



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

ROGHCHOISTE SPEISIALTA AN TSEANAID  
AN RÍOCHT AONTAITHE DO THARRAINGT SIAR AS AN AONTAS EORPACH

Tuarascáil maidir le Gníomhaíochtaí in 2017 agus 2018

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HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

SEANAD SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED  
KINGDOM FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Report of Activities in 2017 and 2018

[32SSSCWUKEU001]



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## **Chairman's Foreword**

The political discourse on Brexit has progressed significantly in the two years since the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union was first established in February 2017.



In June 2017, the Committee published a detailed report on the potential implications of Brexit for Ireland. The Committee took a solutions-orientated approach, and its report outlined nearly 100 practical solutions to potential challenges. I am extremely proud of this work, and I believe that it served to inform the wider political consideration of Ireland's unique circumstances and areas where we need to do preparatory work.

Since the publication of its report, the Committee has been tracking the progress of the withdrawal negotiations and engaging with visiting delegations from across the EU, including members from Westminster. This Annual Report provides an overview of the work carried out during this time.

Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in uncertain times. The Draft Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community has not yet been ratified, and it is not yet clear whether it will be by the 29 March, or if a further elaboration will emerge. What is certain is that Brexit will impact Ireland greatly, whatever way it happens. I believe that this Committee will continue to play a vital role in informing Seanad Éireann's examination of the implications of Brexit in all scenarios.

I would like to thank all the Members of the Committee for their hard work, and the secretariat for its support. I would also like to thank all of the witnesses and delegations who have met with us over the last two years, and the officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for providing regular briefings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Neale Richmond". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Senator Neale Richmond

27 February 2019

## **1. Content and Format of Report**

While the terms of reference of the **Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union** (the Committee) do not require the Committee to report each year to the Committee on Procedure and Privileges on its work<sup>1</sup>, it remains good discipline for the Committee to share an update and summary on its work with those interested and highlight relevant activities of the Committee.

The Committee agreed at its meeting of 31 January 2019 to publish a summary report of its work, outlining its proceedings from the establishment of the first Seanad Special Committee on 23 February 2017, to the current period.

In order to be transparent, the Committee agreed that this report would include both formal and informal meetings, and would use the structure of an Annual Report, as usually agreed by Committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

## **2. Establishment and Functions**

### **2.1 4 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**

On **4 July 2018**, the **Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union** was established with the following objectives:

- “(i) track the implementation and approach taken in the negotiations in relation to the findings and recommendations of the First Committee in its Report 'Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions' (June 2017),
- (ii) provide input to consideration by Seanad Éireann of the withdrawal negotiations,
- (iii) engage with visiting parliamentary delegations, and
- (iv) engage with relevant institutions of the European Union and elected representatives in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.”

The Seanad Order outlined that “the Committee shall make a final report to Seanad Éireann not later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and thereupon stand dissolved.”

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<sup>1</sup> Under the terms of reference of the Committee, the powers defined in Seanad Standing Order 77 (3) do not apply

On 20 December 2018, a Seanad Order was made to amend the date on which the Committee would stand dissolved to **30 June 2019**.

## **2.2 23 February 2017 to 30 April 2018**

Prior to the establishment of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on the 4 July 2018, a previous Special Select Committee was established on the 23 February 2017 and stood dissolved on the 30 April 2018. The following is a short timeline of the initial Committee's establishment and functions:

- The Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU was established by Order of Seanad Éireann on **23 February 2017** to consider the implications for Ireland of the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from membership of the European Union, with particular reference to the following matters:
  - (a) the implications for the Irish economy of hard and soft exit scenarios;
  - (b) relations between the State and Northern Ireland;
  - (c) the citizenship rights of all the people of Northern Ireland;
  - (d) the Common Travel Area and the Border: movement of goods, services and people between the State and Northern Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain;
  - (e) agriculture and fisheries;
  - (f) transport, energy and communications; and
  - (g) welfare, health and education.
  
- On **13 April 2017**, the paragraph "1(h) Future of Europe" was inserted into the Committee's terms of reference as a matter to be considered by the Committee.
  
- Starting in **March 2017**, the Committee held a number of hearings on the potential implications of Brexit with a wide range of stakeholders. Based on the evidence presented to it during these engagements, the Committee

published a report on Brexit and its implications for Ireland in **June 2017**.

