



Camaraderie Through Service

Cumann na nIAR-Oifigeach Coimisiúnca

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

05 March 2024

Mr Paul Stephens

Clerk to the Committee

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

By e-mail to jcfad@oirechtas.ie

SUBMISSION

THE GENERAL SCHEME OF THE DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023

Dear Paul,

The Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) is formally recognised by the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence. We fully appreciate the invitation from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to make a submission during the Pre-legislative Scrutiny process on the General Scheme of the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2023.

Whereas our primary objective is in protecting the pensions and interests of our members, ARCO retains a keen interest in the Defence Forces within the evolving national, regional, and international defence and security domain. Our members' collective service in demanding operational environments both at home and overseas, and through dynamic Defence Forces internal reorganisations and reforms, represents a considerable repository of knowledge, experience, and expertise within the realm of Defence.

On matters leading and related to the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2023, ARCO made submissions and attended consultations with the Commission on the Defence Forces; the Independent Review Group – Defence Forces, and the Department of Defence on the Terms of Reference for the Tribunal of Inquiry ensuing from the Independent Review Group's Report. On 28 Feb 2024 we shared our views on the Bill, at a meeting with An Tánaiste.

Availing of the attached written submission, approved by our Executive Committee, ARCO offers our expertise and experience in support of the Joint Committee's deliberations on the General Scheme of the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2023.

Le Meas

Brigadier-General Séamus Ó Giolláin (Retd)

President

The Association of Retired Commissioned Officers



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