

# SECTION SIX

## RULES (& GUIDELINES)

**T**he Peoples Tribunal has been set up by dedicated volunteers for specific reasons as outlined in the most recent version of the PTI Mission Statement. Time and resources are limited, so we must operate efficiently, cost-effectively and with full respect to PTI procedures.

It is anticipated that the PTI will come under sustained 'negative attention' from those involved in official misconduct in particular, so as to discredit and undermine the PTI's main objectives.

Some of the methods we are already familiar with are;

- (a) attempts to disparage, ridicule and belittle using a compliant national press and State-funded broadcasters.
- (b) Planting disruptors and timewasters within the PTI administration and/or posing fraudulently as prospective complainants and case submitters.
- (c) Denigrating the PTI's work and findings through the use of internet trolls, false online accounts and propaganda.
- (d) 'Targeting' key PTI personnel or other PTI Members for various forms of harassment or persecution through the misuse of State resources – most notably via the Garda Síochána, the DPP's Office and the Courts. Accordingly, there are some firm rules that we must all respect – without exception.

1. No changes, alterations, amendments or additions will be made to these Rules that conflict with Section One of this handbook (Ethos) or with the PTI Mission Statement.

2. No matters will come before the PTI Council for formal discussion or consideration at QM's, SCM's or AGM's

except through the Investigations Division or the DCO.

3. The PTI Submissions Form is the ONLY format that will be accepted for Case Submissions (CS).

4. The upfront fee for Case Submissions is compulsory and non-refundable. (*See Section 4, Articles 21 & 41*)

5. All official PTI Correspondence must be on PTI letterhead, duly signed and authorised by the Executive. No formal correspondence will issue out of the PTI in the name of the PTI without prior approval of the Council.

6. Informal correspondence between PTI Admin and original submitting parties in the course of follow-up investigations, research or file compilation (for example) must, in every instance, be signed off by an identifiable PTI Admin, quoting the relevant Case Reference Number.

7. The PTI Logo and title combined, "The Peoples Tribunal of Ireland" (with or without apostrophes) is exclusive to the PTI and may only be reproduced online as; (i) a link to [www.peoplestribunalireland.com](http://www.peoplestribunalireland.com); (ii) accompanying an article that makes reference to the PTI; and/or (iii) as an advertisement to promote the work and activities of the PTI.

8. PTI Members and supporters are asked NOT to criticise other PTI Members or any other anti-corruption activists in public. Disunity plays into the hands of the opposition, so there can be no place in the PTI membership for *public* dissent or criticisms of other activists or groups.

9. The public PTI website is open to all, and anyone can sign up to our email and webtext database.

10. PTI Panel membership is open to anyone who supplies us with their name, address, phone number, email and copy of verifiable photo I.D.

11. Anyone who submits a valid Case Submission Form complete with photo I.D. and submission fee automatically qualifies for the PTI Panel and for their own private webpage at *mycasehistory.com*.
12. PTI Membership is unique to each individual, and is not to be transferred or shared.
13. Membership is voluntary and may be resigned or abandoned at any time, for any reason, by the Member.
14. Membership may not be suspended, revoked, cancelled or rescinded by the PTI Council other than on valid grounds to do with explicit violations of these Rules.
15. The PTI is a lawful entity whose official actions and activities must be sanctioned by Council. Therefore, the PTI and/or any directly-affiliated agency, association or individual is not responsible for the independent actions of any other individual member, or group of members.
16. With the exception of the Executive acting under these Rules, no PTI Member or group of Members may claim to represent PTI or speak on its behalf, but members (as stand-alone persons) are encouraged to declare their membership; to quote directly from the PTI website; and to promote the PTI's work and activities.
17. Case Submissions where any Member of PTI Admin is (i) a named party, or (ii) has any direct, personal interest must be approved in advance, on Motion to the Council.
18. Provision will be made on the PTI website for the publication of *qualified opinions* by any person(s) invited to participate in the production of PTI final Rulings.
19. Dissemination of *unpublished* PTI data or internal materials is expressly forbidden.
20. When engaged in any PTI-sponsored event, activity,

meeting or hearing PTI members undertake to behave in a respectful and law-abiding manner.

21. The PTI Council does not sanction illegal or unlawful conduct. Members who engage in such do so under their own cognizance and may have their membership suspended or revoked as a consequence.

22. **Internal Disputes / Discipline etc.** Hopefully, there will be no real need to enforce any disciplinary measures, as long as the PTI Constitution and Guidelines are clear enough. But in the event that any serious arguments or disputes arise that concern the overall functioning, probity or integrity of the PTI, or if any given Panel Member acts in a seriously counter-productive manner, then any and all such matters will be dealt with exclusively by the Executive\* – either in private or public sitting – as the case may be (but preferably private for obvious reasons), and their decision will be binding. *\*Members will sign off on a clause about this in their application form.*

23. Powers of the Executive in any such disciplinary cases will include; (i) direct arbitration or mediation between disputing parties; (ii) offering an advisory finding (oral or written) on the PTI unconstitutionality of the disputed action; and finally, if necessary, (iii) a sanction in the form of suspension of PTI Panel Membership for any period up to and/or including the next AGM.

24. Suspension by the Executive may be challenged in writing by the Member concerned, and/or by any Councillor, whereupon the matter will be put to majority Council vote. If endorsed, the suspension will stand. If not, the Member will have full privileges restored.

25. Any individual whose Membership has been suspended may play no part in PTI operations during the

period of suspension. However, if the term of their suspension overlaps an AGM, the suspended Member may apply for restoration to the next incoming Council, who will then have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the matter at a suitable time and place.

26. In any disciplinary case that attracts expulsion as a consequence, a formal hearing will be heard at the earliest opportunity but certainly not past the next scheduled QM, SCM or AGM and before not less than 7 Members of Council to include at least 2 Members of the Executive whose decision made by majority vote (by secret ballot if required) must be endorsed by the Executive, and respected by the general PTI Membership.

27. No elected member of the Council may be suspended or removed from the PTI Admin other than; (i) in a case of a serious and critical violation of the Rules, and (ii) by a majority vote of the Council at an EGM that is convened by the Executive for the express purposes of considering the tenure of the said Councillor, and (iii) which majority Council decision must also be endorsed by a majority vote of the Operations Officers (i.e. 51% or more of a potential 40 votes) before it can take effect.

28. Public complaints about any PTI process, procedure or in reference to the handling of any submission or pertaining to the conduct of any PTI Admin in the course of the same may be addressed "c/o The PTI Executive". Such matters will be dealt with professionally and with discretion, with appropriate regard for the respective positions of the parties involved, on a case-by-case basis.

29. Suggestions, advice, constructive criticisms, general commentary or testimonials regarding the PTI and its operations may also be addressed "c/o The PTI Executive" who may publicise the same, as appropriate.