

to come” . This is an unfortunate reality but ,as far as possible, should not be allowed to delay formulation of an agreed procedural framework.

Concomitant with this is the very real need to examine in detail the financial, structural, legal issues attaching to major state sectors, such as Health Care (in all its facets); Education (pre-school through to Post Graduate): Pensions(primarily state) - a short indicative list.

Chapter 7, para. 27 of the Report (Delineating the two Referendum Options) refers to this complex matter. Presenting relevant information to voters in an accessible and timely fashion is an imperative to avoiding the debacle which has attended the whole UK Brexit programme and cannot be overstated. It seems reasonable to suggest that it be conducted using ‘existing machinery’, as suggested in Para 20. of the Report.(Chapter 6 - Process of Decision- Making).

NB - IN MY COPY OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CHAPTER 3 HAS BEEN MISSED - CHAPTER 2 -AS ABOVE - IS FOLLOWED BY CHAPTER 4. PARAGRAPH NUMBERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE IN SEQUENCE.

Legal Context(Chapter4)

No comment.

Criteria for Evaluating Referendum Processes (Chapter 5)

The five criteria identified : procedural legitimacy, stability, simplicity, informed choice, inclusivity, and u s t w alipw t Ñ

Process from Start to Finish (Chapter 10)

The summary of the overall processes and the three configurations is noted.

Regulating Referendums and Thresholds (Chapter 11).

Paras. 38 - 40: content noted.

Comment has already been made on the shortcomings of the 2016 UK/EU referendum and the acrimony which followed. The case for careful planning has been soundly made.

Para.39 cites the Referendum Commission in Ireland with referendum proposals now

must be emphasised in all interim discussion pending adoption of a final report and all that follow from it.

Second point : - While it is not realistic to expect all details of a united Ireland to be settled prior to referendums it is essential that a 'substantive list' of agreed items be available early stage in the process - this point is essentially the same as that made in the third of the core interim conclusion(Para. 53).

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Working Group and all involved in the production of this important report and all that might follow from it.

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18 JANUARY 2021

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