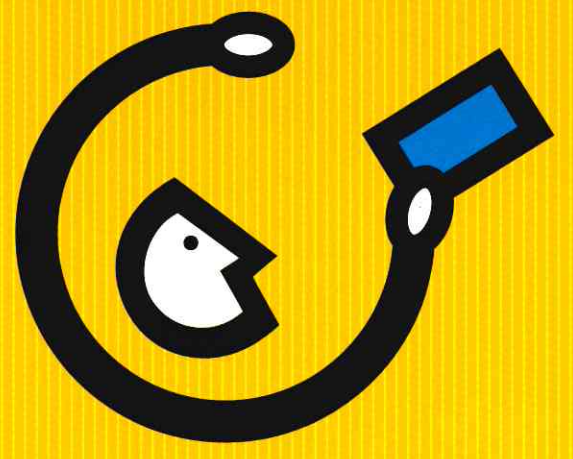
Report of the Referendum Commission on the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy) Bill, 2001



Foreword

Pursuant to Section 14(1) of the Referendum Act, 1998 I hereby present to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government the report of the Referendum Commission in relation to the performance of its functions in respect of the referendum on the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy) Bill, 2001.

On the 8th day of February 2002 the Minister set up the Referendum Commission, by means of an Establishment Order, to carry out the provisions applicable to it under the Referendum Act, 1998, as amended by the Referendum Act, 2001, in respect of the aforementioned referendum.

Following my nomination by the Chief Justice, I became Chairman of the Commission, the other four members being the specified *ex officio* appointees. In the Foreword to the report which Mr Justice T. A. Finlay presented to the Minister in December 2001 he said; "The Commission feels strongly that the time constraints imposed severely affected the capacity of the Commission to fulfil its responsibilities...". In Chapter 2 of Part 3 of that report the Commission referred to the problems imposed by these constraints. The Commission has again experienced difficulties by reason of these time constraints and refers to them in Chapter 7 of this report.

Frederick Morris

Frederick Morris
Chairman,
Referendum Commission.

July, 2002.

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provide an unaddressed service to the Commission. The GSA indicated that it would be possible to print 1.35 million booklets within the timeframe necessary to meet the delivery deadlines. Given the importance of ensuring that each voter would be in a position to make an informed decision on the referendum, the Commission decided to arrange a nation-wide delivery. Following a local tender process, again organised through the GSA, to select a printer it emerged that the cost for the printing of 1.35 million copies of the booklet fell under the relevant threshold which would have required a tender process through the EU Journal.

Delivery of the booklets from the printer to An Post began on 23 February, 2002 and was completed by 27 February, 2002. The nation-wide delivery was carried out by An Post on a phased basis up to 5 March, 2002.

Chapter 2
Locall Number and Distribution Centre

In line with the Commission's decision taken on 12 February, 2002 (see Chapter 1) an urgent competitive selection process was carried out by the Commission to select a company to provide a Locall Number for the Commission and also to manage the distribution of the Commission's information booklet to a wide range of public outlets. Following the selection process a company called Abtran was awarded the contract. The Commission provided training for persons manning the telephone lines.

The primary purpose of the Locall Number was to enable members of the public to gain early and ready access to the Commission's information booklet. Requests received were responded to immediately. In view of the complexity of the referendum proposals, it was not possible to train staff to deal with complex legal and ethical questions. However, a referral system was put in place whereby queries of this nature were transferred to the Commission's Secretariat and dealt with there where possible. The Locall Number also dealt with basic queries in relation to such matters as the voting arrangements and the Referendum Commission's role. It also served to advise callers as to the sources of more detailed information, e.g. through the Commission's website.
The Locall service had a minitel system which enabled communication over the phone with persons with hearing disabilities. An Irish language answering service was also provided. Irish language copies of the Commission's booklet were also made available through the Locall Number.
The Locall service went live on 20 February, 2002. The lines were open from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm on weekdays, from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm on Saturdays and from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Sundays. The service terminated at 7.00 pm on 6 March, 2002, the date of the referendum.

Abtran also arranged the distribution in bulk of copies of the information booklet to a wide range of public outlets, in consultation with the Commission. The main distribution networks are listed in Appendix 3.

