



**Tribunal of Inquiry into Issues Relating to the Processes within the
Defence Forces for Dealing with Complaints of Abuse and the Culture
Surrounding the Making of such Complaints
(‘the Tribunal’)**

Established under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts 1921 to 2011 by statutory instrument signed by the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence on the 20th day of June 2024.

**NOTICE IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR EVIDENCE TO BE
HEARD OTHERWISE THAN FULLY IN PUBLIC**

The Tribunal has received applications, in writing, from a number of witnesses who seek to give their evidence otherwise than fully in public. Allegations of rape and/or sexual assault during their service with the Defence Forces form part of the evidence in question.

The Tribunal may refuse to allow the public or any portion of the public to be present at any of the proceedings if it is of the opinion that it is in the public interest expedient to do so for reasons connected with the subject matter of the inquiry or the nature of the evidence to be given. (Section 2 (a) of the Tribunal of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921 (as amended)).

The Tribunal intends to make Orders granting the aforesaid applications by directing that:

- (i) the witness will be given a pseudonym by which he or she will be referred and/or addressed at all times and by all parties throughout the course of the Tribunal’s public hearings and, if it should arise, in the Tribunal’s Report;

- (ii) the witness will be permitted, during the public hearings, to give his or her evidence from behind a screen which will shield the witness from the view of the public who are present in the Hearing Room but not from the Sole Member, the Tribunal's legal team or members of a legal team representing a party who applies to put questions to the witness; and
- (iii) in respect of the witness's evidence, all members of the media and any other person or persons are strictly prohibited from reporting and/or publishing and/or broadcasting in any way or through any medium the identity of the witness and/or any other information that may disclose, directly or indirectly, the identity of such a witness.

Any media organisation and any *bone fide* member of the media who wishes to be heard in respect of such applications will be afforded an opportunity, at the conclusion of the first day of public hearings, that is, on **Wednesday, 3 June 2026**, to make a submission to the Tribunal, prior to its determination of the pending applications.

Any such media organisation and/or member of the media should notify the Solicitor to the Tribunal, in writing, by 5pm on 2 June 2026 of its intention to make such a submission.

After consideration of any submissions received, the Tribunal will determine the aforesaid applications.