PUBLIC AFFAIRS IRELAND | NEWSLETTER

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Oireachtas Update

In the Dáil this week, the Houses of the Oireachtas (Inquiries Privileges and Procedures) Bill 2013, will be discussed in its final stages. This legislation would permit Oireachtas members to carry out enquiries on a range of issues.

In the Seanad this week, the Thirty Second Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of Seanad Éireann) Bill 2013 will be discussed at second stage.

The sub-committee on Health will meet on Tuesday and again on Wednesday of this week to discuss the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013.

News and public sector appointments

From Croke Park to Haddington Road

The Public Affairs Ireland annual HR Conference - Preliminary announcement

On September 25th 2013 the Public Affairs Ireland annual HR conference, in the Westin Hotel, Dublin, will examine key issues arising from the recently concluded Haddington Road Agreement. Featuring a host of leading speakers, many of whom were directly involved in the negotiation of the latest Public Sector Agreement, the conference will focus on key themes emerging from the new agreement and its impacts on public servants, their organisations, and the users of public services. These themes include:

• Redeployment, mobility and productivity in the public sector; the myths and realities;

• From Croke Park 2 to Haddington Road – the implications for public sector industrial relations; and

• Picking up the pieces – where now for HR in the public sector?

Speakers confirmed so far include:

• Paul Reid, Chief Operations Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform;

• Maureen Lynott, Management Consultant and Chair of the Top Level Appointments Commission;

• Kieran Mulvey, Chief Executive, Labour Relations Commission

• Shay Cody, General Secretary, IMPACT;

• Niamh O'Donoghue, Secretary General, Department of Social Protection;

• Professor Bill Roche, UCD;

• PJ Fitzpatrick, former Chair of the Croke Park Implementation Body and Executive Business Coach; and

• Dr John O'Dowd, HR Consultant (Conference Director)

Additional speakers are currently being added to the programme and the full conference programme will be available once all speakers have confirmed.

In the meantime, to register for this event please click here for further details or call us at 01 8198500.

Kieran Mulvey, Chief Executive, Labour Relations Commission, speaking at the 2012 PAI annual HR Conference. Mr Mulvey is confirmed to speak at this year's conference in the Westin Hotel, Dublin.

Chair of new working group to develop new model for allocating resource teachers appointed

Mr Eamon Stack is to chair the new working group established to develop a new model for allocating resource teachers in schools. The group is to begin its work immediately.

Mr Stack was the Chief Inspector in the Department of Education and Skills from 1997 to 2009. He was the founding Principal of a large co-educational post-primary school in Limerick (1978-1992).

Since his retirement from the Department, he has been working as a facilitator, mediator and adviser to schools and organisations. He also makes presentations at events and conducts half day and full day sessions with educational leaders and with the entire teaching staffs in some schools. He edits Eurypedia, the European encyclopaedia on national education systems, for Ireland and is a member of the Board of the National Museum of Ireland.

The group is being established by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), chaired by Mr Stack. It will report to Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn in September on the progress of its work to consider how to reform the way the substantial additional educational resources for pupils with special educational needs are allocated in the school system.

Public Affairs Ireland
25 Mountjoy Square East
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8198500
Fax: 01 8944733
E: info@publicaffairsireland.com
www.publicaffairsireland.com
twitter.com/publicaffairsir

Membership of newly established entrepreneurship forum announced

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD has announced the membership of the new Government Entrepreneurship Forum, chaired by Sean O'Sullivan. The members of the Forum include: Joe Cunningham, serial telecoms/software entrepreneur, inventor of the SMS message; Noelle O'Connor, entrepreneur behind TanOrganic; Tom Keogh, entrepreneur behind Keogh's Crisps; Ray Nolan, serial software entrepreneur, including Worky.com; Daniel Ramamoorthy, representing local and international entrepreneur networks; Tom Cooney, Professor of Entrepreneurship at DIT; and representatives from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation and Enterprise Ireland. Initial membership of the Forum will be supplemented at different meetings with representatives and experts from different areas of the economy.

The Forum will meet regularly over the coming months and prepare a policy statement for Government on entrepreneurship, which it is intended, will contain discreet actions for inclusion in the 2014 Action Plan for Jobs.

Speaking prior to the first meeting of the forum, Minister Bruton said: "67 percent of all new job-creation comes from businesses in the first five years of existence. That is why supporting entrepreneurship and start-up activity is a central part of our Action Plan for Jobs." He added: "I am convinced that by developing and implementing an ambitious and realistic plan in this area we can deliver an increase in the numbers of entrepreneurs and in the number of successful start-ups, and make a major contribution to the jobs and growth we need".

Chairman of the forum, Sean O'Sullivan said "there is a clear and urgent need for the people of Ireland to make more jobs. This may seem impossible, like some kind of fantasy, that jobs can be created out of thin air. But that's what entrepreneurship is, creating opportunity and economy out of courageous people discovering and creating market needs, and filling them. If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Joint Industry/Government Task Force established

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD has announced the establishment of a joint Industry/Government task force on Big Data to drive the development of this high-growth sector in Ireland.