Chapter 3
Radio and Television Campaigns

In its most recent report (December 2001, pages 9-11), the Commission outlined the legal uncertainty which had arisen in relation to its entitlement to engage media consultants to deliver its information campaigns without going through a tender process in the EU Journal. Invariably the time constraints imposed on the Commission mean that it is not granted sufficient time to go through the required EU Journal processes. Despite the Commission's request in its report to have the matter clarified at official level, such clarification was not provided and the same uncertainty remained when the present Commission was established. In the circumstances, the Commission was unable to engage media consultants on this occasion.

In the light of past experience the Commission decided that it would need to recruit a specialist to oversee the planning and implementation of its radio and television information campaigns. The Commission decided, as a matter of urgency, to engage a person with the necessary experience and expertise to fill the post of Co-ordinator of Radio and Television Broadcasts on behalf of the Commission. Following a competitive selection process, Mr Tim Collins of Drury Communications was appointed to the position.

Following a further competitive selection process, McConnells Advertising was chosen as the advertising company to plan and oversee the production of the Commission's radio and television advertisements and broadcasts. This selection process was completed on 18 February, 2002.

During the campaign the Commission produced a series of short television advertisements of 30 seconds duration and a series of Referendum Commission Broadcasts of two minutes duration which dealt with the issues in more detail.
The radio advertisements were of 30 seconds duration and the radio broadcasts were of one minute duration, The advertisements simply sought to highlight the date of the referendum and to draw attention to other elements of the campaign such as the Locall Number, the website, television and radio broadcasts and the Commission's press advertisements. There were three separate radio and television broadcasts dealing with issues of substance.

The approach adopted to the television output was based on creating a calm and authoritative space for the Commission's information campaign. This was felt to be the appropriate approach against a backdrop of conflicting messages being put forward by the various groups campaigning for and against the referendum proposals. The broadcast journalist, Ms. Keelin Shanley was chosen as the face of the campaign, with Ms Caoimhe McCabe presenting the Irish language versions. The broadcasters appeared on a neutral set which allowed the use of graphics. The tone adopted was calm, honest, neutral and informative.

The remit of the Referendum Commission to inform and to encourage people to vote was reflected in all the material produced. The tag line *"Vote, the decision's in your hands"* or a similar version appeared in all the radio and television broadcasts.

The radio and television campaign went to air on 22 February, 2002 and ran up to and including the day of the referendum, 6 March, 2002. The radio campaign ran on national, local and community radio. The television campaign ran on RTE1, RTE2, TV3, TG4, Sky News and Sky 1. The Commission received an excellent response from the radio and television outlets in relation to the provision of free airtime for the Commission's broadcasts.

Chapter 4
Referendum Commission Website and Other Advertising

The Commission had previously established its own website, in both Irish and English versions, and an e-mail address to act as a conduit for information. This was adapted to include sections relating to the abortion referendum. The text of the Commission's information booklet was made available from the website on 18 February, 2002. In addition the text of the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy) Bill, 2001 and the report on abortion of the All Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution was made available. All the Commission's press releases were published on the website.

The Commission's press conference, which was held on 25 February, 2002 received widespread coverage on radio, television and newspapers.

The Commission arranged the distribution of a basic information leaflet to 2,500 students by means of a direct mailing service. The leaflet sought to heighten awareness of the date of the referendum and to advertise the Commission's website address.

The Commission ran an extensive outdoor poster campaign. Two different size posters were produced, 6 sheet size for bus shelters etc. and much larger 48 sheet size posters for prominent poster locations. The posters were placed at urban and rural locations throughout the country. Three hundred 48 sheet posters were put up and four hundred 6 sheet posters. The posters were designed to heighten awareness of the referendum date, to encourage citizens to seek more detailed information on the proposals and to advertise the Commission's website address and Locall Number.

In addition, the Commission produced a special sign language video for the Deaf Society to enable members of the deaf community to have access to the Commission's information material. The video was distributed to Deaf Clubs and to individual members of the deaf community throughout the country.

