

## Oireachtas Update



In Dáil Éireann this week, final stage discussion will take place on the Valuation (Amendment) (No 2), as well as social welfare and education bills.

The Second Stage of the Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015 will commence in Seanad Éireann on Tuesday, and continue on Wednesday. Issues relating to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 will also be discussed on Tuesday and Thursday.

Committee meetings will commence on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and will resume on the Inquiry into the Banking Crisis. The latter will include discussions regarding the functioning of the property market prior to 2008. They will both be discussed throughout the week.

## Support for Fine Gael on the rise, according to latest poll

The latest Irish Times/Ipsos MRBI poll shows a rise in support for the Taoiseach and his party, while support for Fianna Fail had dropped by four points since the last poll.

The figures, excluding undecideds are as follows:

Fine Gael were up five points at 24 per cent; Labour up one point to 7 per cent; and Sinn Féin, up two at 24 per cent; Fianna Fail, down four to 17 per cent; and Independents/Others, down four points to 28 per cent.

## PPS may be available to Gardaí

A special taskforce is considering the value of making citizen PPS numbers available to the Gardaí. This government taskforce will also consider having a car owner's PPS attached to their car registration. The changes were proposed by the Criminal Justice working group, a group dedicated to helping road traffic crime enforcement.

While the Gardaí currently have access to asylum seeker numbers, they are not one of the agencies that can access Irish citizen's PPS number. The working group has also suggested that PPS exchanges should be mandatory between buyer and sellers, when dealing with the private of a vehicle.

The Data Protection office has said that any such system would be done in compliance with the Data Protection Acts. The working group have not issued a formal decision as of yet, but it is forthcoming.

## BAI issue guidelines for referenda reporting

The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) has issued guidelines for the coverage of the forthcoming referenda.

On 22 May, the Irish people will be faced with two separate referenda—the same-sex marriage referendum, and the Age of Presidential Candidates referendum. This week the BAI released an updated version of the ‘Guidelines in Respect of Coverage of Referenda’.

Some of the provisions provided for are the ban on political advertising, requirements regarding the transmission of any party political broadcasts, and the duty to transmit announcements communicated through the Referendum Commission. It also addresses issues such as opinion polls, social media contribution use on-air, and a ban on presenters using their position to encourage a vote for any particular outcome from their audience.

The guidelines supplement the BAI Code of Fairness, Objectivity and Impartiality in News and Current Affairs

Compliance with the guidelines came into effect immediately; compliance with a moratorium on Referenda coverage will come into effect from 2pm on the day prior to the opening of polling stations; it will end at the close of polling stations on 22 May.

## PAI announce Dispute Resolutions conference

This week, Public Affairs Ireland announced that they will be hosting a conference on Innovations in Dispute Resolution in Ireland. It will be held on 6 May, 2015, at The Westin Hotel, Dublin 2.

Speakers such as Kieran Mulvey (Chief Executive of Workplace Relations Commission), Caroline Jenkinson, (Deputy Chair of the Labour Court), Prof Bill Roche (UCD), John O’Dowd (UCD), and Facilitator, Treasa Kenny (Burtenshaw Kenny Associates and UCD), Tom O’Driscoll (Head of MISC), Pat Brady (Principal, Workplace Solutions).

## PAI BLOG

### ***Ensuring Irish Agriculture can adapt to a changing climate***

*By Stephen Flood*

Read [here](#)

### ***What is a Focused Policy Assessment?***

*By Tom Ferris*

Read [here](#)

## DAIL

**Tuesday 31 March**

2.00 p.m.  
Questions (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

3.15 p.m.  
Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.  
Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.  
Order of Business

5.06 p.m.  
Topical Issues

Valuation (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2012 (Seanad) - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

7.30 p.m.  
Private Members Business - Motion re Residential Mortgages' Interest Rates (Fianna Fáil)

9.00 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

**Wednesday 1 April**

9.30 a.m.  
Questions (Minister for Finance)

10.45 a.m.  
Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Social Protection)

12.00 noon  
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.  
Order of Business

Motion re Proposal on Repeal of Obsolete Pre-Lisbon Measures (back from Committee) (without Debate) (Department of Justice and Equality)

12.51 p.m.  
SOS (1 hour)

1.51 p.m.  
Topical Issues

2.39 p.m.  
Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Report Stage (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)

Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

Sports Ireland Bill 2014 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

7.30 p.m.  
Private Members Business - Motion re Residential Mortgages' Interest Rates (Fianna Fáil)

9.00 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

**Thursday 2 April**

9.30 a.m.  
Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)

10.45 a.m.  
Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

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

Sports Ireland Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

12.00 noon  
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.  
Order of Business

Motion re Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Back from Committee) (to conclude within 25 minutes) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Morning Business Continued

4.42 p.m.  
Topical Issues

5.30 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## SEANAD

**Monday 30 March**

2.30 p.m.  
Order of Business

3.45 p.m.  
Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)

**Tuesday 31 March**

2.00 p.m.  
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.  
Order of Business

Motions regarding Freedom of Information Act 2014 - Referral to Committee without Debate (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

4.45 p.m.  
Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

**Wednesday 1 April**

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

12.00 noon  
Order of Business

Motion regarding proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council repealing certain acts in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters - Back from Committee without debate

1.15 p.m.  
Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015 - Committee and Remaining Stages

Motion regarding a Statement of Information for Voters on the Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015 - without debate (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

2.30 p.m.  
Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

6.15 p.m.  
Private Members Business

8.15 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns

**Thursday 2 April**

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Debates

12.00 noon  
Order of Business

1.15 p.m.  
Statements on Department of Social Protection Payment Methods (Department of Social Protection)

2.30 p.m.  
Motions regarding Freedom of Information Act 2014 - Back from Committee (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## Tuesday 31 March

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)(M)

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule A: COM(2014)576; COM(2014)578; (ii) Women Entrepreneurship, Women in the Tech Industry, Skill Needs and Balanced Regional Development (revised) [Representatives from Bord Bia and Kernel Capital]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Scrutiny of COM(2015)63 - Green Paper on building a Capital Markets Union

Session A: 2 p.m.

[Representatives of Chambers Ireland and Irish Venture Capital Association (IVCA)];

Session B: 3 p.m.

[Representatives of the Irish Association of Investment Managers (IAIM), Irish Funds Industry Association (IFIA) and Banking and Payments Federation Ireland];

Session C: 4 p.m.

[Mr. Peter Brown, Lecturer, Institute of

Investing and Financial Trading and Dr. Lucia Morales, Lecturer in Finance, Dublin Institute of Technology]; and

Session D: 5 p.m.

[Officials from the Department of Finance and Representatives of the Central Bank of Ireland and the Irish Stock Exchange]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 3.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule B: COM(2015)52; COM(2015)53; COM(2015)71; COM(2015)72; and

(ii) Progress made across various work programmes including national Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) eradication, Somatic Cell Count (SCC) reduction, and Johnes' disease control [Representatives from Animal Health Ireland]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 5 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 5.45 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Post EU Energy Council meeting [Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

## Wednesday 1 April

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Pre-publication of the Minerals Development Bill 2014

[Officials from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

Education and Social Protection (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Developments in Irish language education [Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta; Gaelscoileanna; Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta; and Department of Education and Skills]

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: The launch of Global Irish: Ireland's Diaspora Policy [Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 2 p.m.

Issues pertaining to the liquidation of Setanta Insurance [Mr. Paul Mercieca, Liquidator of Setanta Insurance; and Officials from the Department of Finance and the Courts Service]; and

Session B: 4.15 p.m.

Motions re Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Effective Date for Certain Bodies) Order 2015 and Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Exempted Public Bodies) Order 2015 [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Undocumented migrants living in Ireland [Representatives from the Immigration Control Platform]

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Direct provision system in Ireland [Minister of State with special responsibility for New Communities, Culture and Equality]

## Thursday 2 April

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Issues relating to the nature and functioning of the commercial real estate market in the period prior to 2008

Session A: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Public Hearing [Mr. John Moran, Jones Lange LaSalle]

Session B: 11.45 a.m. - 1.45 p.m.

Public Hearing [Ms. Marie Hunt, CBRE]

Public Accounts CR1, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) Comptroller and Auditor General Appropriation Accounts 2013

a. Vote 39: Health Service Executive; and

b. Chapter 14: Procurement by the Health Service Executive

[Officials from the Health Service Executive]

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 10.15 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Outcome of the All Party Talks on Northern Ireland and the resulting Stormont House Agreement [Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade]

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Engagement with the European Ombudsman [Ms. Emily O'Reilly]