps and is now law
- Some of the steps are just technical and very short
- The key stages (for advocacy purposes) are:
 - Pre-Legislative- Getting your concerns into the mix
 - Second stage- Building on established relationships
 - Third (Committee) Stage- Getting the legislation amended
- Intervening on legislation isn’t the only way that you can get your issues to TDs and Senators (more on that later)

*In theory

The Oireachtas & its Business:

What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

Dáil

Tue, 13 Feb 2024

- 14:00 Leaders' Questions (Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, Rural Independent Group)
- 14:34 Order of Business
- 15:04 Bills for Introduction: Protection of Employees (Trade Union Subscriptions) Bill 2024 — First Stage
- 15:09 Motion(s) without debate: Motion re Report of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach under Dáil Standing Order 133 on a Proposal for a Council Directive on Business in Europe: Framework for Income Taxation (BEFIT), COM(2023)532 (To be taken without debate)
- 15:10 Taoiseach's Questions
- 15:55 Government Business: Road Traffic Bill 2024 — Second Stage (Department of Transport)
- 18:36 Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin): Motion re Reform of the Television Licence Fee Model
- 20:38 Parliamentary Questions: Oral — Minister for Education
- 22:08 Topical Issues
- 22:56 Dáil adjourns

Seanad

Tue, 13 Feb 2024

- 13:00 Commencement Matters
- 14:00 Order of Business
- 14:00 Motion without debate: Motion regarding appointment of Member to the Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight
- 15:00 SOS
- 15:15 Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023 — Second Stage (Department Communications, Climate Action and the Environment)
- 16:45 SOS
- 17:00 Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023 — Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)
- 18:15 SOS
- 18:30 Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 Committee Stage (resumed) (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
- 20:30 Seanad Adjourns

Committees

Wed, 14 Feb 2024

- 09:30 Joint Committee on Health CR2, LH 2000
Minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2024

Consideration of public health and the commercial determinants of health

Hildegard Naughton, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Health
Health Promotion Alliance Ireland
Dr Norah Campbell
- 09:30 Joint Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands CR3, LH 2000
Engagement on energy poverty, specifically in reference to the retrofitting of homes and suitability of fuel allowance to meet the needs of people both in urban and rural areas

Officials from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications
Officials from Dept. of Social Protection
- 09:30 Select Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment CR1, LH 2000
Committee Stage consideration of the Employment (Collective Redundancies and Miscellaneous Provisions) and Companies (Amendment) Bill 2023

Neale Richmond, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Imeachtaí of the meeting of 31 January 2024
- 12:30 Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach
MS Teams Virtual Meeting

The Oireachtas & its Business:

What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

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The Oireachtas & its Business:

What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

Dáil

- 1** [Leaders Questions](#): This is the time when leaders of the opposition can ask questions to the Taoiseach (or someone nominated to fill in for them). The questions usually focus on matters that are currently in the news. Usually used as an attempt to embarrass/undermine the government on policy. The rota and time allocated to each party is based on size.
- 2** [Order of Business](#): This is when the Dáil/Seanad agrees to the agenda that will be followed for the week. In the Dáil this is the agenda which was agreed the previous Thursday in the Business Committee. Usually ends in a row.
- 3** Bills for Introduction (First Stage): Bills start on their official legislative journey here. The first stage is when the Bill is introduced with a very short speech outlining its purpose. This will be done by the relevant Minister if it is a government bill or by the TD/Senator “sponsoring” it if it is an opposition Bill.

The Oireachtas & its Business:

What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

Dáil: Continued

- 4** [Motion Without Debate](#): Motions without debate “do what they say on the tin”. Motions are simply technical pieces of text which the Dáil and/or the Seanad agree to on a variety of issues. Some can be debated but less contentious ones pass without the need for debate.
- 5** [Taoiseach’s Questions](#): This is time allotted for the Taoiseach to take questions from the opposition. It differs from leaders’ questions as it deals only with issues specifically in the Taoiseach’s remit. Leaders’ questions can be on any aspect of government policy.
- 6** [Government Business](#): This is the time set aside for the government to progress its own legislation and conduct other business. In this case, it’s a second stage debate on a bill. It could also be a motion or statements on an issue.
- 7** [Private Members Business](#): This is the time set aside for the opposition to progress their work. Opposition time is divided up in a rota based on party size. As a result “PMB” time for smaller parties is very valuable.

The Oireachtas & its Business:

What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

- 8** [Oral Questions](#): Each of the Ministers take questions from opposition members in the Dáil on their work on a rota. These questions must be submitted in advance but there is scope for a short “back and forward” discussion between the Minister and the person putting down the question.
- 9** [Topical Issues](#): Each day, time is allocated for discussion on any matter that TDs wish. These are usually very specific and/or local issues. The Minister with responsibility for the matter being raised usually attends the debate to speak to the matter. The TDs wishing to have a topical debate submit their request and then they are selected by a lottery.

The Seanad:

- 10** [Commencement Matters](#): This is time set aside in the Seanad for senators to raise matters with Ministers for response. It is somewhat similar to leaders’ questions in the Dáil but usually far less combative.
- 11** [Seanad Committee Stage](#): Seanad committee stage discussion differs from the Dáil select committee discussion as the entire Seanad acts as the committee. The Minister attends to address the amendments.

The Oireachtas & its Business:

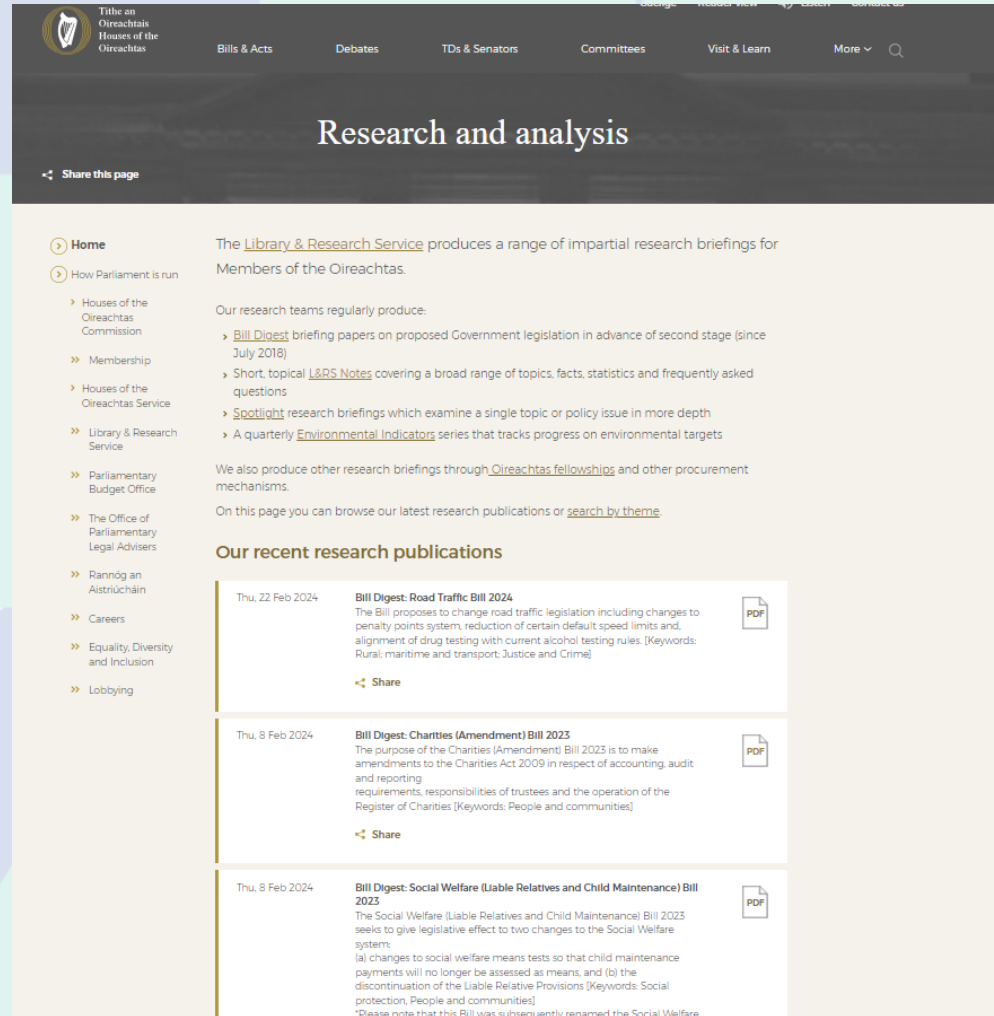
What Does a Typical Day Look Like?

Committees:

- 12** [Joint Committee](#): Joint Committees are where the TDs and Senators meet to discuss and debate issues of relevance to their topic. They may develop reports, conduct pre-legislative scrutiny and hear from stakeholders. They can meet in either public or private session.
- 11** [Select Committee](#): Select committees consist of just the TDs and not the Senators. This is where bills are discussed in great detail and where amendments can be made. The Minister responsible for the legislation attends the hearings to address the amendments. Depending on the complexity and/or length of the bill there can be multiple Committee sessions. This applies to both the Dáil and the Seanad.

The Oireachtas & its Business:

How do I Keep Track of All This?



The screenshot shows the 'Research and analysis' page of the Oireachtas website. The page has a dark header with the Oireachtas logo and navigation links: Bills & Acts, Debates, TDs & Senators, Committees, Visit & Learn, and More. Below the header, the title 'Research and analysis' is centered. A 'Share this page' link is on the left. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a sidebar with a 'Home' button and a list of links: 'How Parliament is run', 'Houses of the Oireachtas Commission', 'Membership', 'Houses of the Oireachtas Service', 'Library & Research Service', 'Parliamentary Budget Office', 'The Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers', 'Rannóg an Aistriúcháin', 'Careers', 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion', and 'Lobbying'. The right column contains the main text. It starts with a paragraph about the Library & Research Service producing impartial research briefings. It then lists the types of research produced: Bill Digests, L&RS Notes, Spotlight research briefings, and Environmental Indicators. It also mentions other research briefings through Oireachtas fellowships and a search by theme link. Below this is a section titled 'Our recent research publications' which lists three recent publications: 'Bill Digest: Road Traffic Bill 2024', 'Bill Digest: Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023', and 'Bill Digest: Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023'. Each publication entry includes the date, a brief description, and a PDF icon.

Research and analysis

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The [Library & Research Service](#) produces a range of impartial research briefings for Members of the Oireachtas.

Our research teams regularly produce:

- › [Bill Digest](#) briefing papers on proposed Government legislation in advance of second stage (since July 2018)
- › Short, topical [L&RS Notes](#) covering a broad range of topics, facts, statistics and frequently asked questions
- › [Spotlight](#) research briefings which examine a single topic or policy issue in more depth
- › A quarterly [Environmental Indicators](#) series that tracks progress on environmental targets

We also produce other research briefings through [Oireachtas fellowships](#) and other procurement mechanisms.

