A number of key plans regarding water charges have been announced by Alan Kelly TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. Among the announced measures is the plan that water charges for a single-adult household will be capped at €60 and a family will face a maximum charge of €160 per year for the next four years.

It has also been announced that the starting date for water charges has been pushed back to 1st January 2015 with the first water bills to issue to households from April 2015. Houses that are not permanently occupied will face a minimum charge of €125 per year and up to a cap of €250.

Water Charges

In Dáil Éireann on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning, the Finance Bill 2014 is under discussion.

In the Seanad, there will be motions regarding the banking inquiry on Wednesday. On Tuesday afternoon, there will be statements on water sector reforms with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Social Welfare Bill 2014 will be discussed by the Joint Committee on Social Protection on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. An overview of the banking sector in Ireland will be on the agenda for Wednesday afternoon in the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform.

Debate today on motion of no censure against Juncker

The 28 new European commissioners will travel to the European Parliament in Strasbourg today to debate the motion of no censure against Jean-Claude Juncker. Since at least one in ten members of the full parliament must back such a motion in order for a vote to be held, the collection of 76 signatures has dictated that the vote must take place, which will happen this Thursday November 27th at noon.

The motion of no censure was tabled last week by the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD) group, which is chaired by Nigel Farage, leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). The motion states that Juncker, formerly Prime Minister of Luxembourg for 18 years, should not serve as President of the European Commission as ‘aggressive corporate tax avoidance schemes in EU member states, particularly the one applied in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, have caused the loss of billions of euros in potential tax revenues to the other EU member states’. Signatories include MEPs from the British UKIP, the French National Front and Italy’s Five Star Movement. The motion is not expected to pass as the majority of other groupings are not expected to support it.
European Commission’s ‘Partnership Agreement’ with Ireland

European Commission has agreed to a “Partnership Agreement” with Ireland. This agreement is focused on the best possible use of European Structural and Investment Funds in Ireland. In total there will be €3.357 billion in European Structural and Investment Funds over the period 2014 to 2020. Investment will be channelled through the European Regional Development Fund, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, European Social Fund, Youth Employment Initiative and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The aim of the funding is to contribute to tackling unemployment and help to boost economic growth and competitiveness. This will be done through support set aside for education, training and innovation in a bid to also promote entrepreneurship, be an environmentally friendly economy and to combat social exclusion.

Apprenticeship Council Announced

A new Apprenticeship Council has been established and announced by Jan O’Sullivan TD, Minister for Education and Skills and Damien English TD, Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Skills, Research and Innovation. The foundation of this Apprenticeship Council is a result of a review of the Apprenticeship System in Ireland which was a part of the Governments Action Plan for Jobs initiative. This review recommended that an Apprenticeship Council should be founded. The new Apprenticeship Council is tasked with expanded the apprenticeships system into new areas of the Irish economy and industry.

Pat O’ Doherty, CEO of ESB, has been named as Chairman of the Apprenticeship Council.

PAI Blog

Tom Ferris writes on upcoming plans for ‘Swiftway’ routes in Dublin: Read here
### Dáil

**Tuesday November 25th**

- **2.00pm** Questions (Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
- **3.15pm** Leaders Questions
- **3.36pm** Questions (Taoiseach)
- **4.36pm**
  - Order of Business
  - Motion to Instruct Committee (Social Welfare Bill 2014) (without Debate)
  - Motion re PQ Rota Change
- **5.06pm** Topical Issues
- **5.54pm**
  - Finance Bill 2014 Order for Report Stage
  - Report Stage
  - Final Stage (Department of Finance)
- **7.30pm** Private Members Business - Motion re Human Rights Budgeting
- **9.00pm**
  - Motion re Relevant Report of CPP on Relevant Proposals of Joint Committee of Inquiry into Banking Crisis (to conclude within 44 minutes)
  - Motion re Terms of Reference of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (without Debate)
  - Motion re Orders of Reference of the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (without Debate)
- **9.44pm** Dáil Adjourns

**Wednesday November 26th**

- **9.30am.** Questions (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)
- **10.45am**
  - Finance Bill 2014 (Resumed if not previously concluded) Report Stage, Final Stage (Department of Finance)
  - Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014
  - Order for Second Stage , Second Stage (Department of Health)
  - Workplace Relations Bill 2014 Report Stage Resumed (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
- **12.00pm**
  - Leaders Questions
  - Expressions of Sympathy (Ted Nealon)
- **12.21pm**
  - Order of Business
  - Motion re Supplementary Estimates (Justice Votes) (Referral to Committee without Debate)
- **12.51pm** SOS (1 Hour)
- **1.51pm**
  - Topical Issues
- **2.39pm**
  - Finance Bill 2014 (Resumed if not previously concluded) Report Stage
  - Final Stage (Department of Finance)
  - Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014
  - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Health)
  - Workplace Relations Bill 2014 Report Stage Resumed (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
- **7.30pm** Private Members Business - Motion re Human Rights Budgeting
- **9.00pm** Dáil Adjourns