- On **20 July 2017**, the terms of reference of the Committee were amended to change the date on which it would stand dissolved to 31 December 2017, and included the following provisions;
  - “(8) When the Committee has made its final report to Seanad Éireann it may engage with elected representatives and related parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the findings and recommendations made in that report”.
- On **14 December 2017** the Seanad amended the date on which the Committee would stand dissolved to 30 April 2018, with the addition of the following paragraph:
  - “(11) Recognising that the withdrawal negotiations have progressed significantly since the Committee prepared its Report, the Committee shall consider whether there is sufficient added value in beginning a second phase of its work. The Committee shall prepare an assessment and report therein not later than the 30th April, 2018.”
- The Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union stood dissolved on the **30 April 2018**.

### **3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership**

The terms of reference of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union outline that:

“(2) the Committee shall consist of ten members, of whom one shall be Senator Neale Richmond who shall be Chairman, and of whom nine shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection as follows:

- Fine Gael group - 2 members
- Fianna Fail group - 2 members
- Independent group - 2 members
- Sinn Féin group - 1 member
- Civil Engagement group - 1 member
- Labour group - 1 member”

On **5 July 2018**, on the basis of a Report from the Committee on Selection, the Seanad agreed that the membership of the Committee (See Appendix 1)

#### **4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording**

While initial meetings of the Committee took place in the Seanad Chamber, more recent meetings took place in the Committee rooms in Leinster House 2000. Meetings were in public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee.

Committee proceedings were broadcast live within Leinster House and also made available to RTÉ, Virgin Media and TG4. Proceedings were also webcast making them available worldwide on the internet. Since September 2014 the proceedings of Committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are broadcast on the dedicated parliamentary channel Oireachtas TV which is available on these channels:

- Saorview 22, Sky 517, Virgin Media 207, eir Vision 504
- Vodafone Channels 217, 207 and 208

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Special Committee may be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

Copies of other reports published by the Committee are also available on the Oireachtas Committee website pages at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

#### **5. Number and Duration of Meetings**

The Seanad Special Committee held 19 meetings between February 2017 and February 2019- 11 meetings in public session and 8 meetings in private session. The Committee held meetings in private session in order to consider future work, and to engage with senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the state of play of the withdrawal negotiations.



## 5.1 Meetings held from July 2018 - February 2019

Date	
17 July 2018	Private Meeting
10 October 2018	Private Meeting
30 January 2019	Private Meeting
13 February 2019	Private Meeting