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Our recent research publications

Thu, 22 Feb 2024	Bill Digest: Road Traffic Bill 2024 The Bill proposes to change road traffic legislation including changes to penalty points system, reduction of certain default speed limits and alignment of drug testing with current alcohol testing rules. [Keywords: Rural; maritime and transport; Justice and Crime]	PDF
Thu, 8 Feb 2024	Bill Digest: Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 The purpose of the Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 is to make amendments to the Charities Act 2009 in respect of accounting, audit and reporting requirements, responsibilities of trustees and the operation of the Register of Charities [Keywords: People and communities]	PDF
Thu, 8 Feb 2024	Bill Digest: Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023 The Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023 seeks to give legislative effect to two changes to the Social Welfare system: (a) changes to social welfare means tests so that child maintenance payments will no longer be assessed as means, and (b) the discontinuation of the Liable Relative Provisions [Keywords: Social protection, People and communities] *Please note that this Bill was subsequently renamed the Social Welfare	PDF

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Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 38 topics were published, which include 105 speakers and 0 divisions of the House.

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Seanad Éireann

Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 14 topics were published, which include 43 speakers and 0 divisions of the House.

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Committees

Official Report latest update:
Meeting of the Committee Of Public Accounts on Thu, 8 Feb 2024.

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PQs (Questions)

Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 347 Parliamentary Questions answered.

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When are debates published?

Dáil debates are published incrementally throughout a sitting day. All proceedings before 7pm are published before midnight, and the remainder are added the following day. Replies to **questions tabled by Members for written** response by Ministers are published at the end of each day's Dáil proceedings.

Seanad debates are published on the same day or the next day. The Official Report of each **committee** meeting is published within a week at latest, but generally within two or three working days.


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Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 38 topics were published, which include 105 speakers and 0 divisions of the House.

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Seanad Éireann

Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 14 topics were published, which include 43 speakers and 0 divisions of the House.

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Committees

Official Report latest update:
Meeting of the Committee Of Public Accounts on Thu, 8 Feb 2024.

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[Browse Committee debates](#)

PQs (Questions)

Official Report latest update:
Thu, 8 Feb 2024: 347 Parliamentary Questions answered.

[Read parliamentary questions](#)

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Date	Document	Format
Tue, 13 Feb 2024	Order of Business 13 - 15 February 2024	PDF
Tue, 13 Feb 2024	Dáil Question Paper (Tue)	PDF
Thu, 8 Feb 2024	Dáil Question Paper (Thur)	PDF
Wed, 7 Feb 2024	Dáil Question Paper (Wed)	PDF
Tue, 13 Feb 2024	Seanad Order Paper (Tue)	PDF
Thu, 8 Feb 2024	Seanad Order Paper (Thur)	PDF

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*186. To ask the Minister for Transport what funding supports could be provided to a group (details supplied) for the purchase a vital piece of equipment. — Jackie Cahill. [6074/24]

*187. To ask the Minister for Transport to respond to concerns raised by a local organisation and service users (details supplied) in respect of the difficulty in securing disability-adapted taxis in County Louth; what measures are being, or could be, considered to increase the number of disability-friendly taxi units in County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [6435/24]

*188. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6042/24]

*189. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6044/24]

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6045/24]

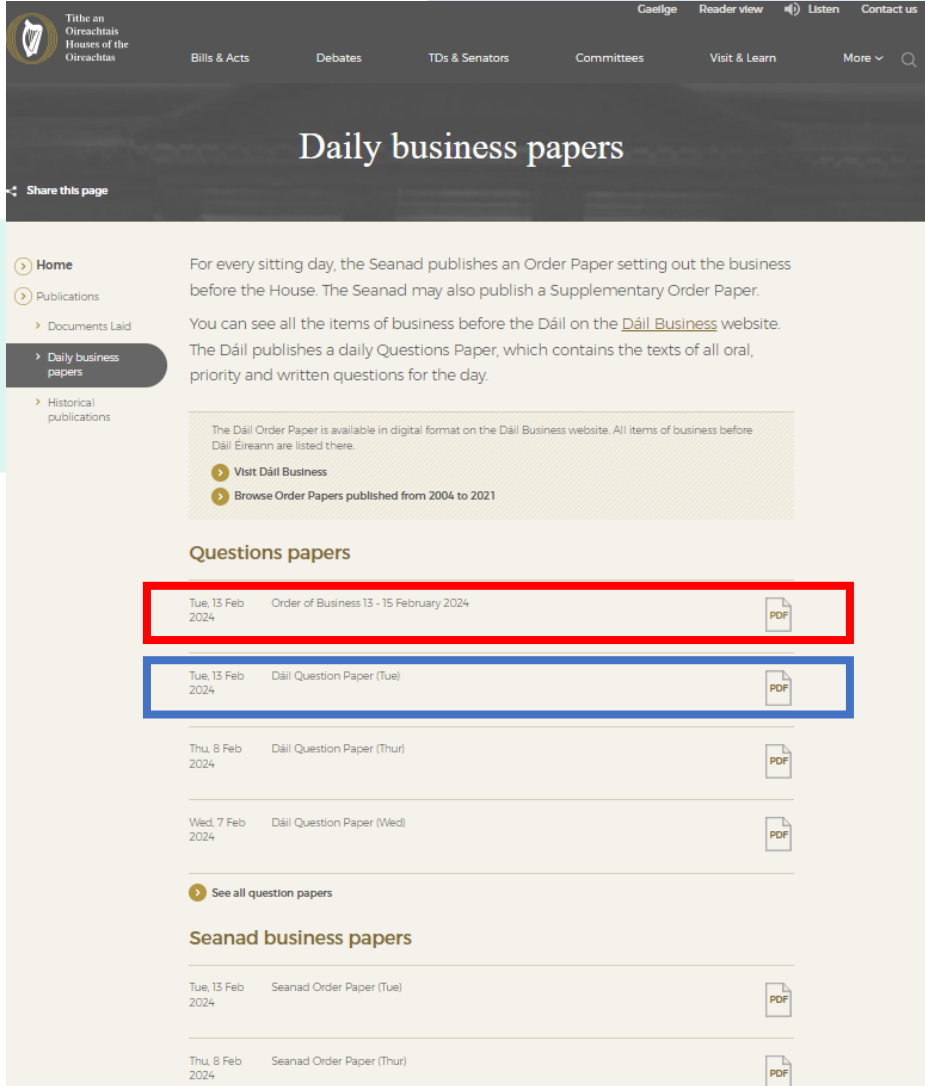
*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding that has been provided to Monaghan County Council for the maintenance and upkeep of local and regional roads in each of the years 2016-2023 inclusive and allocated in 2024, by year, by grant, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6055/24]

*192. To ask the Minister for Transport the length of local public roads eligible for maintenance funding within each local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6056/24]

*193. To ask the Minister for Transport when the EV SPSV scheme for 2024 will open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6064/24]

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You can see all the items of business before the Dáil on the [Dáil Business](#) website. The Dáil publishes a daily Questions Paper, which contains the texts of all oral, priority and written questions for the day.

The Dáil Order Paper is available in digital format on the Dáil Business website. All items of business before Dáil Éireann are listed there.

- Visit Dáil Business
- Browse Order Papers published from 2004 to 2021

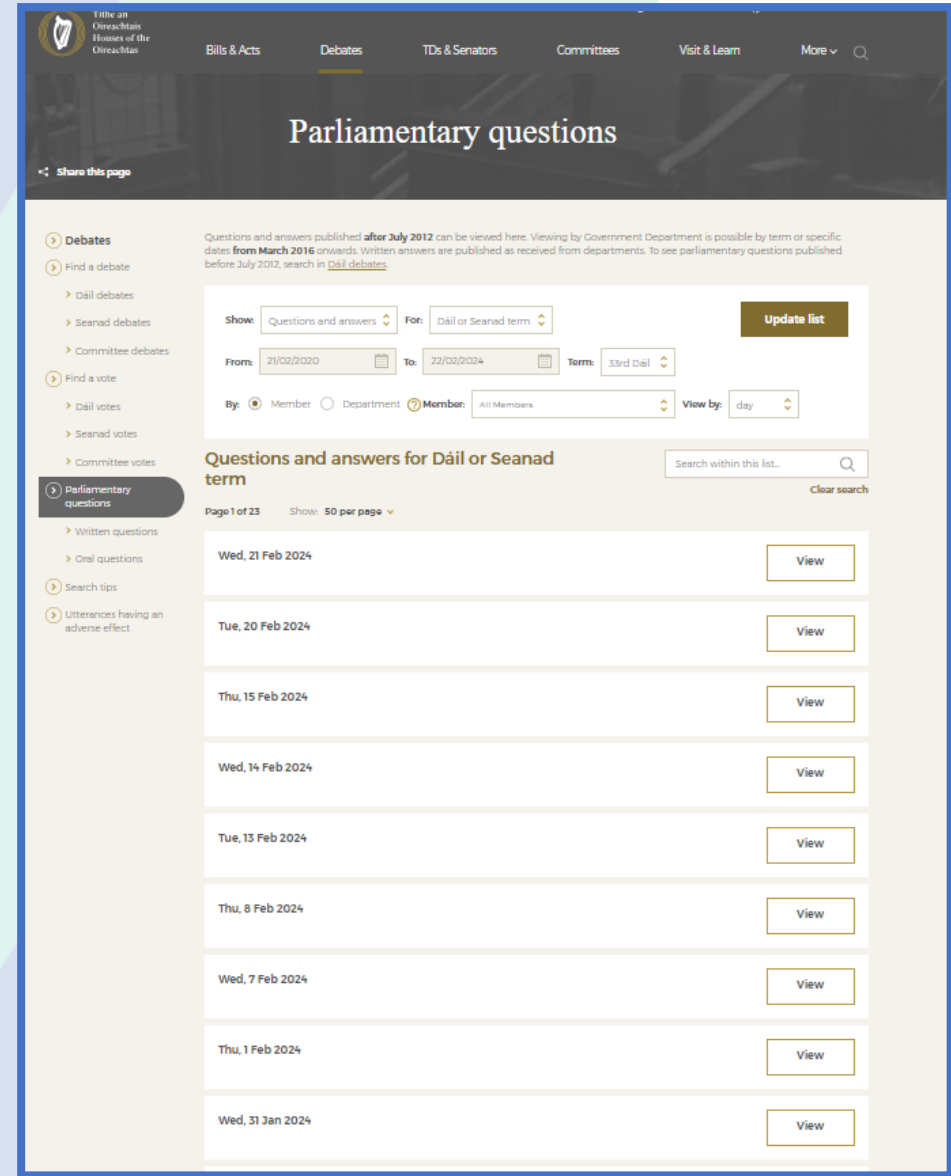
Questions papers

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Seanad business papers

Tue, 13 Feb 2024	Seanad Order Paper (Tue)	PDF
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 - Dáil votes
 - Seanad votes
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 - Oral questions
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- Utterances having an adverse effect

Questions and answers published **after July 2012** can be viewed here. Viewing by Government Department is possible by term or specific dates from **March 2016** onwards. Written answers are published as received from departments. To see parliamentary questions published before July 2012, search in [Dáil debates](#).

