

Oireachtas Update



In Dáil Éireann on Tuesday afternoon, there will be a motion re Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. The Finance Bill 2014 is on the agenda for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Dáil.

On Wednesday morning, Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government Alan Kelly TD will be in Seanad Éireann to discuss Irish Water.

In the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications, the new national postcode system – Eircode – will be on the agenda on Wednesday morning.

Civil Service Renewal Plan

The Civil Service Renewal Plan, launched last Thursday 30 October by Taoiseach Enda Kenny, has announced a number of reforms of the civil service. Among the announced reforms is the streamlining of disciplinary procedures to make it easier to terminate under-performing civil servants.

An independent expert group chaired by Professor Kevin Rafter from DCU made two key recommendations for civil service reform. One of the recommendations taken up and included in the Civil Service Renewal Plan is the establishment of an accountability board to enable oversight over all government departments and senior management. This board will be chaired by the Taoiseach. The expert panel's recommendation for a head of the civil service to be appointed has been turned down by the Government.

Furthermore, open recruitment for senior management positions in the civil service has been extended for all positions for Assistant Principals and above. The Plan also aims to open up the civil service to younger generations. Currently only 4% of civil servants are aged 30 or under. Opportunities for college graduates will be opened through the planned establishment of a Graduate Programme.

New Court of Appeal established

The Court of Appeal was established last Tuesday 28 October. Upon its foundation it has had over 250 cases transferred to it from the Supreme Court. Nine judges have been appointed by the Government to this new Court including Peter Kelly, Seán Ryan, Michael Peart, Mary Irvine, Garrett Sheehan, Mary Finlay Geoghegan, Gerard Hogan, George Birmingham, and Alan Mahon. Mr Justice Ryan has been designated as President of the Court of Appeal and with this move, after Chief Justice Susan Denham, he becomes the second most senior member of the judiciary. The establishment of this Court follows the referendum in 2013 to set up a Court of Appeal that was approved by 65 percent of voters and was formally established by the signing of a Government order. The Court of Appeal's creation is the biggest and most important structural change to have happened to the courts system in Ireland since the foundation of the State, according to the Chief Justice.

Section of FEMPI legislation to be axed

The Government has announced they will delete a section of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) Act 2009. This Act gave public service employers the power to re-arrange public service employees' working hours and to reduce their core pay without the need for agreement. FEMPI was brought in as legislation as a limited contingency measure in 2013. Ireland's largest trade union for public service workers', Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU), has welcomed the Government's decision cut this section.

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission established

On 31 October 2014, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission was formed following the amalgamation of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency. On October 31 the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014, published last March, also came into force. The Commission has a new dual mandate to enforce both competition and consumer protection law. The ultimate aim of the body will be to encourage open and competitive markets where businesses actively compete and consumers are protected.

The Commission does not have a Board and is governed by an executive Chair and Membership structure which allows for between two and six Members. The Chair of the new Commission is Isolde Goggin.

Amendment to Irish Copyright Law

On Wednesday 29th October, a significant amendment to copyright law in Ireland was introduced through the European Union Regulations Act 2014. This Regulation is an EU wide directive which is aimed at making the cultural tradition and heritage of Europe available online. It will allow Irish cultural institutions to digitise work where the owner is unknown and which are thus known as "orphan" works. Each EU Member States orphan works will then be added to a European portal dedicated to orphan works that anyone in the EU can access.

DAIL

Tuesday November 4th

2pm

Questions (Minister for Social Protection)

3.15pm

Leaders Questions

3.36pm

Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36pm

-Order of Business

-Motion re Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (Referral to Committee without Debate)

(Department of the Environment Community and Local Government)

-Motion re Supplementary Estimate (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

-Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 Financial Resolution for Committee Stage (without debate)

(Department of Finance)

5.06pm

Topical Issues

5.54pm

Finance Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Finance)

7.30pm

Private Members Business - Motion re Mortgage Arrears.

9pm

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Health)

10pm

Wednesday November 5th

9.30am

Questions (Minister for Finance)

10.45am

Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Finance)

12pm

Leaders Questions

12.21pm

Order of Business

12.51pm

Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

2.16pm

SOS (1 hour)

3.16pm

Topical Issues

4.04pm

Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Finance)

7.30pm

Private Members Business - Motion re Mortgage Arrears.