## 5.2 Meetings held from February 2017-April 2018

Date	
8 March 2017	Private Meeting
23 March 2017	Mr Noel Waters, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality
6 April 2017	<p><u>Session A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Bertie Ahern, Taoiseach 1997-2008</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B: Engagement on the Common Travel Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Michael Gaynor, President of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>
27 April 2017	<p><u>Session A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr John Bruton, Taoiseach 1994-1997</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Dermot Ahern, Minister for Foreign Affairs 2004-2008</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement on Citizenship Rights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Colin Harvey, Queen's University, Belfast</li> <li>• Mr Michael Farrell, solicitor and consultant on Human Rights Law</li> <li>• Mr Liam Herrick, Executive Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties</li> </ul>
4 May 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement with Central Bank of Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Gabriel Fagan, Chief Economist</li> <li>• Mr Mark Cassidy, Head of Financial Stability</li> <li>• Ms Mary-Elizabeth McMunn, Head of Risk Division</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Session B: Engagement with Enterprise Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Kevin Sherry, Executive Director</li> <li>• Ms Anne Lanigan, Brexit Manager</li> <li>• Mr Garrett Murray, Manager of Policy and Government Relations</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement with Industry Representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Arnold Dillon, Brexit Campaign Lead, Ibec</li> <li>• Mr Gerard Brady, Senior Economist, Ibec</li> <li>• Ms Patricia Callan, Director, Small Firms Association</li> <li>• Mr Ciarán Fitzgerald, Agri-Food Economist, Alcohol Beverage Federation of Ireland</li> <li>• Mr Kevin Thompson, CEO, Insurance Ireland</li> <li>• Mr John McGrane, Director General, British-Irish Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D: Engagement with the Bar of Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Paul McGarry SC, Chairman of the Bar of Ireland and Chairman of the Working Group on Brexit</li> <li>• Mr Patrick Leonard SC</li> </ul>
11 May 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement on Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Anne Graham, CEO National Transport Authority</li> <li>• Mr Sean Kennedy, Senior Vice-President, Airlines for America</li> <li>• Mr Barry Kenny, Manager Corporate Communications, Irish Rail</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Eamon Gilmore, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs 2011-2014</li> </ul>
18 May 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement with the Ulster Farmers' Union</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Barclay Bell, President</li> <li>• Mr Wesley Aston, Chief Executive</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B: Engagement with Teagasc</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Gerry Boyle, Director</li> <li>• Dr Kevin Hanrahan, Research Officer</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Session C</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Shane O'Dwyer, CEO, Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)</li> <li>• Ms Elizabeth Headon, Spokesperson, Alliance for Racing and Breeding</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr James Healy, President, Macra na Feirme</li> <li>• Mr Joe Healy, President, Irish Farmers' Association</li> </ul> <p><u>Session E</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Paul Kelly, Director, Food Drink Ireland</li> <li>• Mr Philip Carroll, Chairman, Meat Industry Ireland</li> </ul>
25 May 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement with Border Communities Against Brexit.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Damian McGenity</li> <li>• Mr John James O'Hara</li> <li>• Mr John Sheridan</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, Ulster University</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement with Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>• Mr John Greer, Head of Unit, Joint Secretariat</li> <li>• Mr John McCandles, Communications Manager</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Christopher McCrudden, Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law, Queen's University Belfast</li> </ul>
1 June 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement on Energy Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Rosemary Steen, Executive Director, External Affairs, Eirgrid</li> <li>• Mr Rodney Doyle, Executive Director, Market Operation, Eirgrid</li> <li>• Mr Stephen Wheeler, Managing Director, SSE Airtricity Ireland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Claire Madden, Head of Legal and Regulation, Gas Networks Ireland</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B: Engagement on the Future of the EU</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Noelle O’Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement on Relations between the State and Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Mary Murphy, Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration, lecturer in politics with the Department of Government, University College Cork</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D: Engagement on the Future of the EU</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Anthony Coughlan, Director of the National Platform EU Research and Information Centre, Associate Professor Emeritus in Social Policy, TCD</li> </ul>
7 June 2017	<p><u>Session A: Engagement on the Future of the EU</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament 2002-2004</li> </ul> <p><u>Session B: Engagement on Transport Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Kevin Toland, CEO, Dublin Airport Authority</li> <li>• Mr Aidan Flynn, General Manager, Freight Transport Association of Ireland</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement with All-Island Bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Sharon McMahon, Designated Officer, Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Mr Barry Fox, Director of Aquaculture and Shellfisheries, Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Dr Patrick Boylan, Senior Biologist, Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Mr Brian Kavanagh, CEO, Horse Racing Ireland</li> <li>• Mr John Comer, President and Mr John Enright, General Secretary, Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D: Engagement with Local Authorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor Local Authority Group</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council,</li> <li>○ Mr Stephen McCann, Chairman, Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council</li> <li>○ Mr Alex Baird, vice chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</li> <li>○ Mr Justin Warnock, Leitrim County Council</li> <li>○ Ms Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council,</li> <li>○ Mr Conor Keelan, Louth County Council</li> <li>○ Ms Sharon Keogan, Meath County Council</li> <li>○ Mr Dominic Molloy, Mid Ulster District Council</li> <li>○ Mr PJ O’Hanlon, Cathaoirleach, Monaghan County Council</li> <li>○ Ms Róisín Mulgrew, Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</li> <li>○ Mr Albert Doherty, Chairman of the North West Regional Development Group</li> <li>○ Mr Hubert Keeney, Chairperson of Sligo County Council</li> <li>● Dublin City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr Paul McAuliffe, Former Chair of the Economic Development, Enterprise &amp; International Relations Strategic Policy Committee</li> <li>○ Mr Greg Swift, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Session E: Engagement with All-Island Bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr Seán Ó Coinn, CEO, Foras na Gaeilge</li> <li>● Mr Shane Ó hEidhin, Director of Corporate Services, Foras na Gaeilge</li> </ul>
8 June 2017	<p><u>Session A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms Bríd O’Brien, Head of Policy and Media, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE)</li> <li>● Mr Liam Doran, General Secretary, Irish Nurses and</li> </ul>

