

Reference is made to PAC meetings held on 9th and 16th April 2024, in which as per the relative item on the agenda, the Government and Opposition members informally came to an agreement on the below points.

As a proviso, the below are not to be considered as amendments to the PAC Guidelines nor are they binding, but they are to serve as mere respectful understanding between the Government and Opposition members. To date, these are the agreed informal terms:

1. The Government and Opposition members have agreed that the pending three open investigations on Electrogas, Poverty and Obesity shall be considered as concluded.
2. The Government and Opposition members will then take turns in bringing up their respective chosen NAO report, and only one investigation will be open before the PAC. The members have agreed that the Government will start off with choosing the first topic, after which it will then be the Opposition's turn to bring forward any other report.
3. Before a new NAO report is brought up for investigation by the PAC, an informal pre-meeting shall be held between Government and Opposition members in which the members shall come to an agreement on the allocation of the number of sittings for witnesses to be brought forward by the Government and by the Opposition. The pre meeting shall also serve as an opportunity for each side to present a list of witnesses from both sides, if need be.
4. Both Government and Opposition members may bring forward a list of witnesses in any investigation, even if the NAO report being discussed was not their chosen topic. The list of witnesses shall be considered as final and no new names may be added, except in instances where a new relevant name is mentioned by a witness whilst giving evidence or in his/her written statement.
5. PAC meetings shall strictly start at 2pm, with a 10 minute window for quorum. Should quorum be reached before the lapse of 10 minutes, the meeting shall start without delay.
6. A witness may be subpoenaed before the PAC for a maximum of one sitting - also meaning that more than one witness may be brought forward in the same sitting.
7. However, should a witness intentionally prolong the sitting and not cooperate with the Committee's instructions, and/or willingly state that he/she is available to come before the PAC in a following meeting to give additional evidence or information, the Committee members may accede to such statement and set another meeting for this purpose. This point is subject to an exception as stated in point 9 below.
8. The witness shall have a strict 15 minute window within which he/she may give an oral presentation at the start of the meeting. This presentation shall have no interruptions or questions from the PAC members.
9. In the subpoena, there shall be included that the witness may opt to give a 15 minute oral presentation, and that he/she shall have the opportunity to present a written statement up until 24 hours before the sitting. It is being agreed, that as by way of exception to point 7, should the witness avail himself/herself of the right to present a written statement - but fails to do so within the above-stated deadline - the Committee shall nonetheless accept such statement, and if any member so requests, shall bring forward the said witness for questioning in another sitting, which questions shall be limited to issues relevant with the written statement.

10. The Government and Opposition members have agreed that each chosen NAO report shall have a maximum of 15 sittings, which shall be allocated between the Government and Opposition to bring forward witnesses from their respective lists. The allocation of the said 15 sittings shall be decided upon in the informal pre-meeting as stated in point 3. Importantly, the presentation given by the Office of the NAO at the start of a new investigation to be excluded from the 15-sitting imposed limit.

11. With reference to the pre-meetings in point 3, the Government members shall appoint a person to serve as Deputy Chairman, whose role shall be to coordinate on behalf of the Government members with the PAC Chairperson.

12. The Committee may agree to add more sittings or call up additional witnesses, if so agreed.