The core members of the task force will include Government appointed industry partners Mr Liam Casey of PCH; Mr John Herlihy, Google; and Ms Heather Reynolds, Eishtec. The recently appointed Chief Information Officer in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Bill McCluggage will also join the task force alongside senior officials from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Central Statistics Office, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland and the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

One of the first actions to be implemented by the task force will be to identify and develop two Big Data pilot projects within the public service. It is envisaged that a number of other appointments will be made to the task force in the context of the Big Data pilot projects that are established.

The first formal meeting of the task force will take place in July.

Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Bill published

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, has published the Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Bill.

According to the Minister, "This Bill is primarily concerned with electoral law, including revised nomination procedures for elections to the European Parliament and provisions enabling the establishment of a committee to review European constituencies in certain circumstances". He added: "The Bill also provides for the amendment of electoral, local government and planning and development law to put in place transitional arrangements necessary to facilitate implementation of the Action Programme for Effective Local Government 'Putting People First'".

The Bill provides for the following:

• The transposition of Council Directive 2013/1/EU which amends the nomination requirements in Directive 93/109/EC for EU citizens standing for election to the European Parliament in a Member State of which they are not nationals;

• The amendment of the Electoral Act 1992 to provide for the preparation and publication of one register of electors for the 2014/2015 period in Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, in which areas members of single new local authorities will be elected at the local elections in 2014;

• The amendment of the Electoral Act 1992 to provide for an improvement in the time allowed for the receipt of applications for inclusion in the supplement to the postal and specials voters' lists on the electoral register in advance of presidential, European and local elections and referendums;

• The repeal of the requirement, in the Referendum Act 1994, for An Post to make copies of Referendum Bills available for inspection and purchase by members of the public, at post offices, in the run up to referendums;

• The amendment of the Electoral Act 1997 to provide for the establishment of a committee to report on European Parliament constituencies in the context of a change in the number of MEP's to be elected in Ireland where a Constituency Commission has presented its report and another is not due to present a report before the date of the next European election;

• The amendment of the Electoral Act 1997 to address an omission in the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 to provide for the application to political parties of the same information requirements in respect of the disclosure of donations that apply to elected representatives and election candidates;

• The amendment of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide, for those planning authorities that are proposed to be amalgamated or abolished under the local government reform programme, discretionary powers to extend the lifetime of the existing development plan and to cease any development plan reviews already commenced. It also provides for those planning authorities that are proposed to be amalgamated, a mandatory obligation to commence a development plan review within 1 year of the making of regional planning guidelines which affect the area of the development plan; and

• The amendment of the Local Government Act 2001 to provide for the appointment of a dual manager in Waterford County and Waterford City in the context of the decision to amalgamate the local authorities there with effect from the 2014 local elections, matching arrangements already provided for in Limerick and Tipperary.

Dáil

Monday July 1

11am
Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 Second Stage Resumed (Department of Health)

Tuesday July 2

2pm
Questions (Minister for Finance)

3.15pm
Leaders Questions

3.36pm
Questions (Taoiseach)

Expressions of Sympathy for Padraig Falkner RIP

4.36pm
Order of Business

Motion re PQ Rota Change (Departments of the Environment and Arts)

Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

Topical Issues

Houses of the Oireachtas (Inquiries Privileges and Procedures) Bill 2013 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

7.30pm
Private Members Business

Afternoon Business Continued

Wednesday July 3

10.30am
Leaders Questions

10.51am
Order of Business

Houses of the Oireachtas (Inquiries Privileges and Procedures) Bill 2013 Report and Final Stages (Resumed to conclude at 1.30pm) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Bill 2013 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 6.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)

Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 10.00pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Taxi Regulation Bill 2012 (Seanad) Resumed (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

1.30pm
SOS

2.30pm
Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)

3.45pm
Topical Issues

Morning Business Continued

7.30pm
Private Members Business

Afternoon Business Continued

Thursday July 4

10.30am
Leaders Questions

10.51am
Order of Business

Central Bank (Supervision and Enforcement) Bill 2011 Amendments from the Seanad (Department of Finance)

Health (Amendment) Bill 2013 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Health)

5pm
Topical Issues

5.48pm
Questions (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

Friday July 5

10.30am
Health (Amendment) Bill 2013 (Seanad) Second Stage (resumed to conclude at 1pm (Department of Health)

1pm
Brighter Evenings Bill 2012 (Deputy Thomas P. Broughan)
To conclude within 3 hours

Seanad

Tuesday July 2

2.30pm
Order of Business

3.45pm
Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013 – Report Stage

Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Report Stage (Amendments from Dáil Éireann)
(Minister for Justice and Equality)

