OIREACHTAS UPDATE

In Dáil Éireann on Tuesday afternoon, there will be a motion re the Social Welfare Bill 2014. Wednesday will see 4th Report of the Convention on the Constitution on the ‘Dail Electoral System’ brought to the forefront, whilst the Intellectual Property, Health Insurance, and Garda Siochana Bill’s of 2014 will be discussed on Thursday.

On Wednesday evening, the Minister for Health will be discussing statements on Suicide and Mental Health with Seanad Éireann

In the Committee for the Environment, Community and Local Government, the agenda for Tuesday evening will be the approval of the terms of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

WEB SUMMIT 2014

Over 20,000 from over 100 countries came to Dublin to attend the Web Summit held last week at the RDS. The Web Summit is a technology and innovation led conference where many industry leaders from the world’s largest companies attend alongside founders of start-up companies.

Amongst the speakers at the event included a diverse list of high profile attendees including Bono; executives from Fortune 500 companies; journalists from major internationally-renowned news outlets and magazines such as Forbes, New York Times, The Economist and Financial Times; Kevin O’Malley, the US Ambassador to Ireland; Annie Machon, MI5 whistleblower; and CEO’s of international NGOs.

The event has been described as “Davos for Geeks”.

LETTERS BETWEEN BRIAN LENIHAN AND JEAN-CLAUDE TRICHET RELEASED

The exchange of letters between the late Brian Lenihan, the then Minister of Finance and Jean-Claude Trichet, the then president of the European Central Bank (ECB) have been released to the public. These letters were written in the run-up to Ireland’s bailout by the Troika in 2010 and reveal the background to one of the most tumultuous events in Ireland’s recent history.

These letters reveal that the ECB threatened to stop emergency funding to the Irish banking system unless Ireland took a bailout. Since the release of the letters, the ECB have denied they forced Ireland to enter the Troika programme, and that it was the domestic crisis in Ireland that led to the bailout.
REVENUE FROM TAX INCREASES

The latest figures released by the Exchequer have shown that revenue from taxes have increased significantly particularly from stamp duty. Stamp duty has increased by 29% this year so far mainly due to rising house prices and the property market boom. Further revenue has come from tax on stock market exchanges, income tax and VAT. The boost in revenue from taxes has added €1.5 billion to the State’s income. Exchequer figures have shown that the tax intake is 9% higher than at the same point last year. The reasoning behind this is people are buying goods and putting money back into the Irish economy and more people are entering the workforce.

SUPREME COURT RULING ON SURROGACY AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Supreme Court in a landmark case has ruled that a genetic mother is not the legal mother on a birth certificate when a child is born to a surrogate mother. In the particular case that brought about this ruling, the State had argued that a mother is a person that has given birth to a child rather than genetic links.

The Supreme Court has asserted that there needed to be clear legislation put in place in regards to this area. Following the ruling the Minister for Health Leo Varadkar TD said legislation on surrogacy, assisted human reproduction and gamete donation will be brought to the Government by the end of year.
### DAIL

**Tuesday November 11th**
- 2.00 p.m. Questions (Minister for Health)
- 3.15 p.m. Leaders Questions
- 3.36 p.m. Questions (Taoiseach)
- 4.36 p.m. Order of Business

Motion re Change in Membership of the Oireachtas Commission (without Debate)
- 5.06 p.m.

Topical Issues
- 5.54 p.m.

Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Social Protection)
- 7.30 p.m.

Private Members Business - Motion re Fair Deal (Fianna Fáil)
- 9.00 p.m.

Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Social Protection)
- 10.00 p.m. Dáil Adjourns

**Wednesday November 12th**
- 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 13th**
- 9.30am Questions (Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)
- 10.45am Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)
- 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)
- 12.51pm Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)
- 2.16pm Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)
- 4.42pm Topical Issues
- 5.30 p.m. Dáil Adjourns

**SEANAD**

**Tuesday November 11th**
- 2.30 p.m. Order of Business
- 3.45 p.m. Statements on Suicide and Mental Health (Minister for Health)

Matters on the Adjournment

**Wednesday November 12th**
- 10.30 a.m. Order of Business
- 11.45 a.m. Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Minister for Education and Skills)
- 2.00 p.m. Statements on Fisheries (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)
- 4.00 p.m. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Committee Stage (Minister for Health)

Private Members Business - Seanad Bill 2013 - Committee Stage (Senators Katherine Zappone, Feargal Quinn, Mary Ann O’Brien)
- 7.30 p.m. Matters on the Adjournment

**Thursday November 13th**
- 10.30 a.m. Order of Business
- 12.30 p.m. Statements on Commemoration Planning (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
- 7.30 pm. Matters on the Adjournment
Tuesday November 11th

12.00pm
Transport and Communications (Joint)
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA: Engagement with Ms Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson Designate, Road Safety Authority

1.30pm
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals:Schedule A: Com(2014)452 Proposal re certain aspects of the organisation of working time in inland waterway transport; and Com(2014)539, Com(2014)573, and Com(2014)574 Proposals re Agreements on Government Procurement in respect of Japan, Montenegro and New Zealand; and (ii) Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2014
Session A: 1.45 p.m.[Minister of State for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]; and Session B: 2.45 p.m.[Representatives of Labour Relations Commission]

2.00pm
Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

2.00pm
Finance (Select sub)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 [Minister of State]
Session A: 2 p.m.
Session B: 5.30 p.m. in Committee Room 2

3.15pm
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)
Committee room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

3.30pm
Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA: Update on Foreign Affairs and Trade Issues [Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade]

4.00pm
Environment, Community and Local Government (Select sub)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Approval of the terms of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]

5.30pm
Children and Youth Affairs (Select sub)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA: Protection of Children's Health (Tobacco Smoke in Mechanically Propelled Vehicles) Bill 2012 (changed from Protection of Children's Health from Tobacco Smoke Bill 2012) [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

Wednesday November 12th

9.30am
Transport and Communications (Joint)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Mobile phone coverage and the quality of high speed broadband availability particularly in rural Ireland (resumed) [Representatives of Telecommunications and Internet Federation; and Irish Cellular Industry Association]

11.30am
Global Taxation (Joint sub)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

1.00pm
Education and Social Protection (Joint)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA: Further Education and Training Strategy [SOLAS; Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU); Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)]

2.00pm
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland (resumed) [Mr. Jeremy Masding, Group Chief Executive Officer, Permanent TSB]

2.30pm
Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA: Update from the Reserve Defence Forces Representative Association (RDFRA)

4.00pm
Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA: Remit of the Office of the Ombudsman (resumed) [Mr. William Prasifka, Financial Services Ombudsman]

4.30pm
Public Accounts
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Thursday November 13th

10.00am
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Select sub)
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 33 (Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]

10.00am
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland [Mr. Jim Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Ulster Bank]; and Session B: 2 p.m.[Mr. David Duffy, Chief Executive Officer, Allied Irish Banks]

11.30am
Health and Children (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA: Update on Children and Youth Issues [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

2.00pm
European Union Affairs (Joint)
Committee Room 3
AGENDA: (i) Forthcoming General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting [Minister of State for European Affairs]; and (ii) EU Enlargement Strategy: Progress Report on the Balkans region [Mr. Erwan Fouéré, The Centre for European Policy Studies]
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