A widespread newspaper advertising campaign, in English and Irish, was carried out in the national and local press from 28 February, 2002 up to and including 5 March, 2002 which was the day before the referendum. The advertisements dealt with some of the substantive issues arising in the referendum as well as drawing attention to the date of the referendum, the Commission's Locall Number and its website. Some of the Commission's radio and television advertisements were used to alert the public in advance about the newspaper advertisements.

Chapter 5
Approval of Bodies for the Purposes of the Referendum

Section 7 of the Referendum Act, 1998 makes provision for a body to apply to the Referendum Commission to seek a declaration that it is an approved body for the purposes of a referendum. Approved bodies are entitled to appoint agents to attend at the issue and opening of postal voters' ballot papers, at polling stations and at the counting of votes. Members of both Houses of the Oireachtas, who currently have the right to appoint such agents, would continue to have this right.

In order to become an approved body, an applicant must fulfil conditions and follow procedures set out in the Referendum Act, 1998.

These conditions and procedures are:

- the body must be a body corporate or unincorporated body which, or a branch of which, is established in the State, governed by a constitution, a memorandum of association or other such document or other written rules and having a membership of not less than 300;

- the body must have an interest in the referendum and have a name which is not identical to, or does not closely resemble, the name of a political party registered in the Register of Political Parties. A political party for the time being registered in the Register of Political Parties is deemed to be a body for the purposes of the Act and need not establish compliance with the above conditions;

- applications must be made on the official form, which is available from the Commission and must be submitted within such time as the Commission may specify.

The Referendum Commission may refuse to make a declaration if a body does not fulfil the relevant conditions, or fails to provide the Commission with reasonable information or documentation which the Commission considers necessary to determine the application.

The Commission may also revoke a declaration made by it in relation to a body where it is satisfied that false information has been furnished to it. The Act also provides, under section 9, that it will be an offence knowingly to provide false information in relation to an application.

Commencing on 8 February, 2002 advertisements were placed in the national press seeking applications from bodies seeking approval for the purposes of the referendum. The specified closing date was 18 February, 2002. Following the application process the Commission approved sixteen bodies. These bodies are listed in Appendix 2.

Part 3
Overview, Analysis and Recommendations

Chapter 6
The Referendum Commission's Revised Statutory Functions

Since the passing of the Referendum Act, 2001 the Commission has no role in outlining the arguments for and against referendum proposals or of fostering and promoting debate and discussion on referendum proposals. The Commission continues to have the statutory role of explaining the subject matter of the referendum to the electorate. In addition, it was granted a new role of promoting public awareness of the referendum and encouraging the electorate to vote at the poll.

The Commission has in the past commented on the difficulty it faced in relation to producing the arguments for and against referendum proposals and has expressed the view that democratic debate is best served in this regard by the opposing campaign groups and the media in general. The importance of the Commission's role in explaining the subject matter of referendum proposals has perhaps been lost sight of in the past due to controversy over the content of the arguments produced for and against referendum proposals. The Commission's explanatory role has an added importance in the light of the increasing complexity of the subject matter of referendums in recent years e.g. the Amsterdam Treaty and the Treaty of Nice.

The issue of voter apathy has been of general concern for a number of years and is a problem which is not unique to Ireland. Tackling this complex problem requires long term measures and careful research. To expect the Commission to make any significant impact on voter turnout in the space of four weeks is simply not realistic. The reality is that the Commission had no time to introduce any special measures to target apathetic voters such as young voters. The campaign simply sought to raise a general awareness of the date of the referendum and the issues concerned in the hope that this would encourage a higher turnout. The point is worth making that there are issues which would clearly impact on voter turnout over which the Commission has no control, e.g. the day of the week on which the poll takes place, the opening hours for polling, the provision of an electronic electoral register, the introduction of electronic voting etc. The general issue is one which merits serious long term initiatives, perhaps on a joint basis between the Commission and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. There are however no mechanisms in place to allow the Commission to carry out any ongoing research and development as it only comes into existence by means of an Establishment Order and dissolves once it reports to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

The turnout on this occasion was 42.89%. While it has to be seen as a disappointing turnout, it was an increase on the turnout in June 2001 which was 34.79% and on that occasion there were three separate referendums. Some commentators have highlighted the fact that the turnout compares unfavourably with the 1992 turnout on the three separate abortion related issues when there was a turnout of 68.2% but it has to be borne in mind that there was a General Election on the same day as those referendums so a direct comparison is not valid. In fact more people voted in the latest referendum than in the 1992 referendum due to the increased numbers on the register.