6.30pm
Central Bank (Supervision and Enforcement) Bill 2011 - Report Stage
(Department of Finance)

Matters on the Adjournment

Wednesday July 3

10.30am
Order of Business

11.45am
Further Education and Training Bill 2013 – Committee Stage
(Minister of State for Training and Skills)

1.30pm
Thirty Second Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of Seanad Éireann) Bill 2013 – Second Stage (resumed)
(Department of the Taoiseach)

4.30pm
Private Members Business – Food Provenance Bill 2013
(Senator Feargal Quinn)

6.30pm
Matters on the Adjournment

Thursday July 4

10.30am
Order of Business

11.45am
Statements on the Report of Joint Committee on Transport and Communications on Promoting a Sustainable Future for the Post Office Network
(Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)

1.30pm
Thirty Second Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of Seanad Éireann) Bill 2013 – Second Stage (resumed)
(Department of the Taoiseach)

3.30pm
Matters on the Adjournment

Committee Meetings

Tuesday July 2

1.30pm
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Session A: Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals.
Schedule B: COM(2012)753; COM(2013)192; COM(2013)201; COM(2013)256; COM(2013)261; COM(2013)263; EWN(2012)C 342-12; EWN(2013) L141-6;
Session B: 2pm Report on The Business Case for the Outsourcing of Home Care Provision and a More Efficient Use of Fair Deal Funds [Mr Bryan Meldrum, Home and Community Care Ireland]; and
Session C: 3pm Engagement with Chairperson Designate, Ms Julie O'Neill, National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)

2pm
Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
2013 Revised Estimates for Public Services – Vote 30 (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

2pm
European Union Affairs
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA: Democratic legitimacy and accountability in the EU (resumed) [Ms Sonia Piedrafita, Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies]

4.30pm
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Outline Heads of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill, 2013
(i) [Professor Peadar Kirby, and Professor Emeritus of International Politics and Public Policy, University of Limerick]; and
(ii) [Mr Brian Ó Gallachóir, Lecturer in Energy Engineering, University College Cork]

5pm
Health (Sub-Committee)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 - subject to referral [Minister for Health]

Wednesday July 3

9.30am
Transport and Communications
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) Motion regarding the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (Restricted Electrical Works) Regulations 2013
[Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]; and
(ii) Update on the performance of the tourism industry's marketing strategies
[Tourism Ireland; Fáilte Ireland; and the Irish Hotels Federation]

9.30am
Health (Sub-Committee)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 (resumed) - subject to referral
[Minister for Health]

9.30am
Justice, Defence and Equality
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals.
Schedule A: COM(2013)151 COM(2013)228; COM(2013)236; and
Schedule B: COM(2012)527; COM(2012)705; COM(2013)035; COM(2013)96; COM(2013)97; and
(ii) Engagement with Chairman Designate, Mr Noel Lappin, Private Security Authority

1pm
Education and Social Protection
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
The impact of the increase in pupil-teacher ratios in small primary schools, and the funding and cost issues facing those schools [Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary, Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland; Ms Eileen Flynn, General Secretary, Ms Margaret Gorman, Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA); and Mr Hubert Loftus, Principal Officer, Schools Division, Ms Josephine O'Connor, Assistant Principal Officer, Schools Division and Mr Martin Lally, Assistant Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Skills]

2.30pm
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Session A: Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Global Taxation: Discussion on motions submitted.
4 pm
Session B: Review of Ecofin matters under Irish EU Presidency [Minister for Finance]

2.30pm
Foreign Affairs and Trade 1.
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
[Ms Liz McManus, Chair, Monitoring Group of Ireland's NAP on UN Resolution 1325]

4pm
Public Service Oversight and Petitions
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) Special Report by the Garda Siochána Ombudsman Commission to the Minister for Justice Equality and Defence issued pursuant to section 80(5) of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005; and
(ii) Garda Siochána Ombudsman Commission Annual Report 2012.
[Commissioner Simon O'Brien, Chairperson, Commissioner Kieran FitzGerald, Commissioner Carmel Foley and Mr Graham Doyle, Acting Head of Communications and Research Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission]

5.30pm
2. Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
2013 Revised Estimates for Public Services – Vote 27 (International Co-operation); and Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade)
[Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade]

Thursday July 4

9.30am
Health and Children
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Transgender health issues [Tanya Ni Mhuirthille, Vanessa Lacey, Broden Giambrone, Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI); Dr Philip Crowley, National Director, Quality and Patient Safety, Ms Caoimhe Gleeson, National Specialist in Accessibility and Louise Mullen, Senior Researcher Health Intelligence, Health Service Executive]

10am
Public Accounts
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) Business of the Committee; and
(ii) a. 2011 Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General - Chapter 17: European Globalisation Adjustment Fund;
b. FÁS Financial Statements 2011;
c. National Training Fund Financial Statements 2011.
[Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills and Director General, FÁS]

Friday July 5

10am
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Outline Heads of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill, 2013 (resumed)