

18 September 2013

Mr. David Waddell
Commission Secretary
Referendum Commission
18 Lr. Leeson Street
Dublin 2

Dear Mr. Waddell,

I refer to your letter of 11 September last stating that the Referendum Commission had received a number of requests for details of the costs of running Seanad Éireann and for details of the savings which might accrue in the medium to long term should the proposal to abolish the Seanad be accepted by the people on 4 October 2013.

While the Houses of the Oireachtas Service has provided information on the costs of running Seanad Éireann in response to a number of Parliamentary Questions and media queries it has always stated in those responses that it is not possible to estimate the amount of net actual savings that would accrue if Séanad Éireann was abolished and because of this the Service has never published any information on savings on its website.

I have attached below the information we have released in response to the queries we have received and strongly advise that if you intend publishing these on your website that you include a strong caveat stating that the figure provided are **costs** and may not translate fully into savings should Seanad Éireann be abolished.

the total annual running costs of Seanad Éireann have been estimated in the region of €20m per annum. This is based on our 2012 outturn and includes all direct and apportioned indirect costs.

The following are the direct costs of running the Seanad:

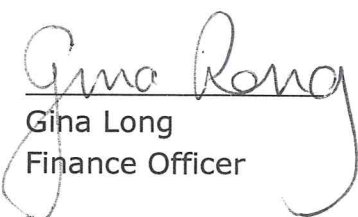
Seanad Members' salary costs -	€4.2m
Seanad Members' expenses costs -	€2.5m
Seanad Members' staff costs -	€2.1m
Total:	€8.8m

The following is an estimated breakdown of the indirect apportioned pay and non-pay costs of the supporting sections:

ICT -	€1.9m
Superintendent -	€1.6m
Procedural Sections-	€2.8m
Other support sections-	€3m
Total	€9.3m

There is also an annual cost of approximately €2m in pension relating to the Seanad.

Yours sincerely


Gina Long
Finance Officer