Chapter 7
The Referendum Commission and Time Constraints

This is the fourth report produced by the Referendum Commission on the carrying out of its functions and in each report the Commission has highlighted the lack of time it has been allowed to carry out its functions. Regretfully, the amount of time available to devise, produce and implement the information campaign on this occasion was even shorter than the previous referendum. While there was only one campaign on this occasion, as opposed to three on the previous occasion, the subject matter was complex and divisive and the electorate should have been allowed sufficient time to obtain and digest the information material produced by the Commission. For example, due to the time pressures some deliveries of the Commission's information booklet did not take place until the day before the referendum and this is completely unsatisfactory.

Commentators have recognised a growing cynicism and apathy among the electorate in recent years leading to a decline in voter turnout. In the Commission's view, if the electorate is given totally inadequate time to obtain objective information on important and complex constitutional issues, then this will result in even greater apathy among the electorate.

If more time had been available, it would probably not have influenced the choice of creative direction and the production methodology used in the television and radio campaigns. In the Commission's view the simple approach of using one presenter in a neutral setting was the correct one given the issue and the context of the campaign. It meant that a lot of work could be produced in a short period of time and changes could be made at the last minute. The professionalism and suitability of the presenters aided the process considerably but the deadlines were such that production teams had to work through the night on occasions.

If the lack of time impacted adversely on any area of the campaign, it was in the quality of the scripting process. While the Commission worked hard to explain complex concepts in language and terms that could be understood by all, more could have been done in this area if time had permitted. Scripting material on complex and divisive issues is fraught with problems when near impossible deadlines are being met and there is no doubt that if more time had been available, the Commission could have attempted to find alternative, user-friendlier language with which to communicate the information.

The most successful broadcast piece, according to Commission's research, was the television advertisement that effectively reduced the net issue down to whether or not abortion should continue to be available where there is a direct threat to the mother's life from suicide as decided by the Supreme Court in the X case. While there is a danger that in simplifying an issue in this manner, the Commission might not do justice to all the complexities of the referendum proposal, it did illustrate the need for a very simple and direct approach in relation to the substantive issues.

Chapter 8
Qualitative Market Research Study

In order to gauge the effectiveness of its advertising and broadcast material, the Commission arranged research groups in Dublin and Mullingar on Tuesday 26th February, 2002 which was four days after the Commission's campaign began and eight days before polling day. There were two groups in Dublin (male 20-35 C2DE, female 35-55 BC1) and two groups in Mullingar (male 35-50 BB1, female 20-35 C2DE).

The research sought to assess the following:

- was there an awareness that a referendum was due?
- was the date of the referendum known?
- was there an awareness of the issues involved?
- what was the reaction to the Commission's advertising and broadcast material?
- what was the likely prospect of the group members voting in the referendum?

Awareness of the Referendum

All respondents were aware that a referendum on abortion was taking place and most could name the actual voting date. However, there was considerable confusion in all groups about the issues involved. The main confusion was caused by the uncertainty about what a yes or no vote actually meant. Many assumed that a no vote meant no to abortion and that a yes vote meant being in favour of abortion. Some group members attempted to explain what the referendum was about and invariably became confused in the process. As the groups discussed the issues and studied the Commission's press advertisements, most were genuinely surprised to discover that as a result of the X case judgment abortion/termination of pregnancy was, under certain circumstances, legal in Ireland. Most assumed that there was a total prohibition.

Further confusion arose due to the posters put up by the various opposing groups. This confusion was much more evident among the Dublin groups rather than the Mullingar groups.

Everyone in the Dublin groups commented on conflicting posters which appeared side by side. The view was expressed that there were blatant contradictions and that even the "experts" were confused about the issue. Some respondents used the confusion to retreat entirely from the whole debate on the grounds that it could not be understood by "ordinary" people.

