

Mr. Ivor Callely T.D.

MINISTER FOR SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Mr. Ivor Callely T.D. was appointed the Minister of State in the Department of Health and Children with responsibility for Services for Older People after the 2002 General Election. He was first elected to the Dáil in 1989 and has held his seat in every subsequent Dáil Election. His political career stretches back to 1985 when he was first elected to Dublin Corporation. Membership of the Dáil followed in 1989.

In 1991 he became the youngest ever elected Chairman of the Eastern Health Board, Chairman of the Child Care Advisory Committee and in 2000 the first Chairman of the Eastern Regional Health Authority. From 1993 / 1995 he was Fianna Fáil Assistant Whip; 1995 / 1997 saw him as Policy Coordinator; a position which gave him a deep insight into fundamental Fianna Fáil Party issues. In 1997 he was appointed Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Enterprise and Small Business.

The policy of the Department of Health and Children is to maintain older people in dignity and independence at home in accordance with their wishes, and to provide a high quality of hospital and residential care for older people when they can no longer be maintained in dignity and independence at home.

The Minister views his responsibility in the broadest possible sense, beyond matters relating specifically to health, in that the services provided, and work done, by many agencies and Government Departments impact on the lives of older people in a host of different ways.

The Minister has, since his appointment, set up and chairs an inter-departmental group on the needs of older people, which provides the opportunity for a positive influence to be brought on all of the various services provided to older people by all the Departments involved in the deployment of services to older people.

"My priority as Minister for Services for Older People is to ensure that the issues facing older people are addressed with a view to providing improved services befitting the older population whose contribution to society is fully acknowledged" in a speech to the Annual Delegate Conference of Active Pensioners Association



Contact Information

Department Office: Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6711175 (01)6353027 Fax: (01)6714904
email: ivor_callely@health.irlgov.ie
www.doh.ie



A welcome message from Minister Ivor Callely T.D.

A Chara,

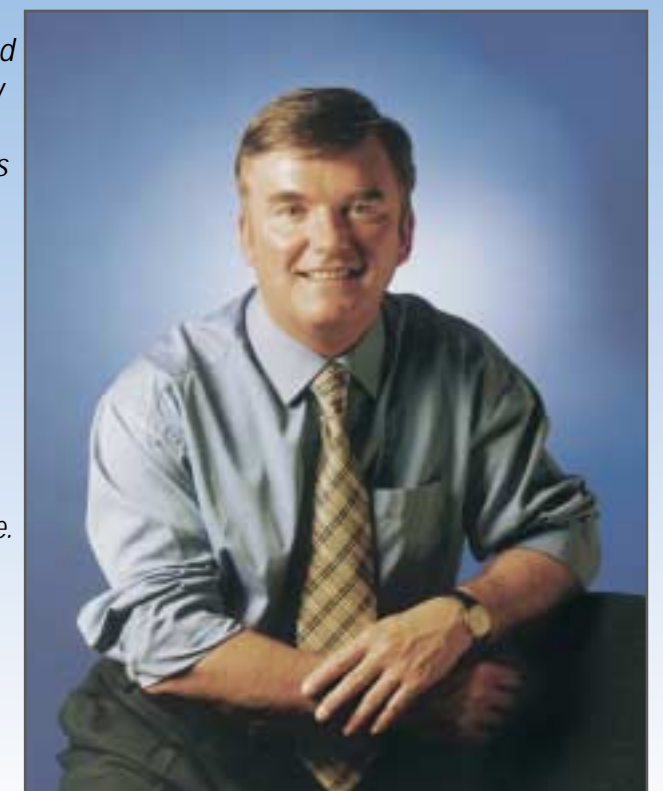
Welcome to Leinster House, a building steeped in history and tradition. The Irish tradition of parliamentary government predates our written history. Legends and annals tell of the elected chieftains and kingships. Throughout the early recorded history of our country until today we have numerous other examples: the Brehon laws, the Medieval Parliament in Kilkenny, Grattan's Parliament in College Green in 1782, and the first Dáil in the nearby Mansion House, Dawson Street.

Since 1922, Leinster House has been the seat of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann. Both houses have shaped and moulded our country into the modern, dynamic society that we can be proud of today. Many people throughout the world do not enjoy parliamentary democracy. The people who serve here do so by choice and though they are often criticised, sometimes justifiably, often unfairly, they do so in a spirit of public service.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D. on behalf of the government and all the members of the Irish House of Parliament extends a cead mile failte to all visitors to this historical democratic Parliament.