Show: Questions and answers For: Dáil or Seanad term Update list

From: 21/02/2020 To: 22/02/2024 Term: 33rd Dáil

By: ☒ Member ☐ Department ☒ Member: All Members View by: day

Questions and answers for Dáil or Seanad term

Search within this list... Clear search

Page 1 of 23 Show: 50 per page

Wed, 21 Feb 2024	View
Tue, 20 Feb 2024	View
Thu, 15 Feb 2024	View
Wed, 14 Feb 2024	View
Tue, 13 Feb 2024	View
Thu, 8 Feb 2024	View
Wed, 7 Feb 2024	View
Thu, 1 Feb 2024	View
Wed, 31 Jan 2024	View

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Tue, 13 Feb 2024

Order of Business 13 - 15 February 2024

PDF

Tue, 13 Feb 2024

Dáil Question Paper (Tue)

PDF

Thu, 8 Feb 2024

Dáil Question Paper (Thur)

PDF

Wed, 7 Feb 2024

Dáil Question Paper (Wed)

PDF

See all question papers

Seanad business papers

Tue, 13 Feb 2024

Seanad Order Paper (Tue)

PDF

Thu, 8 Feb 2024

Seanad Order Paper (Thur)

PDF



Pádraig Mac Lochlainn

Question:

270. Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the annual budget for the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023; the projected budget for 2024; how much of this budget annually is funded through the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund; how much is funded directly from the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [5844/24]

View answer



Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Written answers

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is an independent regulatory agency as set down in the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

The annual budget allocation enables the SFPA to continue to meet its National and EU obligations as Ireland's Competent Authority for the enforcement of sea fisheries and seafood safety law.

The annual budget details for the SFPA, as per the Revised Book of Estimates, for the period 2019-2024 are as follows:

-	Revised Book of Estimates Allocation	Core/exchequer	EMFF/EMFAF	Total
2019	€13,795,000	€13,795,000	€2,700,000*	€16,495,000
2020	€17,361,000	€17,361,000	€2,900,000*	€20,261,000
2021	€24,810,000	€19,002,000	€5,808,000	€24,810,000
2022	€26,257,000	€20,722,000	€5,535,000	€26,257,000
2023	€28,081,000	€22,380,000	€5,701,000	€28,081,000
2024	€27,414,000	€22,575,000	€4,839,000	€27,414,000

*In 2019 and 2020, the allocations in relation to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), which covered the period 2014 to 2020, were managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and so were not included in the allocation for the SFPA as listed in the Revised Book of Estimates.

The successor to the EMFF, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) runs from 2021 to 2027. From 2021 onwards, the EMFAF allocation has been included in the allocation for the SFPA as listed in the Revised Book of Estimates.

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Demographics



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Housing



Transport



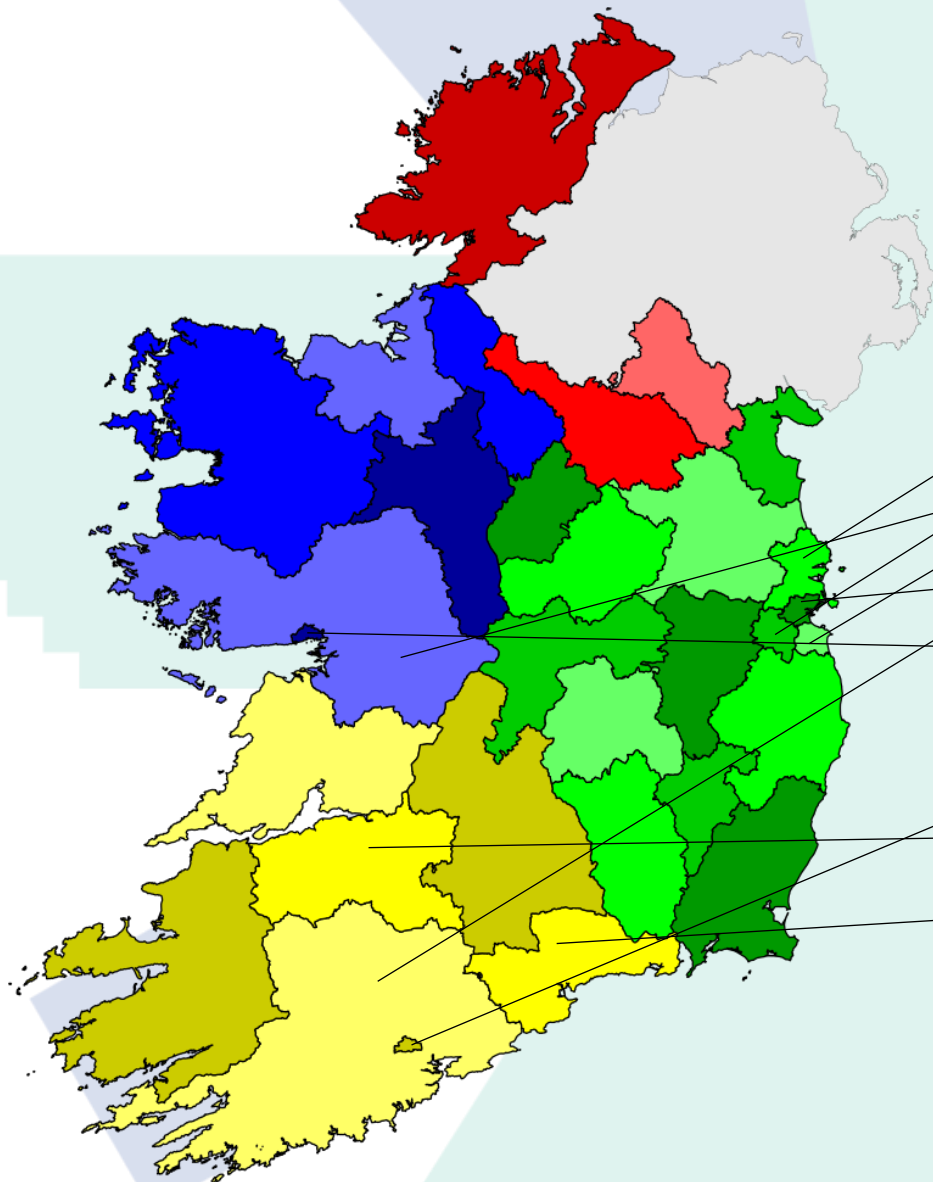
Education



Families

Part 1.2: Local Government Structures

Local Government in Ireland:



26 County Councils (Not all align with County Boundaries)

- Fingal
- South County Dublin
- Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown
- Cork
- Galway

3 City Councils

- Dublin
- Cork
- Galway

2 City and County Councils

- Limerick
- Waterford

Local Government in Ireland:

 Carlow County Council	 Cavan County Council	 Clare County Council		 Longford County Council	 Louth County Council
 Cork City Council	 Cork County Council	 Donegal County Council	 Mayo County Council	 Meath County Council	 Monaghan County Council
 Dublin City Council	 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council				 Offaly County Council
 Fingal County Council	 Galway City Council	 Galway County Council	 Roscommon County Council	 Sligo County Council	 South Dublin County Council
 Kerry County Council	 Kildare County Council	 Kilkenny County Council		 Tipperary County Council	 Waterford City and County Council
 Laois County Council	 Leitrim County Council	 Limerick City and County Council	 Westmeath County Council	 Wexford County Council	 Wicklow County Council

Local Government in Ireland:

Local Electoral Areas: Example Louth County Council



What powers do Councillors have?

- Not many....
- Education and Training Boards (ETBs)
- Community education
- Libraries
- County/City Development Plan
- Submitting questions/motions
- Area Committees/Policy Committees

No Influence on:

- Planning decisions
- Housing applications

Local Government in Ireland:

Local Electoral Areas: Example Louth County Council

Party	Seats
Sinn Féin	7
Fine Gael	6
Fianna Fáil	6
Labour	2
Green	1
Independent	7
Total	29

What powers do Councillors have?

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- County/City Development Plan
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- **Area Committees/Policy Committees**

No Influence on:

- Planning decisions
- Housing applications

Local Government in Ireland:

Committee Structure: Example Louth County Council

Strategic Policy Committees



• Your Council

- Latest News
- Cathaoirleach of Council
- Membership
- Agenda Council Meetings
- Boundary Maps
- Bye Laws of Council

• Committees of Council

- Corporate Policy Group
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Placenames Committee

The statutory basis for SPCs is set out in Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 48 (1a) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Strategic Policy Committees advise and assist the Council in its work and are tasked with the formulation and development of policy for approval by Council.

The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019 - 2024 can be viewed here: [Louth County Council SPC Scheme 2019-2024](#)

There are five Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) in Louth County Council.

These are:

- › Economic Development and Enterprise Support
- › Planning and Support Infrastructure
- › Housing
- › Community, Quality of Life and Creativity
- › Climate Action and Energy

The Strategic Policy Committee Standing Orders can be viewed here: [Strategic Policy Committees Standing Orders](#)

Minutes of the SPC Meetings can be found [here](#)

Local Government in Ireland:

Strategic Policy Committee Meeting: Example Louth County Council

Home > Your Council > Committees of Council > Strategic Policy Committees > Minutes > Community, Quality of Life and Creativity

Strategic Policy Committees Meetings - Quality of Life

- Your Council
 - Latest News
 - Cathaoirleach of Council
 - Membership
 - Agenda Council Meetings
 - Boundary Maps
 - Bye Laws of Council
 - Committees of Council
 - Corporate Policy Group
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Placenames Committee
 - Strategic Policy Committees
 - Minutes

SPC Meetings Minutes
Signed-Minutes-SPC-QoL-January 2020.pdf (size 110.7 KB)
Signed-Minutes-SPC-QoL-July-2020-(1).pdf (size 166.4 KB)
Signed-Minutes-SPC-QoL-October-2020-(1).pdf (size 189.3 KB)
Signed Minutes SPC December 2020 here
Signed Minutes SPC March 2021 here
Signed Minutes SPC June 2021 here
Signed Minutes SPC September 2021 here
Signed Minutes SPC November 2021 here
Signed Minutes SPC February 2022 here
Signed Minutes SPC June 2022 here
Signed Minutes SPC September 2022 here
Signed Minutes SPC November 2022 here
Signed Minutes SPC March 2023 here
Signed Minutes SPC September 2023 Click here

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Community, Quality of Life & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7th June, 2023 at 4pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk.

