DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN COMHCHOISTE UM DHLÍ AGUS CEART, GNÓTHAÍ BAILE AGUS IMIRCE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, HOME AFFAIRS AND MIGRATION

Dé Máirt, 27 Bealtaine 2025

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Tháinig an Comhchoiste le chéile ag 6.30 p.m.

The Joint Committee met at 6.30 p.m.

Comhaltaí a bhí i láthair / Members present:

Teachtaí Dála / Deputies	Seanadóirí / Senators
Tom Brabazon,	Cathal Byrne,*
Paula Butterly,	Robbie Gallagher,
Michael Cahill,	Anne Rabbitte.
Catherine Callaghan,	
Alan Kelly,	
Pádraig O'Sullivan,	
Mark Ward.	

* In éagmais / In the absence of Senator Garret Kelleher.

Teachta / Deputy Matt Carthy sa Chathaoir / in the Chair.

Business of Joint Committee

An Cathaoirleach: I apologise for the slight delay. I was attending the Dáil debate that included the apology to Shane O'Farrell's family. I extend the committee's welcome for that long-overdue apology.

Apologies have been received from Senators Lynn Ruane and Garret Kelleher. Senator Cathal Byrne is attending in substitution for Senator Kelleher. He is very welcome.

I remind members to turn off their mobile phones or switch them to flight mode.

Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

An Cathaoirleach: We have a procedural item to deal with - the election of the Leas-Chathaoirleach. I remind members that the committee may choose to elect a Leas-Chathaoirleach who can perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Cathaoirleach in his or her absence. It was agreed at our previous meeting that nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration would be sent by email to the clerk by 3 p.m. on Friday, 23 May. The clerk has advised me that there was one nomination proposing Deputy Paula Butterly as Leas-Chathaoirleach. In the absence of any other nomination, is it agreed that Deputy Butterly is elected? Agreed. Déanaim comhghairdeas leis an Teachta Butterly. I invite her to make some remarks, if she wishes.

Deputy Paula Butterly: I thank the Chair. I had not anticipated saying anything.

An Cathaoirleach: I put you on the spot.

Deputy Paula Butterly: I am absolutely honoured and thankful to everybody to be on this committee. It is one of the most important committees within Leinster House and the Oireachtas. I look forward to working collaboratively with everybody and bringing forward all the different legislation over the next term, which will be vital.

An Cathaoirleach: It is a significant achievement for a first-time TD to be elected Leas-Chathaoirleach of a very important committee, as she said, which I also believe very strongly, with a lot of work. I will do everything in my power to ensure that she is kept incredibly busy. Would any other members like to make a comment?

Deputy Catherine Callaghan: I congratulate my colleague, Deputy Paula Butterly. She is a person of outstanding character and has a very strong work ethic. She will work very well in collaboration with the secretariat and the Cathaoirleach freisin. I wish her all the best of luck.

Deputy Tom Brabazon: I echo Deputy Butterly's comment about the importance of the committee. I also wish her well. I look forward to working with everybody on the committee.

Senator Cathal Byrne: On behalf of Senator Kelleher, who I am filling in for, I congratulate Deputy Butterly. I have known her since she first became a member of Louth County Council. With her professional background as a barrister, she will bring a lot of expertise to the role of Leas-Chathaoirleach. She is somebody who will work in collaboration with all the members and the Chair.

Senator Anne Rabbitte: I wish Deputy Butterly the very best of luck in the role. I look forward to working with her and the Cathaoirleach for the term of this Dáil. I agree with her that this is a very important committee. I do not come from a legal background or anything like that, but I come from that social justice piece, which also has a role to play at this committee. I wish the Deputy all the very best and look forward to working with her.

An Cathaoirleach: As no other members are indicating, we will go into private session to deal with some housekeeping matters.

The joint committee went into private session at 6.46 p.m. and adjourned at 7.40 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.