

SECTION ONE

ETHOS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In respect of the various texts, Reports and publications referred to herein that detail the documented grounds for the establishment of the PTI according to the Rule of Law, it would be redundant to repeat each again in full in this handbook other than to summarise the general principles, ethos & motivations by which the PTI will guide its internal operations.

1. **Professionalism.** Notwithstanding that the PTI has commenced operations with a volunteer staff with limited funding and resources, we nevertheless undertake to conduct PTI operations to the highest professional standards possible.

2. **Lawfulness.** Inasmuch as the PTI Council so determines and controls, PTI operations will be conducted absolutely and explicitly according to the Rule of Law.

3. **Teamwork.** Of necessity, the PTI must have some organisational structure and functional hierarchy. These necessities should not overshadow the collaborative ethos, but should be seen as facilitating the same.

4. **Collaboration.** As per clause (vii) of the PTI Mission Statement, the PTI remains open to collaboration with any individual, agency or association, whether private, corporate or statutory, that has shared objectives.

5. **Openness and Transparency.** With due regard to the law in respect of such matters as; (i) Data Protection, (ii) the Family Courts and/or (iii) 'legal privilege' for example, as well as (iv) operational practicalities, no PTI procedure will be undertaken other than with full transparency.

6. Promoting the Overriding Objective: Inasmuch as is possible and practical to do so, PTI operations will align expressly with, 'The Overriding Objective':

"The overriding objective - That court cases be dealt with justly, efficiently and cost-effectively." Dealing with a case 'justly' includes (abridged)—(a) acquitting the innocent and convicting the guilty; (b) dealing with the prosecution and the defence fairly; (c) recognising the rights of a claimant/defendant, particularly those under *Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights*; (d) respecting the interests of all parties and keeping them informed of the progress of the case; (e) dealing with the case efficiently and expeditiously; (f) ensuring that appropriate information is available to the court; and (g) dealing with the case in ways that take into account—(i) the gravity of the offence alleged, (ii) the complexity of what is in issue, (iii) the severity of the consequences for the claimant / defendant and others affected, and (iv) the needs of other cases. *"These rules are written to be intelligible not just to lawyers but to litigants-in-person also"*.

Lord Woolf (UK) 1996. (SI 1998/3132) UK.

7. Pursuing Reform. Notwithstanding the potentially-punitive functions of the Adjudicating and Prosecuting Divisions and the active use of; (i) lawful citizens arrests, (ii) via criminal prosecutions by common informer, and (iii) through the open publication of all PTI activities including PTI Judicial Rulings and Findings; the primary objective remains that of true reform of the Irish justice system; the eradication of endemic criminality within the institutions of the State, most notably in the DPP's Office and in the Courts; and the introduction of a culture of truth and justice vs the prevailing state of corruption and criminality as embedded in the Department of Justice.