	<p>Midwives Organisation (INMO)</p> <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland</li> <li>• Mr Tom Molloy, Director of Public Affairs and Communication for Trinity College Dublin (TCD)</li> </ul> <p><u>Session C: Engagement on Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr John D. Woods, Chair, British Medical Association Northern Ireland Council</li> <li>• Mr Paul Laffin, BMA EU Policy Manager, British Medical Association Northern Ireland Council</li> <li>• Dr Ann Hogan, President, Irish Medical Organisation (IMO)</li> <li>• Professor Trevor Duffy, Chair of the IMO International Affairs Committee</li> </ul> <p><u>Session D: Engagement with All-Island Bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Niall Gibbons, CEO, Tourism Ireland</li> <li>• Mr Shane Clark, Director of Corporate Service and Policy, Tourism Ireland</li> </ul> <p><u>Session E: Engagement on Social and Youth Affairs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr David Garrahy, Head of Policy and Advocacy, European Youth Forum</li> <li>• Ms Patricia King, General Secretary and Mr Peter Rigney, Industrial Officer, Congress (ICTU)</li> <li>• Ms Anne McHugh, Chief Executive, Donegal ETB and Mr Michael Moriarty, General Secretary, Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)</li> </ul>
21 June 2017	Private Meeting
22 June 2017	Lord Alderdice, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly 1998-2004
28 June 2017	Private Meeting
18 April 2018	Private Meeting

### **5.3 Informal Meetings 2017-2018**

In light of the state of play of the UK withdrawal negotiations, an important part of the work of the Committee has involved engagement with visiting parliamentary delegations. As a result, the Committee has held a number of meetings with visiting parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom, EU Member States and the European Parliament. In addition, the Committee has had a number of briefings with senior civil servants. Informal engagements were often held jointly with other relevant Committees.

#### **2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Delegation</b>
23 January 2018	Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
25 January 2018	Delegation of senior Liberal Democrat Spokespersons from the House of Lords and the European Parliament
25 January 2018	House of Commons' Committee on Exiting the European Union
30 January 2018	House of Lords' European Union Affairs Committee
8 February 2018	House of Commons' Welsh Affairs Committee
16 May 2018	Czech Parliamentary delegation
21 June 2018	Members of the German Bundestag Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy (meeting held by the Joint Committee on Business, Enterprise and Innovation)
2 July 2018	Joint delegation from the French National Assembly and the French Senate
11 September 2018	Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union
27 November 2018	Polish-Irish Parliamentary Friendship Group (meeting held jointly with representatives of the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence and the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs)
28 November 2018	Parliamentary Delegation from the French National Assembly

## 2017

<b>Date</b>	<b>Delegation</b>
23 March 2017	Members of the Welsh National Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steffan Lewis AM, Plaid Cymru Shadow Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs, and;</li><li>• Adam Price AM, Plaid Cymru Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Finance</li></ul>
16 May 2017	Information Session on Cross-Border Cooperation with the Centre for Cross Border Studies (hosted by the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs)
4 July 2017	Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Relations, Fiona Hyslop MSP
13 July 2017	HE Mr Robin Barnett, British Ambassador to Ireland
24 August 2017	Delegation representing the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group in the European Parliament
11 September 2017	Danish Parliament's Brexit Expert Monitoring Group, led by Chairman of EU Affairs Committee, Mr Erik Christensen
14 September 2017	Member of the House of Lords, the Rt Hon the Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top
8 November 2017	Hungarian Parliamentary delegation, including the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, Professor László Kövér
15 November 2017	President of the Austrian Federal Council, Mr Edgar Mayer, and Members of the Austrian Federal Council
16 November 2017	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs



## Informal meetings held with visiting delegations in 2018



Delegation from the **House of Commons' Committee on Exiting the European Union**  
January 2018.



Delegation from the **House of Lords' European Union Affairs Committee**  
January 2018.



Delegation from the **Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee**. The delegation was led by the Convenor, **Joan McAlpine** MSP.  
January 2018



Delegation of senior **Liberal Democrat Spokespersons** from the House of Lords and the European Parliament. January 2018.



*Delegation from the House of Commons' Welsh Affairs Committee* February 2018.



Joint delegation from **the French National Assembly and the French Senate** with members of the Seanad Special Committee and the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, July 2018



**Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union with Joan Burton TD and members of the Seanad Special Committee and the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, September 2018.