Present: Cllr. John Sheridan-Chair
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Cllr. Maeve Yore
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Ms. Lorna Costelloe, PPN Social inclusion rep
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, PPN Sports rep
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, Manager of Outcomers
Mr. Ben Malone, Community Water Officer

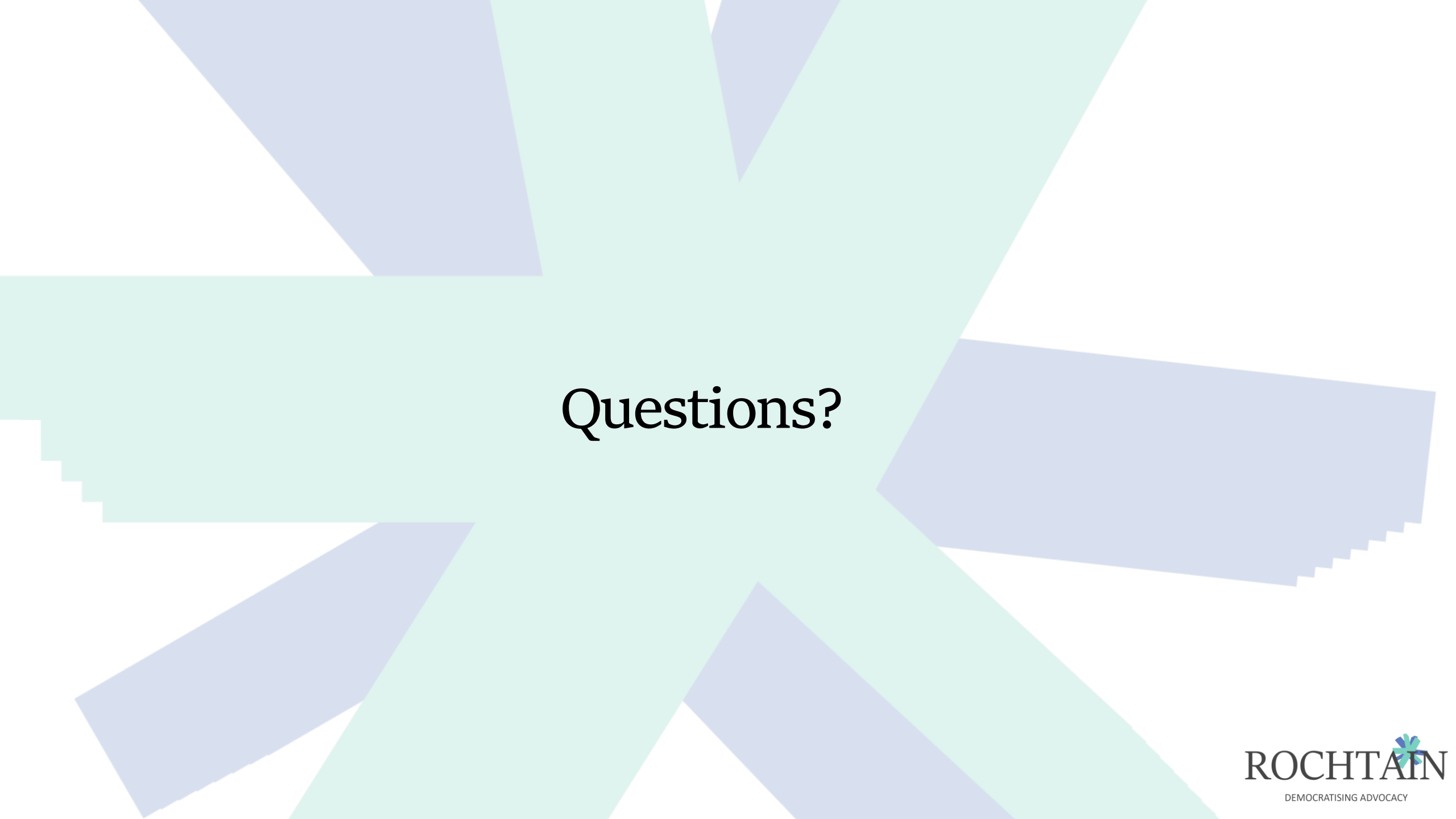
Officials: Mr. Joe Mc Guinness, Director of Services
Ms. Amanda Brannigan, County Liabrian
Ms. Paula Gribben, Administrative Officer
Ms. Fiona Lennon, Community Climate Action Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Ms. Fiona Crawley, PPN Environmental Rep
Ms. Stacey McVeigh, PPN Youth Rep.
Ms. Susan Farrelly, PPN Arts Rep
Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Oliver Winters, Senior Staff Officer

Introduction
The Chairperson, Cllr John Sheridan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend.

Minutes of the previous meeting- 16th November 2022
Cllr. Pearse McGeough proposed the minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 and Lorna Costelloe seconded.

Matters Arising

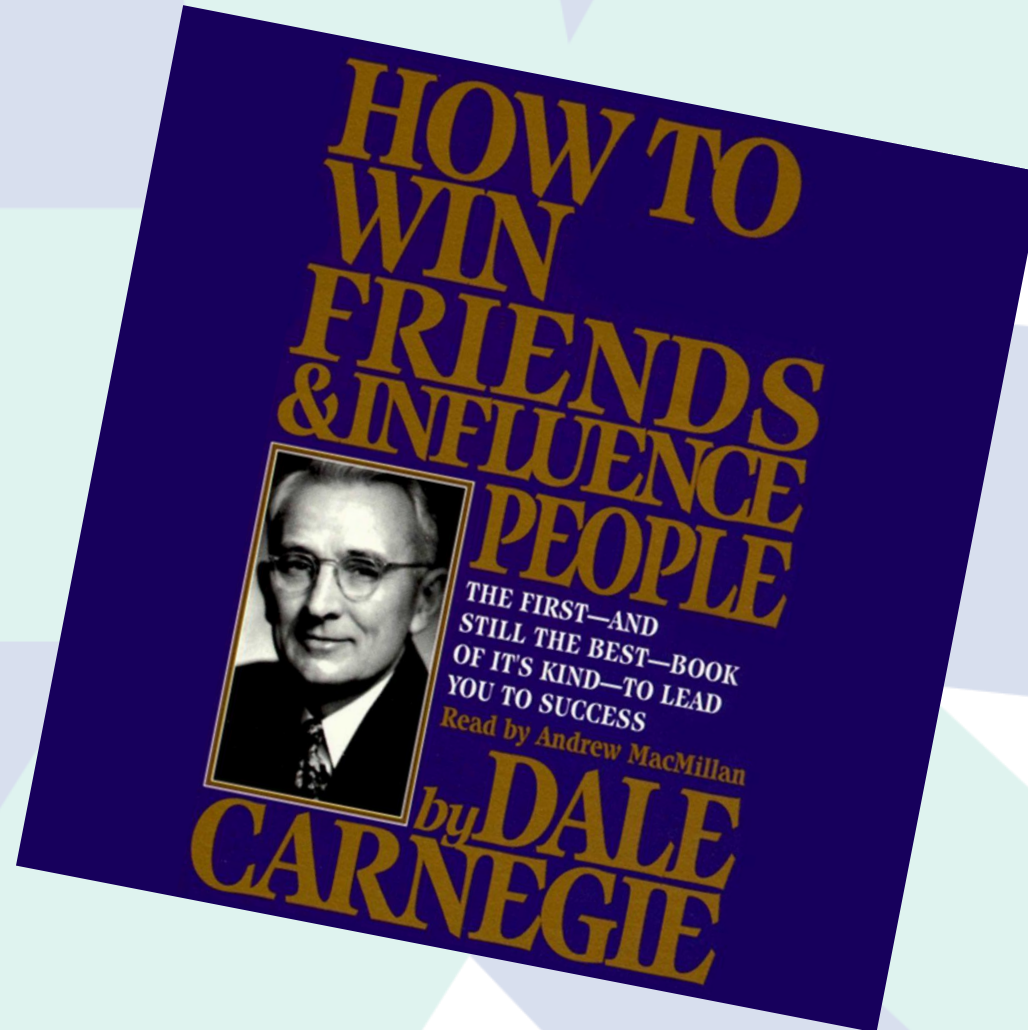


Questions?

End of Part One: Break

Part 2: Finding Information and Building Your Advocacy Case to TDs and Senators

What are we talking about?



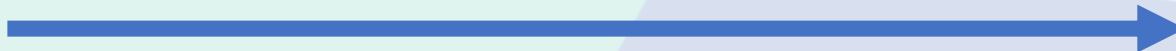
So Why Engage With Elected Reps?



To inform?



To protest?



To input into legislation?



To seek influence?



Objective

So Why Engage With Elected Reps?



To inform?



To protest?



To input into legislation?



To seek influence?

Objective(???)

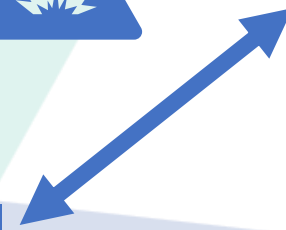
So Why Engage With Elected Reps?



Inform



Protest



Flexible Objectives



Seek influence



Input into legislation

So Why Engage With Elected Reps?

BILL ENGAGEMENT TEMPLATE	
Title of Bill: PCSC Bill 2023: Department of Justice	
Hearing Dates:	https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2023/3/7tab-debates
Dáil 4 th Stage:	July 12th
Seanad 2 nd Stage	TBD
Seanad 3 rd Stage:	TBD

Context:

Bill Currently awaiting Seanad 2nd Stage. Limited engagement in Dáil/Committee Debates so far re: our amendments (and overall quality of discussion has been poor). A rethink of approach is needed for the Seanad incl. who we approach, given the glut of legislation which is expected to pass through the Seanad in the next period.

Desired Outcome(s):
That the PSCS Bill better reflects the CFP recommendations and is more aligned with HR standards and international best practice.