Attitudes to the Referendum

There was a feeling, much more pronounced in Dublin than in Mullingar, that the whole process was a kind of academic exercise involving politicians, lawyers and churchmen, which would have little fundamental impact on their own lives, regardless of the outcome. There was a clear view in the Dublin groups that, regardless of the outcome, Irish women would continue to travel to Britain in large numbers to obtain abortions.

Most respondents were reluctant about expressing direct views on abortion. Although it was clear that the majority were against it, there was a concerted effort not to be seen to be exposing this view to other group members. However, the Dublin respondents were more likely to adopt a more direct approach.

There was a slight element of frustration with the whole process caused by the complexity surrounding the issue and the blame was put on politicians in general. There was widespread awareness of the information booklet being distributed by the Referendum Commission and everyone was aware that it had been delayed and this added to the confusion. None of the respondents had received the booklet at the time the focus groups met. There was a feeling that the issue was being rushed through which gave the impression that the Government was uneasy and possibly even divided on the subject.

In general the respondents in Dublin were more open about the topic of abortion and more inclined to adopt a "pro-choice" position. Respondents in Mullingar were much less comfortable discussing the topic and much more guarded in their responses.

Responses indicated a varied level of knowledge of the issues. Although everyone was confused, middle-class respondents were significantly better informed than working-class respondents.

Attitudes to the Commission's Advertising Campaign

All the respondents could recall exposure to the campaign, mainly having seen or heard television or radio commercials during the previous four days. Their impression was that the advertising was announcing that more information was on the way, an information booklet, newspaper advertisements and broadcasts. The fact that it was also important to vote in order to make your voice heard was also coming through.

Respondents were then shown the Commission's television advertising and broadcasts in sequence.

Reaction to the two presenters (one appeared in the English broadcasts and the other in the Irish broadcasts) was extremely positive. The view was that they were relaxed and attractive, without being glamorous, and that they were professional and balanced in their presentations. The second television broadcast (which dealt with the X case, the issue of suicide and the implications of a yes or no vote) was clearly preferred by the majority of respondents. They felt that it came closer to explaining the heart of the matter and although they accepted the validity of messages about the importance of voting and the need to be reminded to read the information booklet, what they really wanted was a concise summary of the main issues on both sides of the debate. The second television broadcast came closest to achieving this objective.

Respondents in all the groups were given the Commission's newspaper advertisements to read in detail. They had not been published at the time the groups met. While there were no specific complaints about the way the information was presented or laid out, the respondents were a little uncomfortable with the amount of text in the advertisements. It would appear that, while press advertising is the most suitable medium for communicating detailed information, the groups were more comfortable digesting this kind of information in sound-bite form through the medium of radio and television.

The Commission's radio advertisements were very well received. Although they contained a large amount of information and were devoid of attention seeking devices used for commercial products and services, they were listened to intently and respondents felt the messages were interesting and easy to understand. The radio broadcasts (which dealt with the substantive issues in some detail) were given close attention and were generally well received. It was felt that they were well presented and the delivery was clear but all groups felt that they were too long. When asked to estimate the length of the broadcasts all respondents tended to over estimate, some even suggested they were five minutes long even though they were only half as long as the television broadcasts.

Reactions to the Commission's Advertising Campaign

The respondents claimed that they would be much more likely to vote as a result of seeing and hearing the advertisements. However, such claims should be treated with caution as there is a tendency to exaggerate when asked this question. The general trend in recent years is a decline in voter participation in elections and referendums, although some still see voting as a public duty. One or two of the male respondents suggested that they might consider not voting in the referendum as they saw it as essentially a "woman's issue"; however other group members did not agree with this suggestion.

All respondents were much clearer about the issues following exposure to the various elements of the Commission's information campaign. Notwithstanding this, some felt that while they were better informed the greater the information the more confusing the issues became.