**Polish-Irish Parliamentary Friendship group** with Senator Gerard Craughwell, Bernard Durkan TD, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD and Maureen O'Sullivan TD, November 2018

**Informal meetings held with visiting delegations in 2018**



**Steffan Lewis AM**  
and **Adam Price AM**  
of the Welsh National  
Assembly  
March 2017



**HE Mr Robin  
Barnett**, British  
Ambassador to  
Ireland with  
Senator Neale  
Richmond  
July 2017



Scottish Cabinet Secretary **Fiona Hyslop** with Members  
of the Seanad Special Committee and the Joint  
Committee on European Union Affairs, July 2017



Delegation representing the **European  
Conservatives and Reformists group in the  
European Parliament** with members of the  
Seanad Special Committee and the Joint  
Committee on European Union Affairs  
August 2017



**Danish Parliamentary delegation** with  
members of the Seanad Special Committee and  
the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs,  
September 2017



**Rt Hon the Baroness Armstrong of  
Hill Top** with members of the Seanad  
Special Committee and the Joint  
Committee on European Union Affairs,  
14 September 2017



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia **Mr  
Edgars Rinkēvičs** with members of the  
Seanad Special Committee and the Joint  
Committee on European Union Affairs, 16  
November 2017

## **5.4 Activities of the Chairman 2017-2018**

The Chairman has been very active in engaging with national and international media on the issues surrounding Brexit. He has participated in debates on Bloomberg and the BBC, and has been quoted in outlets such as the Irish Times and the Guardian. Senator Richmond is a regular participant in the Brexit Stakeholder Forum, which was established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in September 2017 to facilitate focused engagement with State Agencies, business and sectoral representative groups, political spokespersons and relevant experts. He has also contributed to a number of national debates and fora, including the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit.

## **6. Committee Reports Agreed**

During the period under report, the Seanad Special Committee agreed the publication of one report:

- (i) 'Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions', June 2017

## **7. Travel**

During the period under report, the Seanad Special Committee undertook one travel episode.

Purpose of travel:	Meetings with relevant Committees in the House of Commons and House of Lords to discuss the UK's withdrawal from the EU
Destination:	London
Date:	26 – 27 March 2018
Member travelling:	Senator Neale Richmond (Chairman), Senator Mark Daly, Senator Frances Black, Senator Joe O'Reilly
Accompanying Officials:	Heidi Loughheed (Clerk to the Committee)

## 7.1 London, 26-27 March 2018

A joint delegation of Members of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of UK from the European Union and Members of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs visited London in March 2018. The delegation held engagements with representatives of a number of House of Commons and House of Lords Committees to discuss the potential implications of Brexit, namely:

- **House of Commons' European Scrutiny Committee**, chaired by Sir William Cash;
- **House of Commons' Welsh Affairs Committee**, chaired by Mr David Davies MP;
- **House of Commons' Northern Ireland Affairs Committee**, chaired by Dr Andrew Murrison MP;
- **House of Lords' Select Committee on EU Affairs**, chaired by Lord Boswell

On the same visit, the delegation met Ministers of the British Government: the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, the **Rt Hon David Lidington MP** and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, **Suella Fernandes MP** (now Braverman).

Meetings were also held with **Conor McGinn MP**, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ireland and the Irish in Britain, Rt Hon **Keir Starmer MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for exiting the EU, and **Stephen Gethins MP**, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Institutional Affairs and Europe).

Finally, the delegation was delighted to meet with the Irish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, **Ambassador Adrian O'Neill**, and a number of his colleagues.



Meeting with **House of Commons' Welsh Affairs Committee.**



Meeting with **House of Commons' Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.**



Meeting with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, the **Rt Hon David Lidington MP.**



Meeting with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, **Suella Fernandes MP** (now Braverman).



Meeting with **Conor McGinn MP**, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ireland and the Irish in Britain.



Meeting with **Stephen Gethins MP**, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Institutional Affairs and Europe).



Meeting with the Irish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, **Ambassador Adrian O'Neill**



Rt Hon **Keir Starmer MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for exiting the EU.

## APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

### 1.1 4 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

#### **Seanad Éireann on 20 December 2018 Ordered:**

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 4 Iúil 2018, ón Seanad a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí ‘31 Nollaig 2018’ a scriosadh i mír (7) agus ‘30 Meitheamh 2019’ a chur ina ionad.