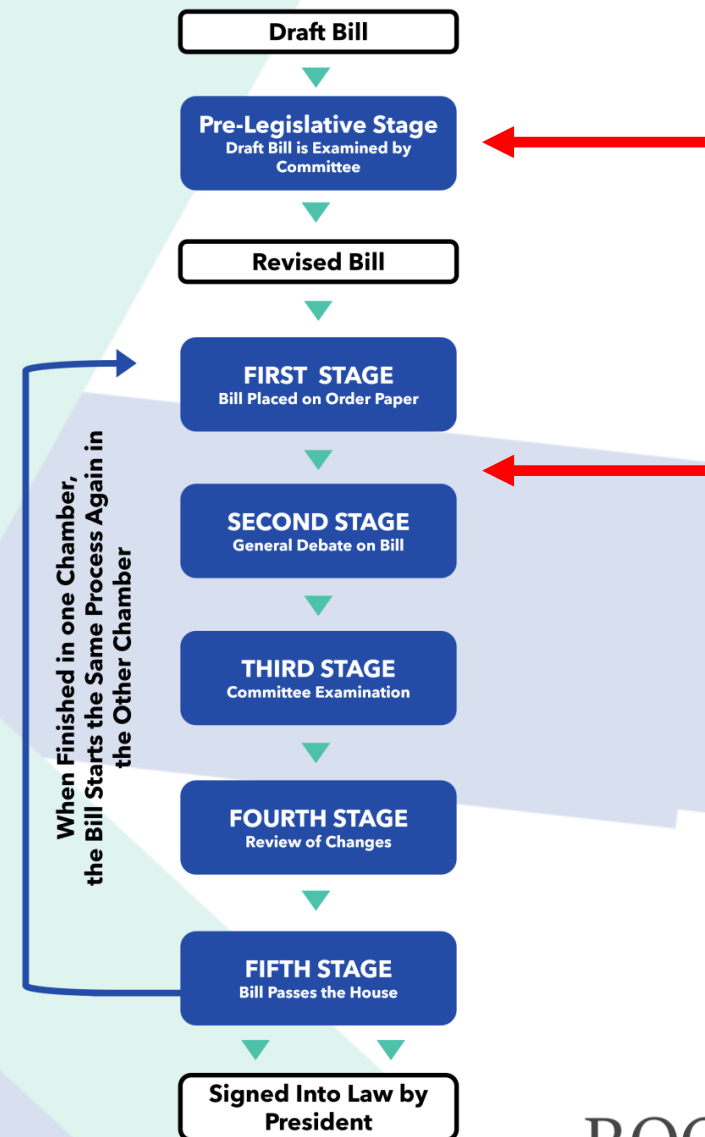
Three critical issues for ICCL:
1: Police prosecution
2: GSOC – independence and garda stations search powers
3: Independent Examiner

How can the legislation be amended to achieve the above?
Issue 1:
Amendment(s)
Issue 2:
Amendment(s)

Issue 3:
Amendment(s)

Key Contacts
TDs/Senators:
Lynn Ruane Robbie Gallagher Barry Ward Vincent P. Martin Michael McDowell
https://iccl.sharepoint.com/x:fr/sites/ICCL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BB66054DBC-CF26-4878-ADA06-47BAA8890647D&file=Policing%2C%20Security%20and%20Community%20Safety%20Bill_xlsx&icon=default&mobileiredirect=true
Spoke at pre-legislative debate
Officials:
John O'Callaghan

Action Points:



What should we be saying and how?

- Parliamentary Question (PQ) Database
- Party Spokespeople/local reps
- Committee Membership
- Oireachtas/Council Debates

A	B	C	D	E
Dáil Committee	Party	Constituency/Area	Email	Phone
Francis Noel Duffy	Green Party	Dublin South-West	francisnoel.duffy@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6184236
Joe Flaherty	Fianna Fáil	Longford-Westmeath	joe.flaherty@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183122
Thomas Gould	Sinn Féin	Cork North-Central	thomas.gould@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183513
Emer Higgins	Fine Gael	Dublin Mid-West	emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183013
Steven Matthews - Chair	Green Party	Wicklow	steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183179
Paul McAuliffe	Fianna Fáil	Dublin North West	paul.mcauliffe@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183539
Cian O'Callaghan	Social Democrats	Dublin Bay North	cian.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie	(01) 618 3057
Richard O'Donoghue	Independent	Limerick County	richard.odonoghue@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183500
Eoin Ó Broin	Sinn Féin	Dublin Mid-West	eoin.obroin@oireachtas.ie	(01) 618 3080
Victor Boyhan	Independent-Agriculture Panel	Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown	victor.boyhan@oireachtas.ie	(01) 618 3757
John Cummins	Fine Gael-Labour Panel	Waterford	john.cummins@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183304
Mary Fitzpatrick	Fianna Fáil-Taoiseach's Nominee	Dublin Central	mary.fitzpatrick@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6184126
Rebecca Moynihan	Labour Party-Administrative Panel	Dublin South Central	rebecca.moynihan@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183989
Mary Seery Kearney	Fine Gael-Taoiseach's Nominee	Dublin Rathdown	mary.seerykearney@oireachtas.ie	(01) 6183735
Minister Darragh O'Brien	Fianna Fáil	Dublin Fingal	minister@housing.gov.ie	(01) 888 2403
Minister Malcom Noonan	Green Party	Carlow-Kilkenny	MOS@housing.gov.ie	(01) 888 2425

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Results 1-20 of 66 for "hate crime" in 'Written Answers'

Did you mean: "[date Crime](#)" major:3?

[Written Answers – Department of Justice and Equality: Disabilities Data](#) (31 Mar 2021)
Helen McEntee: Justice Plan 2021 commits to introducing new legislation to deal with **hate crime** and incitement to hatred by the end of this year and I intend to seek cabinet approval to publish the general scheme of a **Hate Crime** Bill shortly. As the Deputy may be aware, the legislative proposals are being developed following a widespread consultation process, which included in-depth consultations with...

[Written Answers – Department of Justice and Equality: Legislative Measures](#) (3 Mar 2021) [See 1 other result from this answer](#)
Carol Nolan: 696. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality if legislation has been passed and enacted that defines a **hate crime** and a non-**hate crime**; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [11962/21]

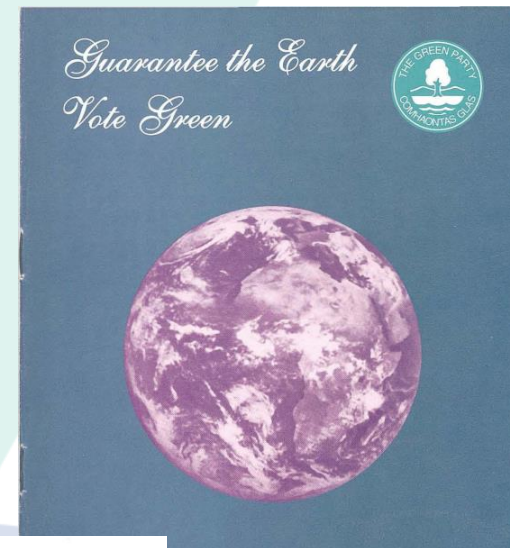
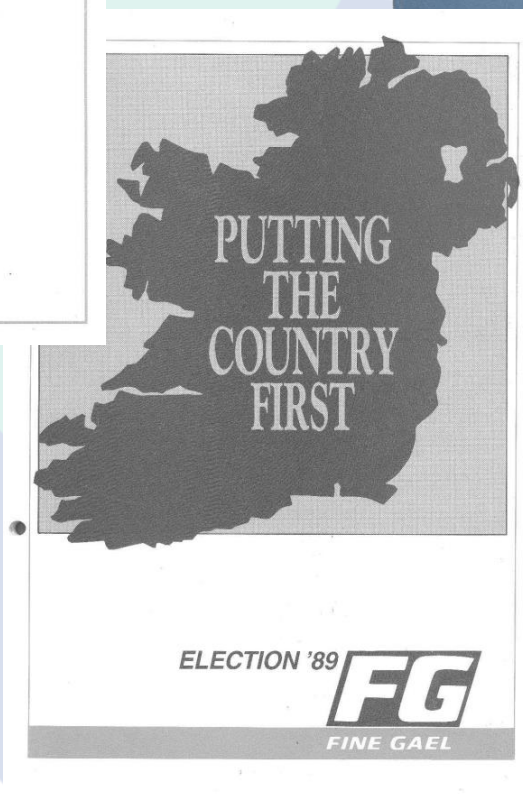
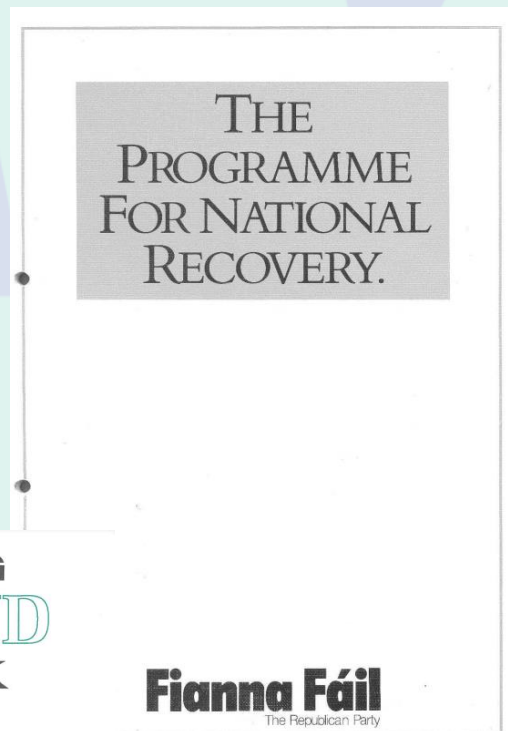
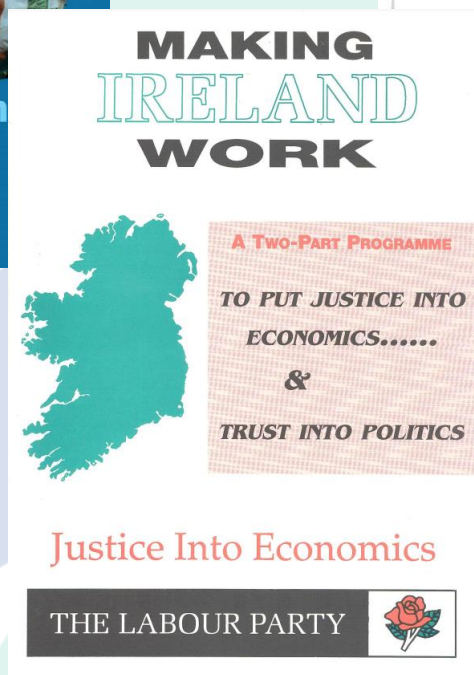
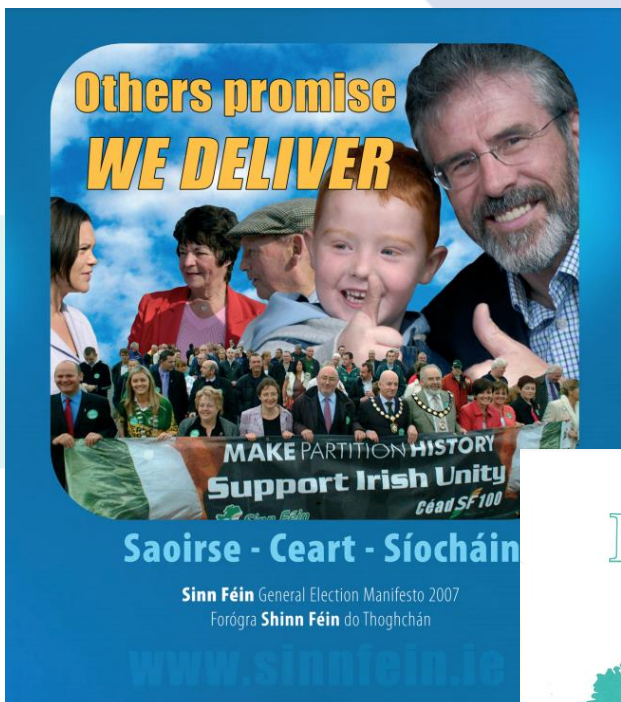
[Written Answers – Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: Anti-Racism Measures](#) (10 Feb 2021)
Roderic O'Gorman: ...of Government. It has prepared an interim report which I will shortly bring to Government. Separately, the Minister for Justice is examining the steps needed, including in legislation, to tackle **hate crime**.

