

# National Counter Disinformation Strategy

## Working Group – Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

28 September 2023

**Attendees:** Martina Chapman (Independent Chair)  
Seamus Hempenstall (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)  
Paul Kilkenny (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)  
Eve Quilty (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)  
Cathal McCauley (Library Association of Ireland)  
Eileen Culloty (Dublin City University)  
Eugene Farrelly (Department of the Taoiseach)  
Maria Bracken (Department of Education)  
Muiriosa Ryan (Department of Health)  
Nuala Walsh (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)  
Nick Callan (An Coimisiún Toghcháin)  
Patrick Forsyth (Department of Justice)  
Paul Gordon (National Youth Council of Ireland)  
Robert O'Driscoll (Department of Foreign Affairs)  
Susan McKay (Press Ombudsman, The Press Council)  
Vincent O'Brien (National Cyber Security Centre - presenting)

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The Chair welcomed Working Group members to the seventh meeting. The Chair thanked all members of the Working Group for their contributions to the Scoping Paper and drew their attention to the Public Consultation, which opened on 25/09/2023.

### 1. Presentation by the National Cyber Security Centre

Vincent O'Brien of the National Cyber Security Centre gave a presentation about the work of the Centre to counter hybrid and cyber threats

Hybrid threats are characterised by coordinated, synchronised action (that can target democratic states by a wide range of means) using conventional and unconventional tactics, in particular through cognitive warfare which can influence decision making, attitudes and behaviours. This can include disinformation and foreign interference and manipulation of information (FIMI).

## 2. Draft minutes of sixth meeting (10 August) and matters arising

The Chair presented the draft minutes of the sixth meeting for approval. These were approved with no changes.

## 3. Public Consultation update

The Public Consultation survey is available for completion until 20<sup>th</sup> October. The Secretariat updated on progress so far. Members were invited to share the link to the Public Consultation among their networks.

## 4. Draft schedule for the consultation forum event

The Group discussed the format and schedule for the event, which would include a presentation on the work of the Group so far and the themes that emerged from the consultation process. The Chair sought feedback on the proposed format and schedule and invited members to consider stakeholders that might be invited.

## 5. AOB

There were no matters arising under AOB.

NCDS Secretariat

28/09/2023