That the Order of the Seanad of 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the deletion, in paragraph (7), of ‘31st December 2018’ and the substitution therefor of ‘30<sup>th</sup> June 2019’.”

#### **Seanad Éireann on 4 July 2018 Ordered:**

“D’ainneoin aon ní sna Buan-Orduithe—

That, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders —

(1) go ndéanann Seanad Éireann—

(1) Seanad Éireann —

(a) á thabhairt dá aire, i dtaobh na gcaibidlí maidir leis an Ríocht Aontaithe do tharraingt siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a thábhachtaí atá siad, ar bhonn leanúnach, d’Éirinn,

(a) noting the continued importance for Ireland of the negotiations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union,

(b) á thabhairt dá aire tionchar ionchasach leanúnach na gcaibidlí ar go leor réimsí den bheartas poiblí, agus

(b) noting the continued potential impact of the negotiations on many areas of public policy, and

(c) ag féachaint don obair atá déanta ag Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Chéad Choiste’) agus dá Thuarascáil dar teideal ‘Brexit: Impleachtaí agus Réitigh Ionchasacha’ inar aithníodh cuid mhór de na dúshláin shuntasacha agus na réitigh ionchasacha chun dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin sin,

(c) having regard to the work of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the First Committee’) and its Report entitled ‘Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions’ which identified many of the significant challenges and potential solutions to address those challenges,

Roghchoiste Speisialta Seanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Coiste’) a cheapadh chun na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh —

appoints a Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the Committee’) to —

(i) an cur chuige a ghlacfar sna caibidlí i ndáil le fionnachtana agus moltaí an Chéad Choiste ina Thuarascáil ‘Brexit:

(i) track the implementation and approach taken in the negotiations in relation to the findings and recommendations of the First Committee in its Report

Impleachtaí agus Réitigh Ionchasacha’ (Meitheamh 2017), agus an chaoi a gcuirfear na moltaí agus na fionnachtana sin i ngníomh, a leanúint,

- (ii) ionchur a thabhairt i ndáil le Seanad Éireann do bhreithniú na gcaibidlí maidir leis an tarraingt siar,
  - (iii) dul i mbun plé le toscaireachtaí parlaiminteacha a thiocfaidh ar cuairt, agus
  - (iv) dul i mbun plé le hinstiúidí iomchuí de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh agus le hionadaithe tofa sa Bhreatain Mhór agus i dTuaisceart Éireann.
- (2) Deichniúr comhaltaí a bheidh ar an gCoiste, ar comhalta amháin díobh an Seanadóir Neale Richmond a bheidh ina Chathaoirleach, agus a mbeidh naonúr díobh ainmnithe ag an gCoiste Roghnóireachta mar a leanas:
- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Grúpa Fhine Gael            | 2 chomhalta, |
| Grúpa Fhianna Fáil          | 2 chomhalta, |
| An Grúpa Neamhspleách       | 2 chomhalta, |
| Grúpa Shinn Féin            | 1 chomhalta, |
| An Grúpa Comhphárteachas    |              |
| Phoiblí                     | 1 chomhalta, |
| Grúpa Teicniúil an tSeanaid | 1 chomhalta  |
- (3) Cúigear is córam don Choiste.
  - (4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 72, seachas míreanna (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11) agus (12) de.
  - (5) Ní bheidh feidhm ag míreanna (2) go (6), go huile, de Bhuan-Ordú 77 maidir leis an gCoiste.
  - (6) Ní bheidh feidhm ag mír (2) de Bhuan-Ordú 84 maidir leis an gCoiste.
  - (7) Déanfaidh an Coiste tuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2018, agus air sin beidh an Coiste arna dhíscaoileadh.