[Written Answers – Department of Justice and Equality: Crime Data](#) (10 Feb 2021)
Helen McEntee: ...part of their identity as a human being. Ireland is a diverse and tolerant country, and such behaviour is not acceptable. Under the Programme for Government there is a commitment to: - Introduce the **Hate Crime** legislation within 12 months of the formation of the

What should we be saying and how?

- **Do a bit of background digging, show them you see what is currently happening and what their party position is**
- **Find (or make up!) a reason to get in contact**
- **Flatter (a bit) but don't lay it on too thick!**
- **Include something that means they have to get back to you, for example, ask them to table a PQ or council question, ask for a meeting to discuss your work on their area of policy, ask if they have plans to discuss this issue at their committee**
- **Follow up! If you don't hear back in a week, give their office a call and do the "just wanted to make sure that the deputy received this" spiel.**
- **Be aware: Sometimes no response, is a response. If getting nowhere with a target, move on**

What should we be saying and how?



What should we be saying and how?

Programme for Government

Our Shared Future



AGREED PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 1989 - 1993

Published by the Progressive Democrats
25 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2



A GOVERNMENT OF RENEWAL

A Policy Agreement between
Fine Gael
The Labour Party
Democratic Left

December 1994



An Agreed Programme
for
Government
between
Fianna Fáil
and the
Progressive Democrats

June 2002

What should we be saying and how?

Programme for Government

Our Shared Future



AGREED PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 1989 - 1993

Published by the Progressive Democrats
25 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2

Draft Programme for Government 2025

Securing Ireland's Future

A GOVERNMENT OF RENEWAL

A Policy Agreement between
Fine Gael
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An Agreed Programme
for
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and the
Progressive Democrats

June 2002

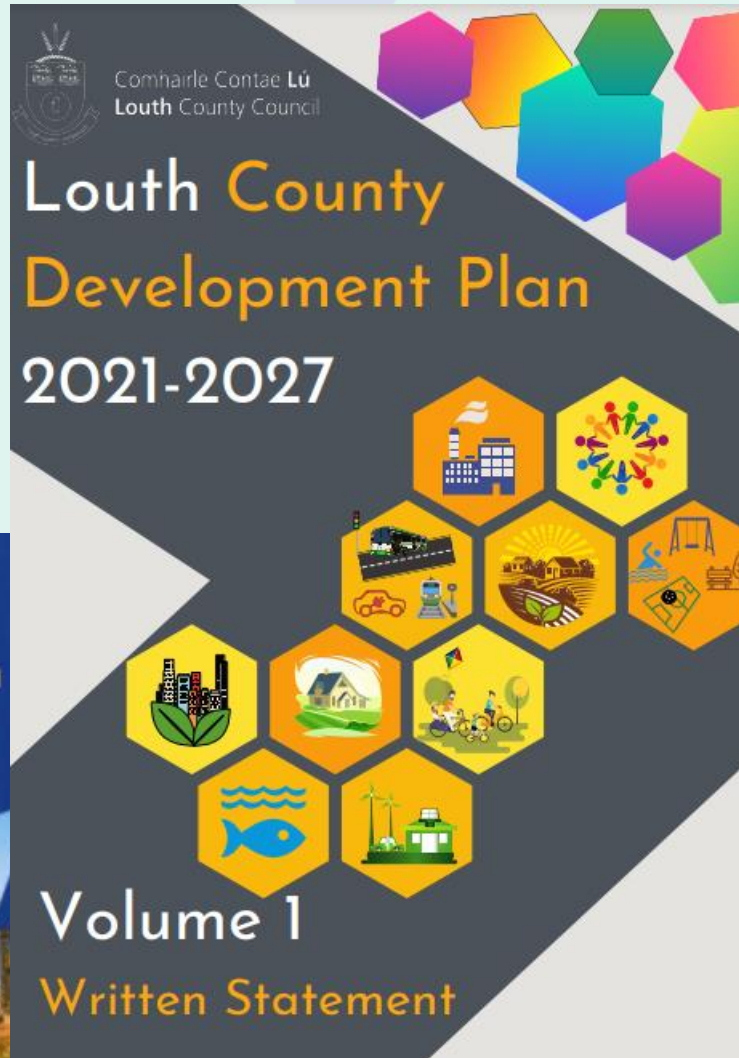
What should we be saying and how?



County Development Plan 2022-2028



Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028 Volume 1 - Written Statement



Kilkenny City and County Development Plan Volume 1 County 2021-2027

What should we be saying and how?



Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

Government Legislation Programme Spring 2025



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Development Plans / Local Area Plans



[Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan](#)



[Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030](#)



[Two Year Progress Report on the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027](#)



[Consolidated Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 \(incl Variations 1 & 2\)](#)



[Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027](#)



[Variation No. 1 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027](#)

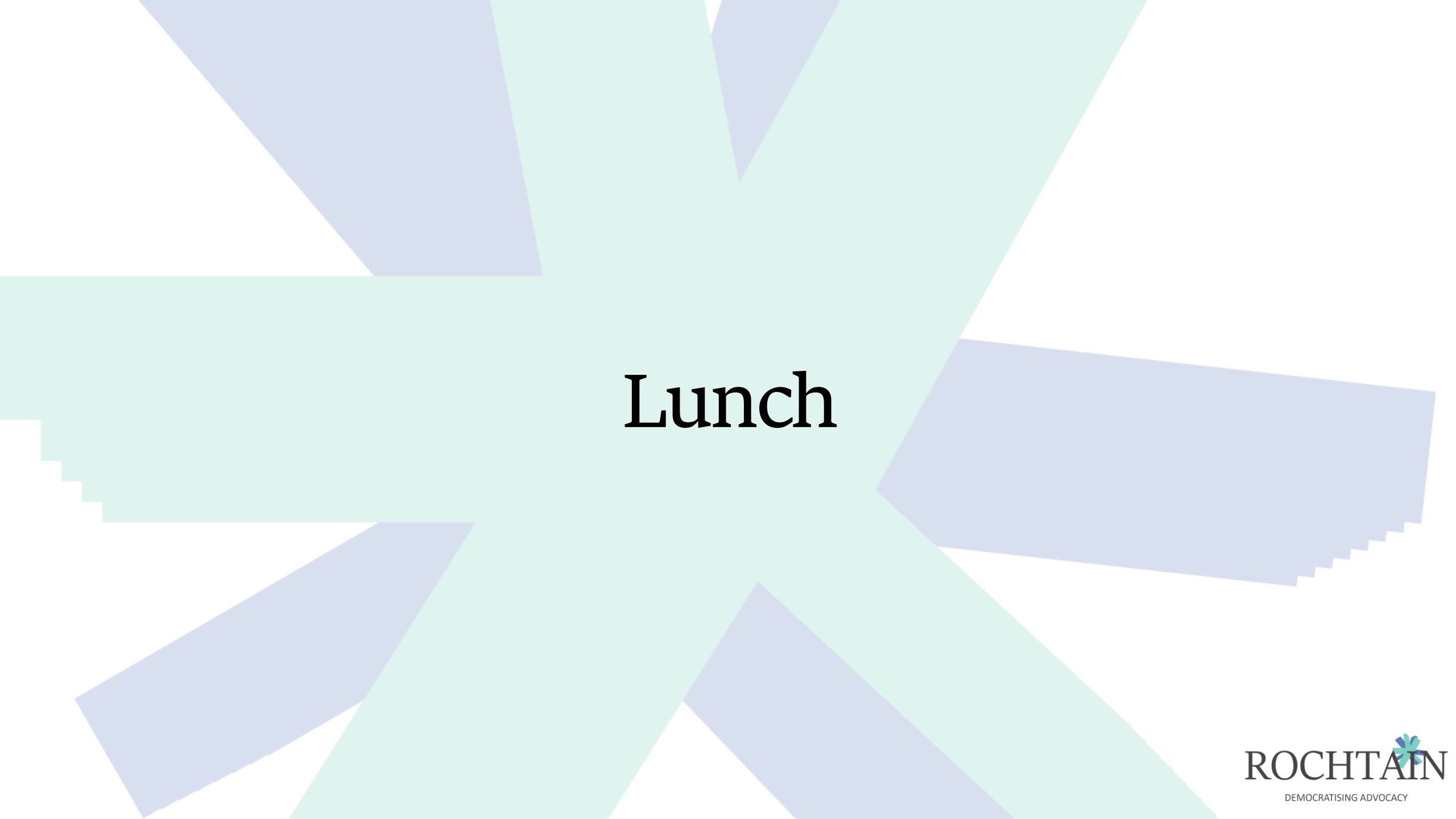


[Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 \(Volumes 1-5\)](#)



[Plean Forbartha Chontae Lú 2021-2027](#)





Lunch

Part 3: Effective Communications: Presenting Your Arguments and Communicating Your Messages Effectively to Politicians

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

- **Organisation:** Louth Residents for Clean Air (LRCA)
- **Objective:** To promote improved air quality in Louth
- **Issue:** While smoky coal is banned from sale in Ireland, there are reports of it being brought in from the North. LRCA want more info on this

Find what the government is saying:

Dáil Éireann debate -
Thursday, 4 May 2023
Vol. 1037 No. 5

Saincheisteanna Tráthúla - Topical Issue Debate

[Back to table of contents](#)

Fuel Sales


Deputy Jackie Cahill

I thank the Minister of State for being in the Chamber to discuss this issue. Last week, I met a delegation of solid fuel merchants who are members of a newly formed organisation. Every town and village in the country has a fuel merchant. Unfair competition is shattering their trade. Approximately 50% of the coal that is being used in the country is coming down from Northern Ireland. It is estimated that €100 million worth of coal products will come from the Six Counties into the Twenty-six Counties this year. For better or worse, we have a carbon tax in this country. VAT is also applied to solid fuel products. That puts our fuel merchants in a completely unviable situation whereby they are not able to compete with the products coming from Northern Ireland. Those products are not subject to carbon tax and VAT in the same way as products sourced in the Twenty-six Counties. The vast majority of the products coming down are illegal to be used in the South. Smoky coal is the principal such product. It has been banned in the Twenty-six Counties. Smoky coal is coming down from Northern Ireland in very large quantities nonetheless.