I hope your visit to Leinster House and your experience of political history and today's political system will whet your appetite to further explore how you can contribute to Ireland's future.

Is mise le meas,



Minister Ivor Callely T.D.

Leinster

House

LEINSTER HOUSE, originally built in 1745 by James Fitzgerald, Duke of Leinster as his town house. He purchased the site from Viscount Molesworth for £1,000 and it took a little more than two years to complete the building project. The young Earl occupied the House until his death in 1773 and he is now buried in Christ Church Cathedral. The stately Mansion was sold in 1815 to the Royal Dublin Society for £10,000. In 1922 the Government of the Irish Free State obtained a portion of the building for Parliamentary use and acquired the entire building in 1924 for use as the Houses of the Oireachtas.



VIEWED from Kildare Street, the house is flanked by the National Library on the left and the National Museum to the right. From Merrion Street the main feature on the lawn is a 60ft high granite obelisk surmounted by a gold flame, a monument to Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and Kevin O'Higgins. The wonderful Government Buildings to the left of the lawn is now recognised as one of Ireland's finest buildings.

LEINSTER HOUSE was designed by Richard Cassels and built in limestone and Portland stone. Its internal grandeur is first met in the main hall, where a copy of the "Proclamation to the People of Ireland" is on display. This copy of the proclamation is vouched on the face of it as a true copy. It was a copy belonging to Sean T. O'Ceallaigh. The Hall leads to the interview room, the library and the general office, the staircase to the Seanad and Dáil Chambers. The Dáil Chamber was originally constructed to serve as a lecture theatre by the Royal Dublin Society and was opened as such in 1897. A small amount of alteration was needed to convert the chamber for Parliamentary use.



THE FIRST DÁIL resulted from the return of seventy-three Sinn Féin members to a Parliament of one hundred and five members in the December 1918 General Election. The Sinn Féin members ratified the establishment of the Republic proclaimed in 1916 and declared that as the elected Representative of the Irish People they alone had power to make laws binding on the people of Ireland and that Dáil Éireann was the only Parliament to which people would give their allegiance.

IRELAND is a parliamentary democracy. The Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) consists of An tUachtarán (The President) and two houses, Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (The Senate). The sole and exclusive power of making laws for the State is vested in the Oireachtas. The functions and powers of the President, Dáil and Seanad derive from Bunracht na hÉireann (The Constitution of Ireland). The Government presents its proposals to the Oireachtas in the form of Bills of Motions, which the Houses debate, possibly amend, and vote on. After both Houses have passed a bill, it is sent to the President for signature and promulgation as law (Bills which become law are then called Acts). In the chambers, Government and members supporting the Government occupy the seats to the left of the Ceann Comhairle (Chairman), with the Taoiseach (Head of Government) in the first seat of the front bench. The opposition parties occupy the opposite side of the house.

EVERY IRISH CITIZEN who has reached the age of 18 years and who is ordinarily resident in a constituency is entitled to be registered as an elector and to vote at Dáil elections in that constituency. Members are elected on the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies. The register of electors is compiled annually by the local authorities.

IVOR CALLELY T.D. was first elected to Dáil Éireann from the constituency of Dublin North Central in the General Election of June 1989, to a Fianna Fáil lead Government. A Dáil is summoned or dissolved by the President of Ireland on the advice of the Taoiseach. The present law provides the life of the Dáil for a period of five years. Members are usually referred to as Teachtaí Dála (Dáil Deputies) or T.D.'s. The normal sequence of business is Questions, Private Business, Public Business and Adjournment Debates. Voting is recorded electronically by members selecting Tá or Nil via a computer keypad located at their designated seat in the chamber. The Seanad is very similar in its approach to business. The Seanad meets in what is considered the most beautiful room in Leinster House, formerly the Ball Room when the Fitzgerald's occupied the house. Each House elects its own Chairman (Ceann Comhairle/Cathaoirleach) to preside over sittings and have standing orders to assist in governing business of the Houses.

I do hope you have enjoyed your visit and tour of Leinster House, home of Dáil and Seanad Éireann.
This is your house, your Parliament.

Minister Ivor Callely, T.D.

