

National Counter Disinformation Strategy

Working Group – Minutes of 10th Meeting

15 December 2023

Attendees: Martina Chapman (Independent Chair)
Seamus Hempenstall (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)
Paul Kilkenny (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)
Fiona Shevlin (D/TCAGSM - Secretariat)
Robert O'Driscoll (Department of Foreign Affairs)
Cathal McCauley (Maynooth University)
Elizabeth Harvey (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment)
Eileen Culloty (EDMO Ireland)
Muiriosa Ryan (Health Service Executive)
Patrick Forsyth (Department of Justice)
Corah Caples (Department of Justice)
Una Fitzpatrick (Technology Ireland)
Vincent O'Brien (National Cyber Security Centre)
Nick Callan (An Coimisiún Toghcháin)
Mary Keenan (Department of the Taoiseach)
Johnny Ryan (Irish Council for Civil Liberties)

The Chair opened the tenth meeting of the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group.

1. Draft minutes of 9th WG meeting and public consultation review

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the Working Group and the review of submissions to the public consultation was approved for publication.

2. Outcomes from the NCDS Consultation Forum and next steps

Firstly, the Chair thanked the Secretariat for their work. The Working Group agreed that the forum was a useful opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders from different backgrounds

to come together to discuss this important issue. Some emerging recommendations from the event were discussed by the Working Group.

As for next steps, Secretariat set out how now, drafting would commence in earnest, taking into account all the work of the Group so far, including the review of the public consultation, the scoping paper, sub-group reports and expert inputs. Secretariat hope and plan to engage bilaterally with Working Group members with a view to having an initial draft to present to the Working Group, although it was acknowledged that this timeframe was ambitious. It's still intended to finalise a strategy for approval by the Working Group and then by Government and publication by end of Q1 2024. The need for a clear communications plan for this was noted.

3. A.O.B.

It was noted that Technology Ireland intend to hold a roundtable event on disinformation in January.

NCDS Secretariat

18/12/2023