Customs and Excise
Dáil Éireann Debate, Wednesday - 29 March 2023

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

Questions (82, 83)


Michael Lowry

Question:
82. Deputy Michael Lowry asked the Minister for Finance the number of seizures conducted by customs officials on illegally imported solid fuels in 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [15687/23]
[View answer](#)


Michael Lowry

Question:
83. Deputy Michael Lowry asked the Minister for Finance the amount of funding that has been provided to the Revenue Commissioners in the years 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023 to combat smuggling of solid fuels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [15688/23]
[View answer](#)

Written answers

The importation of solid fuels that do not comply with Ireland's environmental law and standards is not an offence under tax law, and Revenue has no role in instigating prosecutions for breaches of environmental law. Such matters come within the responsibility of local authorities. The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022, which were introduced in October last year, significantly enhance the State's regulatory regime underpinning environmental standards for solid fuels. The regulations empower Local Authorities to take enforcement actions, including prosecutions, against solid fuel producers, importers, distributors, retailers, and users to ensure all solid fuels placed on the market and used in the State comply with relevant standards. The regulations place specific obligations on anyone transporting solid fuels, including requirements that accompanying documentation, detailing fuel source, destination and compliance with environmental standards are available for inspection by Local Authority staff. Further information on the operation of the regulations can be found at www.gov.ie/en/publication/e3da2-air-quality/#new-solid-fuel-regulations.

Nonetheless, while Revenue does not have a direct role itself in relation to these environmental enforcement matters, Revenue is aware of the benefit that inter-agency enforcement co-operation can bring to the effective implementation of the range of State laws applicable to a sector. In this regard, Revenue have participated in several joint operations with other agencies including Local Authority solid fuel inspection teams, with a view to checking for compliance across several tax headings, including SFCT. Revenue is currently actively engaging with Local Authorities with a view to participating in future joint operations.

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

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Page 1 of 6 Show: 50 per page

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

124. Deputy Patrick Costello asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2024-03-05/124/#pq_124
Tue, 5 Mar 2024 - amount of dedicated funding that will be provided to each local authority to monitor and enforce the **smoky coal** ban and any future solid fuel regulations as part of the clean air strategy; and if he will make

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

138. Deputy Jackie Cahill asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the a. https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-11-07/138/#pq_138
Tue, 7 Nov 2023 - market irrespective of the type of fuel type being sold as these taxes apply to both low smoke and **smoky coal** products.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

147. Deputy Michael Healy-Rae asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-10-03/147/#pq_147
Tue, 3 Oct 2023 - market irrespective of the type of fuel type being sold as these taxes apply to both low smoke and **smoky coal** products.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

82. Deputy Michael Lowry asked the Minister for Finance the number of seizures conducted by custom. https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-03-29/82/#pq_82
Wed, 29 Mar 2023 - particularly relevant with regard to coal as there are no restrictions in NI on the sale or use of **smoky coal**, which is significantly cheaper than smokeless coal.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

83. Deputy Michael Lowry asked the Minister for Finance the amount of funding that has been provide. https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-03-29/83/#pq_83
Wed, 29 Mar 2023 - particularly relevant with regard to coal as there are no restrictions in NI on the sale or use of **smoky coal**, which is significantly cheaper than smokeless coal.

Tuesday, 5 March 2024

Questions (124)



Patrick Costello

Question:

124. Deputy Patrick Costello asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount of dedicated funding that will be provided to each local authority to monitor and enforce the **smoky coal** ban and any future solid fuel regulations as part of the clean air strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [10503/24]

[View answer](#)

Written answers



Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

Local Authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the solid fuel regulations, identifying unauthorised fuels placed on the market and taking measures to counteract any illegal trade. They are also responsible for the allocation of appropriate resources to ensure that they can fulfil their air quality enforcement obligations. It is at the discretion of each Local Authority to decide its own priorities and to allocate staff and resources accordingly. Funding of such services would generally be met from the Exchequer and Local Authority own resources.

My Department has worked with the Local Government Management Agency to develop the business case for an enhanced enforcement structure to support the provision of improved co-ordination, expertise and advice to underpin consistent implementation of all air quality legislation across the country. I have made funding of up to €3m available to support this regional enforcement group and I expect the business case to be submitted formally to the sector for approval in the coming months.

In the absence of a co-ordination body, officials from my Department have been engaging directly with enforcement personnel on the ground, developing guidance and training, holding workshops, providing funding, and supporting the sharing of best practice in relation to a range of air quality legislative obligations that are under the remit of the Local Authorities. In the last **two years** I have provided grant funding of over **€600,000** to support enforcement efforts on the ground, including a solid fuels sampling programme and an online sales pilot project.

Our focus for 2024 will be targeted at working with specific Local Authorities that have significant air quality issues.



ROCHTAIN

DEMOCRATISING ADVOCACY

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

Build your case:

Programme for Government 2020:

A National Clean Air Strategy

We will publish the first ever clean air strategy. We will:

- Develop a regional approach to air quality and noise enforcement.
- Develop a multi-agency approach to clamping down on the sale of high-sulphur content fuel imported from the UK, with local authorities and the Revenue Commissioners involved.
- Invest in our network of monitoring stations, to provide scientific evidence of air quality across different parts of the country, including real-time and localised air quality information.
- Extend the Smoky Coal ban to new towns and, over the term of Government, move towards a full nationwide ban.

Party	TD	Role
IND	Peter Fitzpatrick	Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media
Sinn Féin	Imelda Munster	Committee of Public Accounts Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Tourism, Sport and Media
Labour	Ged Nash	Committee on Budgetary Oversight (Leas-Chathaoirleach) Labour spokesperson on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform
Fine Gael	Fergus O'Dowd	Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Cathaoirleach) Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community Fine Gael spokesperson on Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Sinn Féin	Ruairí Ó Murchú	Committee on European Union Affairs Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Communications and Broadband

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

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Sinn Féin	Ruairí Ó Murchú	Committee on European Union Affairs Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Communications and Broadband

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

Pull it all together:

➤ Send	From ▾	ronan.kennedy@iccl.ie
	To	fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie
	Cc	
	Bcc	
Subject		Local Authority Solid Fuel Inspection Teams 1

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

I am contacting you today on behalf of Louth Residents for Clean Air (LRCA) as both our local TD and in your role as Fine Gael spokesperson on Local Government. **2**

We are a Louth based group who lobby for clean air in urban environments in our County. Our group strongly welcomed the ban on the sale of smoky coal in Ireland in 2022 and we note this as a key achievement of Fine Gael in government and was highlighted as an objective in both your own party's manifesto and in the programme for government. Despite this achievement however, we remain very concerned about the illegal importation of this damaging product from Northern Ireland which has a strong impact on border communities. **3**

We note that this matter was with Minister Ryan by way of a PQ on March 5th. In his reply, the Minister outlined that; **4**

"Officials from [his] Department have been engaging directly with enforcement personnel on the ground, developing guidance and training, holding workshops, providing funding, and supporting the sharing of best practice in relation to a range of air quality legislative obligations that are under the remit of the Local Authorities. In the last two years [he has] provided grant funding of over €600,000 to support enforcement efforts on the ground, including a solid fuels sampling programme and an online sales pilot project."

We would be extremely interested in finding out more about the enforcement efforts since 2022 and more details of how much of the grant funding has been dispersed to Louth County Council. To this end, we would be very grateful if you would consider submitting the below PQ on our behalf? **5** **6**

The issue of clean air in our communities is one that has a serious impact on your constituents in Dundalk and Drogheda in particular so we welcome your efforts to raise the matter with the Minister.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our work in more detail. **7**

Best regards

Ronan Kennedy

To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, further to question 124 of March 5th 2024, if he will provide details in a tabular form broken down by year, item and local authority, the monetary total allocated to each county or city council of the €600,000 in grant aid since 2022, if he will provide more details of the enforcement actions as outlined in the response and if he will make a statement on the matter. **8**

Ronan Kennedy (He/Him)

Senior Policy Officer (Louth Residents for Clean Air (LRCA)

[Ronan Kennedy \(He/Him\)](#)

Practical Example 1: A “Cold” approach

Pull it all together:

- ❶ Be specific with your subject line, show you’ve done some digging
- ❷ Introduce your organisation, but be brief, maybe consider including a link to your website or social media, if you have a recent related publication or other bit of work, attach it along with a 1-2 page summary
- ❸ A bit of flattery goes a long way here, but ground it in something tangible
- ❹ Don’t make them dig for something you reference, again consider linking to the question or speech
- ❺ Again, be specific here, show you know your area of expertise and what you want to dig further into
- ❻ This is your hook, ask a question or make a request, give them a reason to have to have to get back to you
- ❼ All politics is local, so try and localise your issue (if possible), link it to your issue and offer to meet to discuss
- ❽ Most (TD) offices will submit PQs for you, but if you draft them the chances of success increase more
All PQs follow the same format: To ask the Minister for XXX.....and if they will make a statement on the matter

Practical Example 2: A “Warm” approach

- **Organisation:** Drogheda Residents Against Dereliction (DRAD)
- **Objective:** To tackle vacant and derelict commercial property in Drogheda
- **Issue:** The town of Drogheda has a severe problem with empty commercial properties.

Find what local TDs are saying:

Tuesday, 9 April 2024

Questions (284)



[Ged Nash](#)

← **Ged Nash**

Question:

284. **Deputy Ged Nash** asked the **Minister for Finance** the number of successful Living City Initiative applications made to renovate and refurbish properties in Limerick, Galway, Waterford and Kilkenny respectively in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023; the reasons **Drogheda** is not included in the initiative, given its population is significantly larger than that of Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [13848/24]

[View answer](#)

Written answers



[Minister for Finance](#)

← The Living City Initiative (LCI) is a modest, targeted, measure which is aimed at very specific areas in urgent need of regeneration, it is provided for under sections 372AAA to 372AAD of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. It offers income or corporation tax relief for qualifying expenditure incurred in the refurbishment and conversion of qualifying residential and commercial buildings located within 'Special Regeneration Areas' in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick and Waterford.

Applications are required to be made to the relevant Local Authority in respect of residential projects. Revenue obtains information from the Local Authorities in respect to the number of applications received by them. Based on the most recent information available to Revenue, the number of total applications per eligible city since the introduction of the scheme are as follows:

Tuesday, 23 July 2024

Questions (1166)



[Imelda Munster](#)

← **Imelda Munster**

Question:

1166. **Deputy Imelda Munster** asked the **Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage** his plans to address the situation of dereliction in **Drogheda**, and if he will make a statement on the matter. [33217/24]

[View answer](#)

Written answers



[Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)

← Addressing vacancy and making efficient use of existing housing stock is a key priority for Government.

