TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO THE COMPLAINTS PROCESS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES AND THE CULTURE SURROUNDING THE MAKING OF COMPLAINTS

FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DAIL EIREANN AND SEANAD EIREANN

ESTABLISHED BY INSTRUMENT MADE BY THE TAINAISTE AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE UNDER THE TRIBUNALS OF INQUIRY (EVIDENCE) ACTS 1921 TO 2011, ON 20 JUNE 2024

Bínse Óglaigh na hÉireann
26 NOV 2026
Defence Forces Tribunal

ORDER RESTRICTING THE REPORTING OF INFORMATION LIKELY TO LEAD TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF A PERSON AGAINST WHOM AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE HAS BEEN MADE

UPON ESTABLISHMENT by Instrument dated the 20th day of June 2024 (S.1. 304 of 2024) of a Tribunal of Inquiry into Issues Relating to the Complaints Processes in the Defence Forces in respect of Complaints of Abuse and Complaints of Hazardous Chemicals and to the Culture Surrounding the Making of Complaints of Abuse (hereinafter **'the Tribunal'**) charged with investigating the matters provided for in its Terms of Reference from the 1st day of January 1983 to the 20th day of June 2024; and

WHEREAS the Oireachtas has determined that the matters which the Tribunal has been charged with investigating are definite matters of urgent public importance; and

WHEREAS the Tribunal has received information from several witnesses whose evidence to the Tribunal includes allegations of Abuse (as defined in the Tribunal's Terms of Reference) allegedly suffered whilst serving as members of the Defence Forces; and

WHEREAS the Tribunal considers that the evidence of such witnesses as are called to testify before the Tribunal is necessary for and relevant to its consideration of the matters that are set out in the Tribunal's Terms of Reference (i) to (v) inclusive; and

NOTHING THAT THE TRIBUNAL in the context of its investigation into Terms of Reference(i) to (v), may permit evidence of Abuse and the consequences of Abuse to be led, but is precluded from investigating into, or making findings of fact upon any matters that would, if established in a court of law, be criminal in nature; and

FURTHER NOTING that Tribunal's obligation to ensure that constitutional justice and fair procedures are observed in all proceedings before the Tribunal; and

BEARING IN MIND that section 1(1) of the Tribunal's of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts 1921-2011 vests in the Tribunal all powers, rights and privileges as are vested in the High Court in respect of certain matters including the examination of witnesses; and

RECALLING that pursuant to Section 4 of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) (Amendment) Act 1979 the Tribunal may make such orders as it considers necessary for the purposes of its functions; and

THE TRIBUNAL BEING SATISFIED that it is both necessary and proportionate for it to make this Order;

HEREBY ORDERS that no report of the proceedings of the Tribunal held on the 26th day of November 2026 containing material or information likely to lead members of the public to identify a person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse, or likely to lead members of the public to identify a person as a person against whom a complaint of abuse has been made, shall be published in a written publication available to the public or be broadcast in any format by members of the media or media organisations or by any other person or persons.

This Order is made without prejudice to the powers conferred upon the Tribunal by section 2(2)(a) of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts 1921-2011.

Signed: L. Heavey

Lynn Heavey
Tribunal Registrar

Date of Perfection: 26th day of November 2026