Chapter 9
Effectiveness of the Individual Elements of the Campaigns

The Commission's Information Booklet

The reaction to the Commission's information booklet was extremely positive. Readers found it easy to understand and felt that it covered all the core issues comprehensively. It was generally accepted as being an "independent authority" on the subject matter of the referendum. The booklet was a crucial cog in the Commission's information campaign. The Commission put much work into drafting the booklet and also in ensuring that its design and printing were of a high quality. It is unfortunate therefore that the public did not have more time to study it and consider its contents. The Commission received complaints from many areas of the country in the last few days of the campaign that some households had not received copies of the booklet despite the nationwide delivery being carried out by An Post on behalf of the Commission. There were further complaints that postal workers had inserted leaflets from campaign groups inside the Commission's booklet prior to delivery to some households. These issues were followed up by the Commission with An Post. Ideally, information material should be delivered to all households at least a week before the date of a referendum but this was not possible on this occasion.

Due to the time constraints, it was important that the Commission had put a Locall Number and distribution centre in place in advance of the nation-wide delivery so that those members of the public who wanted early access to the booklet could obtain it. This element of the campaign worked very successfully, taking the time pressures into account.

The Commission's Radio and Television Campaigns

There is a considerable challenge posed in trying to explain complex and divisive issues in an objective and accessible manner through the medium of short radio and television broadcasts. In reviewing the campaign, the Commission is of the opinion that, despite the shortage of time, the radio and television campaigns were the most effective it has ever run. The reaction of commentators and the general public was very favourable. The evident professionalism of the presenters was an important factor. The heightened atmosphere created by the conflicting campaign groups meant that many turned to the Commission's broadcasts for an objective and measured explanation of the issues. The Commission feels that the broadcasts managed to create the right tone and balance while explaining the important issues. However, if more time had been allowed, then more work could have been done on the scripting of the broadcasts to make them more understandable and to make more use of plain English.

The Electorate's Understanding of the Issues

Before the Commission's campaign commenced, the media appeared to be of the unanimous view that the public were totally confused by the issues involved in the referendum, due to the legal, medical and moral complexity of the subject matter and the opposing views being expressed by campaign groups, political parties and various professional bodies. Much was made of the totally conflicting posters being erected by the opposing groups and the fact that some groups which took diametrically opposing views on abortion were joined together in calling for a no vote. The Commission's qualitative market research (see Chapter 8) also indicated that there was much confusion among the general public before the Commission's information campaign was fully up and running.

While the Commission did not carry out any post referendum research on the levels of awareness of those who voted, - as it ceases to exist other than to make this report once the referendum is completed - there is some evidence to suggest that people's level of awareness and readiness to make up their minds on which way they wanted to vote increased significantly as the information campaign progressed. Certainly the Commission's qualitative research, held during the information campaign, indicated that the Commission's campaign was raising levels of understanding. As the campaign drew to a close, it was apparent to the Commission's secretariat, which dealt with large volumes of phone calls and e-mails, that those making contact, who had been exposed to the Commission's information material, clearly understood the broad issues involved. They were raising queries on some of the fine detail of the proposed legislation, as opposed to expressing complete confusion about what was involved. There was also a tendency on the part of callers and correspondents to consider the Commission to be a reliable source of independent information, regardless of their personal views on the subject of abortion.

The level of spoiled votes in a referendum is usually viewed as a reflection of the level of understanding of the subject matter involved. After the Amsterdam Treaty referendum, commentators highlighted the fact that many voters said they were confused and the level of spoiled votes was slightly over 2.1% which was almost double the number of spoiled votes in the referendum on the Northern Ireland Agreements which was held on the same day. The level of spoiled votes in the abortion referendum was only slightly over 0.5% which reflects positively on the Commission's information campaign.

Chapter 10
Recommendations

The Commission requests the Minister for the Environment and Local Government (who has overall responsibility for franchise and electoral issues) to give consideration to the following issues which in the Commission's view are necessary to enable it to fulfil its present statutory functions fully and effectively. Some of these recommendations were also set out in the Commission's previous reports.

(1) The necessity to provide a mechanism by which research and information on possible developments in the area of the holding of referendums and in increasing voter participation can to be undertaken in the periods between when a Referendum Commission is appointed;

(2) The desirability of amending section 2 of the Referendum Act, 1998 so as to enable the Commission to be set up at a stage earlier in relation to the polling date of a referendum than is possible at present;

(3) The extension of the minimum period to elapse between the passing of the referendum Bill or the making of an order under section 12 of the Act of 1994 and the polling date for a referendum;

(4) That clarification be sought at official level as to the necessity or otherwise for the Commission to advertise contracts, which exceed the relevant threshold, in the Official Journal of the European Journal.
The Commission's report of December 2001 (pages 9-11) sets out the conflicting legal advice received to date on this point.