The Vacant Homes Action Plan, which I originally published in January 2023, built on Pathway 4 of Housing for All and set out the various actions that were being pursued to return vacant properties back into use as homes. In April I published an update on the Action Plan which shows the significant progress that is being made and it is available here on my Department's website: gov - Vacant Homes Action Plan 2023-2026 ([www.gov.ie](#)) .

A key initiative under the Action Plan to address vacancy and dereliction has been the introduction of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant under the Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund. From May 2023, up to a maximum of €50,000 in grant funding is available to support the refurbishment of a vacant property into a home. Where the property is confirmed as derelict, up to a maximum of €70,000 in grant funding is available.

Also as part of the Action Plan, I announced a €150 million Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) for local authorities to acquire vacant or derelict properties for reuse or sale, using their compulsory purchase powers were necessary.

Thursday, 9 March 2023

Questions (91, 143)



[Fergus O'Dowd](#)

← **Fergus O'Dowd**

Question:

91. **Deputy Fergus O'Dowd** asked the **Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage** if there are any further plans to amend existing regulations exempting certain types of **vacant** commercial premises from planning permission in order to maximise the number of **vacant** units being brought back into use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [11866/23]

[View answer](#)



[Willie O'Dea](#)

← **Willie O'Dea**

Question:

143. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the **Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage** if he will provide an update on the notifications received by local authorities under planning permission exemptions for converting certain **vacant** commercial properties into homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [11596/23]

[View answer](#)

Oral answers (6 contributions)



[Deputy Fergus O'Dowd](#)

← One hundred years ago, many people lived above commercial premises in the centre of Drogheda. Today, very few people live there. What further and additional regulations can he amend- obviously, I exclude those relating to health and safety - in order to encourage more people to live in the centre of our towns and over commercial premises nationally.

Practical Example 2: A “Warm” approach

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Practical Example 2: A “Warm” approach

Send

From ▾

ronan.kennedy@iccl.ie

To

fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie ged.nash@oireachtas.ie imelda.munster@oireachtas.ie ruairi.omurchu@oireachtas.ie peter.fitzpatrick@oireachtas.ie

Cc

Pio.Smith@louthcoco.ie Joanna.Byrne@louthcoco.ie Kevin.Callan@louthcoco.ie James.Byrne@louthcoco.ie Paddy.McQuillan@louthcoco.ie Ejiro.O'HareStratton@louthcoco.ie

Bcc

Subject

Drogheda Dereliction Issues ¹

Dear Deputies and Councillors, ²

I am contacting you today on behalf of Drogheda Residents Against Dereliction (DRAD). We are a newly formed group who are very concerned about the fragmented approach being taken by both the Government and the Council with respect to the serious issues of dereliction in and around Drogheda. We note with appreciation that Deputies Nash, O'Dowd and Munster have raised these issues in the Dáil but we believe the responses show a lack of joined up thinking. ³ ⁴

To this end, we are seeking to draw together existing efforts by politicians at a local and national level to address this issue. We are asking, firstly, that all Louth TDs submit a joint request for a topical debate on this matter as soon as possible. We wish to see the text of this request reflect the disjointed nature of the approaches taken so far to the issue. We would be grateful if you could inform us as to when you intend to submit this request. ⁵

Secondly, we are seeking to schedule a meeting with all councillors for the Drogheda urban area and all available TDs. The date for this meeting will be decided following the topical debate so as to allow us to use the Ministerial response as a basis for discussion and to kick off our campaigning work on this issue ⁶

We look forward to engaging with you on this important issue.

Ronan Kennedy (He/Him)

Chairperson Drogheda Residents Against Dereliction (DRAD).

[Ronan Kennedy \(He/Him\)](#)

Practical Example 2: A “Warm” approach

Pull it all together:

- 1 Direct and Clear Subject
- 2 Let them know that you’re reaching out to all relevant reps, put them on notice!
- 3 “We see what you’ve been doing but we need to kick it up to the next level”
- 4 Identify what you believe the problem to be
- 5 A direct action request with an outcome, ask them to liaise with each other but keep you in the loop
- 6 A clear next step which links to the action. “Once we have x we’ll move onto y”

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Welcome to Lobbying.ie

The Regulation of Lobbying legislation is designed to provide information to the public about **who is lobbying whom about what**.

If you are lobbying then you must register on this website and make a return every four months. Take our [Three Step Test](#) to see if you are lobbying.

Please feel free to [read this welcome letter](#), which is sent to all new registrants, advising them of their obligations and best administrative practices for managing their account on Lobbying.ie.

Next Deadlines

A return may be submitted at any stage during a relevant period

- **21 January 2024** - Returns due for return period 1 September - 31 December 2023

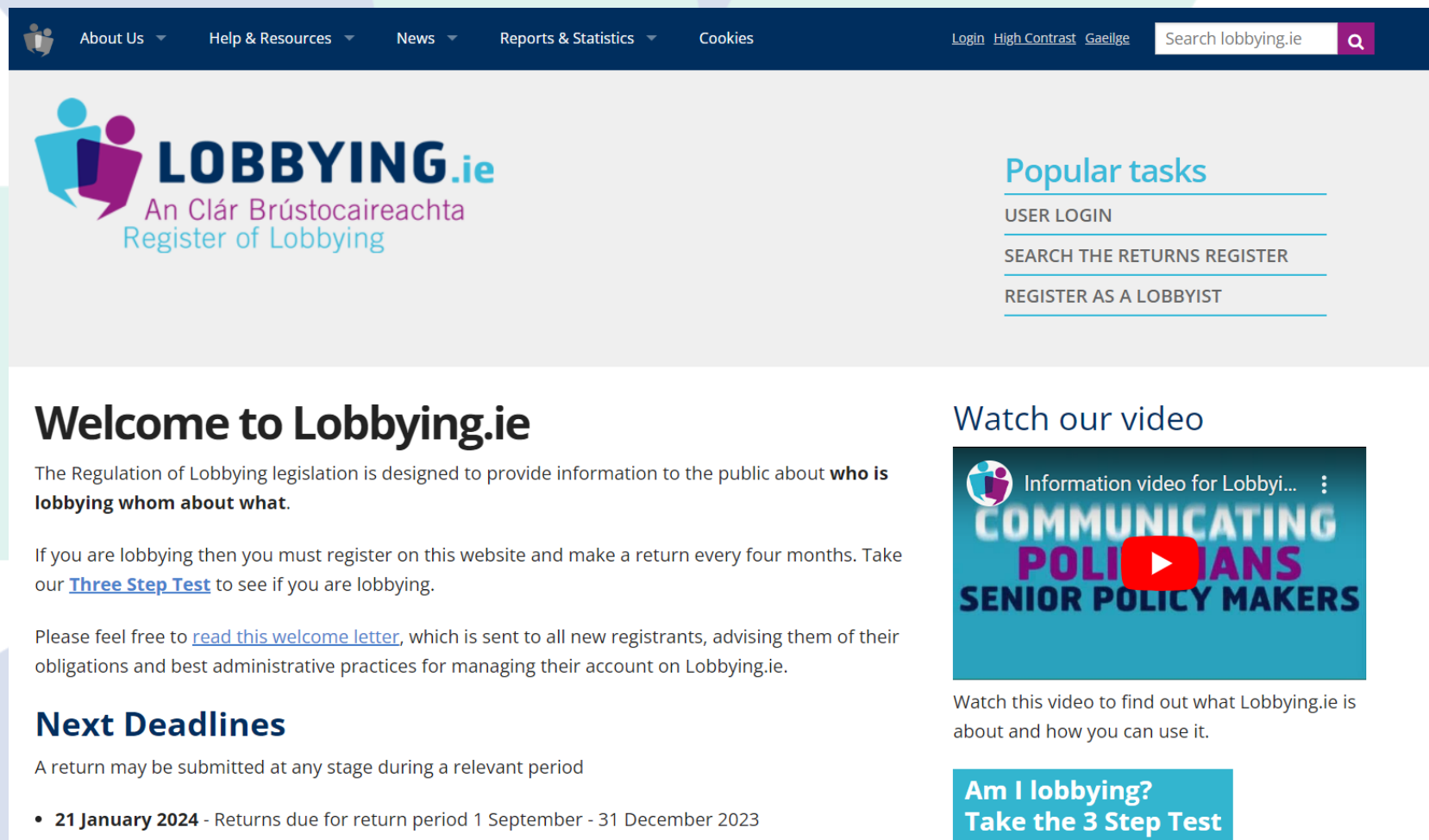
Watch our video



Watch this video to find out what Lobbying.ie is about and how you can use it.

Am I lobbying?
Take the 3 Step Test

Tracking and Reporting:



The screenshot shows the Lobbying.ie website. The header is dark blue with navigation links: About Us, Help & Resources, News, Reports & Statistics, and Cookies. On the right, there are links for Login, High Contrast, and Gaelge, along with a search bar containing 'Search lobbying.ie'. The main content area has a light grey background. On the left, the Lobbying.ie logo is displayed, featuring two stylized figures in blue and purple, followed by the text 'LOBBYING.ie' and 'An Clár Brústocaireachta Register of Lobbying'. To the right of the logo, under the heading 'Popular tasks', are three links: 'USER LOGIN', 'SEARCH THE RETURNS REGISTER', and 'REGISTER AS A LOBBYIST'. Below this, the 'Welcome to Lobbying.ie' section contains text explaining the purpose of the site and providing instructions for registration, including a link to a 'Three Step Test'. A 'Next Deadlines' section follows, stating that returns can be submitted at any stage during a relevant period, with a bullet point for '21 January 2024 - Returns due for return period 1 September - 31 December 2023'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Watch our video' section featuring a video thumbnail titled 'COMMUNICATING POLICIANS SENIOR POLICY MAKERS' with a red play button icon. Below the video, text encourages users to watch the video to learn about the site. At the bottom right, a blue button reads 'Am I lobbying? Take the 3 Step Test'.

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Information video for Lobbyi...
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**Am I lobbying?
Take the 3 Step Test**

This does not only apply to elected reps but all “Designated Public Officials” (DPOs). [Details Here.](#)

Questions?

Part 4: Group Exercise

Group Exercise: Table Instructions

Each table will need:

- A nominated note taker
- At least one person with a laptop (ideally) for research
- A nominated spokesperson
- An identified issue to advocate around

Pick one issue a table member is working on, research what elected reps are saying on it (if anything) and set out how you would go about advocating for the issue to be addressed.

At 15:00 each table will report back on the issue and the steps they would take to advocate on the topic with examples of research, e.g. seeing if the matter was raised in the Oireachtas, what the party manifesto says etc.



ROCHTAIN

DEMOCRATISING ADVOCACY

sstgt

st.stephen's
green trust



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Understanding the Legislative Process and Effective Communications

February 2025

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