‘Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions’ (June 2017),

- (ii) provide input to consideration by Seanad Éireann of the withdrawal negotiations,
  - (iii) engage with visiting parliamentary delegations, and
  - (iv) engage with relevant institutions of the European Union and elected representatives in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- (2) The Committee shall consist of ten members of whom one shall be Senator Neale Richmond who shall be Chairman and of whom nine shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection as follows:
- |                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Fine Gael group        | 2 members, |
| Fianna Fáil group      | 2 members, |
| Independent group      | 2 members, |
| Sinn Féin group        | 1 member,  |
| Civil Engagement group | 1 member,  |
| Seanad Technical group | 1 member.  |
- (3) The quorum of the Committee shall be five.
  - (4) The Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 72, other than paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11) and (12) thereof.
  - (5) Paragraphs (2) to (6) inclusive of Standing Order 77 shall not apply to the Committee.
  - (6) Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 84 shall not apply to the Committee.
  - (7) The Committee shall make a final report to Seanad Éireann not later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and thereupon stand dissolved.”



## 1.2 23 February 2017 to 30 April 2018

### **Seanad Éireann on 14 December 2017 Ordered:**

“Go ndéanfar, de réir an mholta ón gCoiste um Nós Imeachta ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, arna leasú le hOrdú an 13 Aibreán 2017 agus le hOrdú an 20 Iúil 2017, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú mar a leanas:

(i) trí ‘31 Nollaig 2017’ a scriosadh i mír 10 agus ‘30 Aibreán 2018’ a chur ina ionad;

(ii) tríd an mír nua seo a leanas a chur leis:

“(11) Á aithint dó go bhfuil dul chun cinn suntasach déanta sna comhchaibidlí maidir leis an tarraingt siar, ón uair a d’ullmhaigh an Coiste a Thuarascáil, déanfaidh an Coiste an cheist a bhreithniú i dtaobh an leor an fiúntas breise chun gurbh fhiú dó cromadh ar an dara céim dá chuid oibre. Ullmhóidh an Coiste measúnú ar an gceist agus tabharfaidh sé tuairisc air tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Aibreán 2018.

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges, that the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, as amended by the Orders of 13th April, 2017 and 20th July, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended as follows:

(i) by the deletion in paragraph 10 of ‘31st December, 2017’ and the substitution thereof of ‘30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018’;

(ii) By the addition of the following new paragraph:

“(11) Recognising that the withdrawal negotiations have progressed significantly since the Committee prepared its Report, the Committee shall consider whether there is sufficient added value in beginning a second phase of its work. The Committee shall prepare an assessment and report thereon not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.”

### **Seanad Éireann on 20 July 2017 Ordered:**

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, arna leasú le hOrdú an 13 Aibreán 2017, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí na míreanna seo a leanas a chur leis i ndiaidh mhír (7):

‘(8) Nuair a bheidh an Coiste tar éis a thuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann, féadfaidh sé dul i mbun plé le hionadaithe tofa agus páirtithe gaolmhara sa Bhreatain Mhór agus i dTuaisceart Éireann maidir leis na fionnachtana agus na moltaí a bheidh déanta sa tuarascáil sin.

(9) Chun críche mhír (8) agus d’ainneoin mhír

That the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, as amended by the Order of 13th April, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the addition of the following paragraphs after paragraph (7):

‘(8) When the Committee has made its final report to Seanad Éireann it may engage with elected representatives and related parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the findings and recommendations made in that report.

(9) For the purpose of paragraph (8) and

(4), leanfaidh an Coiste de na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i míreanna (1), (2) agus (9) de Bhuan-Ordú 71, agus na cumhachtaí sin amháin, a bheith aige.

(10) Déanfaidh an Coiste tuairisc a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2017, maidir le haon ghníomhaíocht arna gabháil de lámh de réir mhír (8) agus air sin beidh sé arna dhíscaoileadh.’

notwithstanding paragraph (4) the Committee shall continue to have only the powers defined in paragraphs (1), (2) and (9) of Standing Order 71.

(10) The Committee shall report to Seanad Éireann not later than 31st December, 2017, in respect of any activity undertaken in accordance with paragraph (8) and shall thereupon stand dissolved.’.”

### **Seanad Éireann on 13 April 2017 Ordered:**

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí ‘1(h) Todhchaí na hEorpa,’ a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír 1(g).

That the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the insertion after paragraph 1(g) of ‘1(h) Future of Europe,’.”