**Thursday November 27th**

- **9.30am** Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)
- **10.45am**
  - Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill 2013 (Seanad)
  - Order for Report Stage, Report Stage, Final Stages (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport)
  - Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Report Stage Resumed (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
  - Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad)
  - Order for Report Stage, Report Stage, Final Stage (Department of Social Protection)
- **12.00pm** Leaders Questions
- **12.21pm** Order of Business
- **12.41pm**
  - Motion re Supplementary Estimates (Justice Votes) (back from Committee without Debate)
  - Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill 2013 (Seanad)
  - Order for Report Stage, Report Stage, Final Stages (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport)
  - Workplace Relations Bill 2014 Report Stage Resumed (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
  - Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad)
  - Order for Report Stage, Report Stage, Final Stage (Department of Social Protection)
- **10.45am** Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)
- **11.45am**
  - Motion regarding the Relevant Report on the Relevant Proposal for a Banking Inquiry under Standing Orders and the Houses of the Oirechtas (Inquiries, Privileges and Procedures) Act 2013 (Seanad Committee on Procedure and Privileges)
  - Motion regarding Terms of Reference of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis - without Debate
  - Motion regarding Orders of Reference of the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis - without Debate
- **1.00 p.m.** Statements on the availability of certain medication (Minister for Health)
- **3.00pm** Statements on Tourism (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)
- **5.00pm** Private Members Business - Motion re Sport
- **7.00pm** Matters on the Adjournment

### Seanad

**Tuesday November 25th**

- **2.30pm** Order of Business
- **4.30pm**
  - Statements on Water Sector Reforms (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)
- **6.30pm** Matters on the Adjournment

**Wednesday November 26th**

- **10.30am** Order of Business
- **11.45am**
  - Motion regarding the Relevant Report on the Relevant Proposal for a Banking Inquiry under Standing Orders and the Houses of the Oirechtas (Inquiries, Privileges and Procedures) Act 2013 (Seanad Committee on Procedure and Privileges)
  - Motion regarding Terms of Reference of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis - without Debate
  - Motion regarding Orders of Reference of the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis - without Debate
- **1.00 p.m.**
  - Statements on the availability of certain medication (Minister for Health)
- **3.00pm** Statements on Tourism (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)
- **5.00pm** Private Members Business - Motion re Sport
- **7.00pm** Matters on the Adjournment

**Thursday November 27th**

- **10.30am** Order of Business
- **11.45am**
  - Statements on Flooding (Minister of State with special responsibility for the OPW)
  - Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad)
  - Order for Report Stage, Report Stage, Final Stages (Department of Social Protection)
  - Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014
  - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Health)
  - Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2014 Second Stage Resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)
- **1.30pm** Statements on Foreign Affairs - An update on developments in the Middle East and Ukraine (Minister for Foreign Affairs)
- **3.00pm** Matters on the Adjournment
Tuesday November 25th

12pm Stráitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010 – 2030 agus Rudai Gaolmhara (Comh foiste) (20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language and Related Matters (Joint sub))
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Engagement with the Welsh Language Commission on ‘Supporting Minority Languages’ [Ms. Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner]

12pm Transport and Communications (Joint)
Committee 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Engagement with Mr. John Fitzgerald, Chairman Designate, National Transport Authority

1.30pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Findings of the recent ICT Skills Audit [Representatives of FIT Ltd.]

AGENDA:
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) National Milk Agency’s Annual Report 2013 [Mr Denis Murphy, Chairman and Dr Muiris Ó Céidigh, Chief Executive]; and
(ii) Motion re: Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2014 [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(ii) Motion re: Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2014 [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

2.30pm Public Expenditure and Reform (Select sub)
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Registration of Lobbying Bill 2014 [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]

5.30pm Working Group of Committee Chairmen
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

6.30pm European Union Affairs (Joint)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday November 26th

9.30am Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Engagement with academics in relation to Judicial Appointments
[Dr. Laura Cahillane, School of Law, University of Limerick; Dr. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill BL; and Dr. David Kenny, School of Law, Trinity College Dublin]

9.30am Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Sport Ireland Bill 2014 [Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport]

10am Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Private Meeting

1pm Social Protection (Select sub)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Social Welfare Bill 2014 [Minister for Social Protection]

2pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland (resumed)
[Mr Patrick Honohan, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland]

3pm Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services Vote 20 (Garda Sóchána); Vote 21 (Prisons); Vote 22 (Courts Service) [Minister for Justice and Equality]

4pm Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(a) Private; and
(b) Public Petitions received

Thursday November 27th

9.30am Health and Children (Joint)
Committee Room 2, Leinster House
AGENDA:
HIV in Ireland: Advances in testing opportunities and enhancing engagement with health services [Mr Tiernan Brady, Policy Director, Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN)]

10.00am Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)
Committee Room 3, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Mortgage Insurance Schemes
Session A: 10am [Representatives from Arch Mortgage Insurance; Genworth Mortgage Insurance Europe; and JLT Insurance Brokers Ltd]
Session B: 2pm [Mr. Brendan Burgess, AskAboutmoney.com; Mr. Karl Deeter, IrishMortgagebrokers; Mr. Paul Joyce, Senior Policy Researcher, FLAC; Dr. Ronan Lyons, Economist, Trinity College Dublin; and Dr. Rory O’Donnell, National Economic and Social Council]

10.00am Public Accounts
Committee Room 1, Leinster House
AGENDA:
(i) Business of the Committee; and

10.00am Social Protection (Select sub)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
Social Welfare Bill 2014 (resumed) [Minister for Social Protection]

2.30pm Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)
Committee Room 4, Leinster House
AGENDA:
2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]
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