9pm

Dáil Adjourns

Thursday November 6th

9.30am

Questions (Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)

10.45am

-Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)

-Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

12pm

Leaders Questions

12.21pm

Order of Business

12.41pm

-Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

-Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

-Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

4.42pm

Topical Issues

Friday November 7th

10am

Social Welfare Appeals Bill 2013

12pm

Report on the Design and Layout of Ballot Papers used in the Seanad Referendum October 2013

SEANAD

Tuesday November 4th

2.30pm

Order of Business

3.45pm

Statements on Health (Minister for Health)

Matters on the Adjournment

Wednesday November 5th

10.30am

Order of Business

11.45am

Statements on Irish Water (Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government)

2pm

Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2014 – Committee & Remaining Stages

Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Bill 2014 – Committee & Remaining Stages (Minister for Justice and Equality)

Private Members Business - motion re reform of penal policy

Matters on the Adjournment

Thursday November 6th

10.30am

Order of Business

1.45pm

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 – Second Stage (Department of Health)

Matters on the Adjournment

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday November 4th

1.30pm

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:

(i) Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals: Schedule A: COM(2014)345 Proposal on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries; and

COM(2014)503 and COM(2014)504 Proposals for Council Decisions re the Additional Protocol to the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Colombia and Peru to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union.

Schedule B: Com(2014)516, Com(2014)517, Com(2014)539, Com(2014)573, Com(2014)574, EWN (2014)C 217 - 10 Biodiesel USA, EWN (2014)C 217-11 Biodiesel USA, EWN(2014)C 250-07, EWN(2014) C252-05, EWN(2014)L 192-42, EWN(2014)L 246-1, EWN(2014)C 295-6; and

(ii) Issues for small suppliers in respect of access to public procurement contracts and related matters. [Mr. John O'Brien, EMS Copiers; Mr. Michael O'Brien, O'Brien Press; Ms. Mary Fallon, Alan Hanna's Bookshop; Dr. Paul Davis, DCU; Representatives of IBEC; and Officials from the Office of Government Procurement]

2pm

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals; Schedule A: COM (2014) 558 on veterinary medicinal products and Schedule B: COM (2014) 552; COM (2014) 556; COM (2014) 557; COM (2014) 580; COM (2014) 586; COM (2014) 594

(ii) Review of Certain Matters Relating to Bord na gCon (Indecon Report) [Mr. Phil Meaney, Chairman; and Ms. Geraldine Larkin, Chief Executive, Bord na gCon]

2.15pm

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: Water Tariff Principles and Proposals [Representatives from the Commission for Energy Regulation]

4.30pm

Public Accounts

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday November 5th

9.30am

Transport and Communications (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: The depletion of fish stocks in inland waterways, and the impact of poaching at estuaries [Representatives from Inland Fisheries Ireland]

12pm

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Session A: 12 Noon Motion re: Appointment of Members to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission [subject to referral] [Minister for Justice and Equality]; and

Session B: 2.00 p.m. The experience of persons of mixed race in State institutions [Representatives from Mixed Race Irish]

1pm

Education and Social Protection (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Role of Primary School Boards of Management and their relationship with the Department of Education and Skills [Catholic Primary School Managers Association (CPSMA); Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland; Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO); Department of Education and Skills]

2pm

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Overview of operations and functioning of the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) [Mr. Frank Daly, Chairman and Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer, NAMA]

2.30pm

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA:

The current situation in Colombia [Representatives of Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)]

4pm

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Direct Provision System within Ireland [Representatives from Irish Refugee Council, Anti-Deportation Agency, Doras Luimní and SPIRASI]

Thursday November 6th

9.30am

Health and Children (Joint)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Session A: 9.30 a.m.

Priorities for mental health services in Ireland [Dr. Shari McDaid, Director and Ms. Kate Mitchell, Policy and Research Advisor, Mental Health Reform]; and

Session B: 11.30 a.m.

Update on Health Issues [Minister for Health; Ms. Kathleen Lynch T.D., Minister of State for Primary and Social Care; and Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director General, Health Service Executive]

10am

Public Accounts

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) National Paediatric Hospital Development Board Accounts 2012

[Representatives from the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, HSE and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform]

2pm

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill 2013 [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

PAI DIRECTORY 2015

REVISED EDITION

*Featuring the
latest Dáil
reshuffle*

Full colour versions available online
to all PAI subscribers
(From January 2015)

For advertising queries, please
contact Bidina Malone

Phone: 01 8322049

Email: bidina.malone@publicaffairsireland.com



PUBLIC AFFAIRS IRELAND

25 Mountjoy Square

Dublin 1

(01) 8198500

www.publicaffairsireland.com

Twitter: @Publicaffairsir