### **Seanad Éireann on 23 February 2017 Ordered:**

“D’ainneoin aon ní sna Buan Orduithe—

That, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders—

(1) mar aitheantas ar na hiarmhairtí ionchasacha a thiocfaidh mar thoradh ar bhreith na Ríochta Aontaithe tarraingt siar as comhaltas an Aontais Eorpaigh, go ndéantar Coiste Speisialta, ar a dtabharfar Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Coiste’) a cheapadh chun impleachtaí na tarraingthe siar sin i leith na hÉireann a bhreithniú, ag tagairt go háirithe do na nithe seo a leanas:

(1) In recognition of the potential consequences of the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from membership of the European Union, a special committee, which shall be called the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the Committee’), be appointed to consider the implications for Ireland of such withdrawal, with particular reference to the following matters:

(a) na himpleachtaí do gheilleagar na hÉireann ag cásanna imeachta chrua nó imeachta bhoig,

(a) the implications for the Irish economy of hard and soft exit scenarios,

(b) an caidreamh idir an Stát agus Tuaisceart Éireann,

(b) relations between the State and Northern Ireland,

(c) cearta saoránachta phobal uile Thuaisceart Éireann,

(c) the citizenship rights of all the people of Northern Ireland,

(d) an Comhlimistéar Taistil

(d) the Common Travel Area and the

agus an Teorainn: gluaiseacht earraí, seirbhísí agus daoine idir an Stát agus Tuaisceart Éireann agus idir Éire agus An Bhreatain Mhór,

Border: movement of goods, services and people between the State and Northern Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain,

(e) talmhaíocht agus iascach,

(e) agriculture and fisheries,

(f) iompar, fuinneamh agus cumarsáid,

(f) transport, energy and communications,

(g) leas, sláinte agus oideachas,

(g) welfare, health and education,

agus do cibé nithe gaolmhara eile a chinnfidh an Comhchoiste.

and to such other related matters as the Committee may determine.

(2) Deichniúr comhalta a bheidh ar an gCoiste, ar comhalta amháin díobh An Seanadóir Neale Richmond a bheidh ina Chathaoirleach/ina Cathaoirleach agus a mbeidh naonúr díobh ainmnithe ag an gCoiste Roghnóireachta mar a leanas:

(2) The Committee shall consist of ten members, of whom one shall be Senator Neale Richmond who shall be Chairman, and of whom nine shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection as follows:

Grúpa Fhine Gael	2 chomhalta,
Grúpa Fhianna Fáil	2 chomhalta,
An Grúpa Neamhspleách	2 chomhalta,
Grúpa Shinn Féin	1 chomhalta,
An Grúpa Comhpháirteachais	
Phoiblí	1 chomhalta,
Grúpa Pháirtí an Lucht	
Oibre	1 chomhalta.

Fine Gael group	2 members,
Fianna Fáil group	2 members,
Independent group	2 members,
Sinn Féin group	1 member,
Civil Engagement group	1 member,
Labour group	1 member.

(3) Cúig is córam don Choiste.

(3) The quorum of the Committee shall be five.

(4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71 seachas míreanna (2A), (3), (4), (4A), (4B), (6), (6A), (6B) agus (6C) de.

(4) The Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 71, other than paragraphs (2A), (3), (4), (4A), (4B), (6), (6A), (6B) and (6C) thereof.

(5) Ní bheidh feidhm ag míreanna (2) go (6), go huile, de Bhuan-Ordú 76 maidir leis an gCoiste.

(5) Paragraphs (2) to (6) inclusive of Standing Order 76 shall not apply to the Committee.

(6) Ní bheidh feidhm ag mír (2) de Bhuan-Ordú 83 maidir leis an gCoiste.

(6) Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 83 shall not apply to the Committee.

(7) Déanfaidh an Coiste tuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann nach déanaí ná 30 Meitheamh, 2017.

(7) The Committee shall make a final report to Seanad Éireann not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.”

## APPENDIX 2: Membership of the Committee

Senator Frances Black	Civil Engagement Group
Senator Gerard P. Craughwell	Independent
Senator Paul Daly	Fianna Fáil
Senator Ian Marshall	Independent <sup>2</sup>
Senator Michelle Mulherin	Fine Gael
Senator Ged Nash	Labour
Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile	Sinn Féin
Senator Joe O'Reilly	Fine Gael
Senator Ned O'Sullivan	Fianna Fáil <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Senator Michael McDowell served on the Committee until 30 April 2018, when he was replaced by Senator Marshall

<sup>3</sup> Senator Mark Daly served on the Committee until 18 December 2018, when he was replaced by Senator O'Sullivan