Chapter 11
Acknowledgements

The Commission wishes to express its gratitude for the assistance of all its service providers who had to work under severe time constraints. The Commission wishes to thank in particular Mr Tim Collins of Drury Communications who acted as the Commission's Co-ordinator of Radio and Television Broadcasts and helped to deliver a vital element of the Commission's information campaign. Special thanks is also due to Ms Ita Mangan for her invaluable work on the drafting of the Commission's information material.

The Commission would also wish to express its appreciation for the support and commitment of its Secretariat which comprised Mr Tom Morgan, Secretary, Ms Patricia Doyle and Mr Robert Cullen-Jones.

Frederick Morris

Mr Justice Frederick Morris, Chairman

Kevin Murphy

Mr Kevin Murphy, Ombudsman

Mr John Purcell, Comptroller & Auditor General

Kieran Coughlan

Mr Kieran Coughlan, Clerk of the Dáil

Deirdre Lane

Ms Deirdre Lane, Clerk of the Seanad

Tom Morgan

Mr Tom Morgan, Secretary to the Referendum Commission

Appendix 1

Establishment Order in Respect of the Referendum on the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Bill, 2001

S.I. No. 33 of 2002

Referendum Act, 1998.

Referendum Commission (Establishment) Order, 2002

The Minister for the Environment and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 2 of the Referendum Act, 1998 (No. 1 of 1998), hereby orders as follows :

1. This order may be cited as the Referendum Commission (Establishment) Order, 2002.

2. A Referendum Commission is hereby established to undertake the functions assigned to it by the Referendum Act, 1998, as amended by the Referendum Act, 2001 in relation to the proposal for an amendment of the Constitution contained in the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life n Pregnancy) Bill, 2001.

GIVEN under the Official Seal of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, this 8th day of February, 2002.

NOEL DEMPSEY

Minister for the Environment and Local Government

Appendix 2
Bodies Approved for the Purposes of the Referendum

Christian Democrats
48 Thomas Street
Limerick

Irish Family Planning
Association
42a Pearse Street
Dublin 2

ProLife Movement
39 Mountjoy Square
Dublin 1

Comhar Críostí-
Christian Solidarity Party
73 Deer Park Road
Mount Merrion
County Dublin

The Labour Party
17 Ely Place
Dublin 2

Sinn Féin
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

Fianna Fáil
Áras de Valera
65 - 66 Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2

Maynooth Life Society
St. Patrick's College
Maynooth

The Workers Party
23 Hill Street
Dublin 1

Fine Gael
51 Upper Mount Street
Dublin 2

Mother & Child Campaign
60a Capel Street
Dublin 2

Youth Defence
60a Capel Street
Dubliin 2

Green Party
5a Upper Fownes Street
Dublin 2

Progressive Democrats
25 South Frederick Street
Dublin 2

Ireland for Life
Fortalezza
Circular Road
Dangan Upper
Galway

ProLife Campaign
34 Gardiner Street
Dublin 1

Appendix 3
Schedule of Main Distribution Networks for Information Booklet

Name of Outlet	Number of Outlets
Bus Eireann	13
City and County Libraries	32
Divisional Garda stations	26
Full-time Community Information Centres	39
Local Authorities	32
Local Libraries	324
Main Social Welfare Offices	53
Major Revenue Offices	26
Superquinn	19
Third-Level Institutions	50

Appendix 4

Expenditure on the Information Campaign

	€
Braille & Audio Tapes	263
Co-ordination of Radio & Television Advertising and Broadcasts	40,523
Legal Fees	11,011
Locall Number and Distribution Centre	93,753
Other Advertising Costs	197,303
Postal	476,954
Press Advertising	399,824
Printing & Design of Publications	160,589
Radio & Television Advertising and Broadcasts	1,212,791
Translation	1,071
Website	8,171
Miscellaneous (Office supplies etc.)	1,370
***Total**	**€2,603,623**

*Subject to Final Accounts

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