



**Tithe an  
Oireachtais**  
**Houses of the  
Oireachtas**

**An Comhchoiste um Shláinte**  
Teach Laighean  
Baile Átha Cliath 2  
D02 XR20  
Guthán: (01) 6183102  
R/phost:health@oireachtas.ie

**Joint Committee on Health**  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
D02 XR20  
Tel: (01) 6183102  
E-mail:health@oireachtas.ie

Ref: JCH – i – 430

20 May 2021

Ms. Vicky McGrath  
CEO  
Rare Diseases Ireland  
Carmichael House  
North Brunswick St  
Dublin 7

Email: vicky.mcgrath@rdi.ie

### **Re: Invitation to Meeting of the Joint Committee on Health**

Dear Ms. McGrath,

I have been requested by the Joint Committee on Health, to invite you to attend a meeting of the Joint Committee to **discuss improving the lives of those affected by rare diseases and their families**. You may also nominate a further two colleagues to assist you during your presentation to the Joint Committee.

**The meeting will take place remotely in Public Session on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at 9.30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams**, and the Committee must complete its business within two hours. Note, the Members of the Committee will be appearing remotely from within the precincts of Leinster House via Microsoft Teams too.

At the meeting you will be invited to make an opening statement of **no more than 5 minutes in duration** in relation to the above matter, and your opening statement will be followed by questions by the Members of the Committee.

#### **1. Information and Material Requested**

Please confirm as soon as possible, by e-mail to [health@oireachtas.ie](mailto:health@oireachtas.ie), receipt of this letter, and forward the following, by no later than **12 noon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021** by e-mail to [health@oireachtas.ie](mailto:health@oireachtas.ie):

- (a) a copy of your opening statement (in MS Word or searchable pdf format).

#### **2. Parliamentary Privilege**

Members of the Committee have absolute privilege in respect of statements made in either House of the Oireachtas or before the Committee. The evidence of witnesses physically present or who give evidence from within the parliamentary precincts is protected, pursuant to both the Constitution and statute, by absolute privilege. Witnesses are also asked to note that only evidence connected with the subject matter of the proceedings should be given and should respect directions given by the Chair and the parliamentary practice to the effect that, where possible, they should neither criticise nor make charges against any person(s) or entity, by name or in such a way as to make him, her or it identifiable or otherwise engage in speech that might be regarded as damaging to the person's or entity's good name.

*Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge*

### **3. Committee Proceedings**

Please be advised that the meeting will be conducted in public session and will be televised and webcast. The official report of committee proceedings will be placed on the Oireachtas website, normally within two weeks of the meeting. All or part of the material provided by you to the Committee may be included in any report prepared by the Committee. If you have any questions regarding the publication of material, or if you wish that your details or the material provided by you should remain confidential to the Committee, please contact the Clerk to the Committee. In the absence of any such contact, it will be assumed that you agree to the publication of such material.

### **4. Information on the Committee and other arrangements**

I am attaching links and/or electronic copies of–

- (a) [Functions, powers and remit of Departmental Joint Committees](#)
- (b) [A list of Members of the Joint Committee on Health;](#)
- (c) [Guidance Note: Making Witness Submissions and Oral Presentations to Oireachtas Committees;](#)
- (d) [Witness Protocol;](#)

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Iqra Zainul Abedin by telephone 01-6183102 or by email at [health@oireachtas.ie](mailto:health@oireachtas.ie).

Yours sincerely,

*Iqra Zainul Abedin*

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**Ms. Iqra Zainul Abedin**  
**Clerk to the Committee**