Oireachtas Update

This week in Dáil Éireann, the Government will release their Spring Economic Statement for debate in the upper house. This report will supplement the Stability Programme Update (SPU) which they are, under EU law, required to publish. It is expected the Economic Statement will outline possible tax cuts and public expenditure increases, with some sources saying a public sector pay rise of 2% is possible.

In the Seanad on Wednesday, a debate will take place regarding Children’s Mental Health Services. Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State with responsibility for disability, older people, equality and mental health is expected to make a statement.

The select sub-committee on Children’s Affairs will discuss the Children First Bill 2014 on Thursday. The Bill provides for the further care and protection of children, and for the establishment of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group.

IBRC review called for by TDs

Under Freedom of Information legislation, documents were released to The Irish Times and Independent TD Catherine Murphy which signalled wide mistrust of the IBRC in the Dáil. Last week’s Leader’s Questions (Thursday 23 April) in the upper house saw a fierce debate about the nature of the Siteserv deal made by the IBRC.

In the documents released under FOI, it is clear that civil servants were unhappy with the prospect of the sale of Siteserv to Denis O’Brien, whose bid was lower than both Anchorage’s and Altrad’s, according to Micheál Martin TD. However, the sale still went ahead.

TDs are now calling for an independent review of the IBRC. TD Martin commented that “the only competent authority that could deal with this immediately is a commission of investigation established under the Commissions of Investigation Act”.

An Tánaiste, Joan Burton, confirmed that she “would like to see an independent inquiry by a competent authority”.

Dell creates 100 new jobs

Last week, on Thursday 23 April 2015, technology giant Dell announced 100 new jobs in Research and Development at their Limerick campus. This is further to the sixty Research and Development jobs it created in Dublin after a similar announcement last October. The new R&D team in Limerick will be tasked with creating easy and flexible systems for the end-to-end customer journey.

In statements made at the announcement, both Dell’s Chief Information Officer Paul J. Walsh and Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Ged Nash TD stressed the belief Dell had in the highly skilled and talented workforce available in Ireland.

Minister for Finance Michael Noonan TD also said, “This jobs announcement demonstrates Dell’s commitment to Ireland and its confidence in the highly skilled workers who apply for these roles”. 
New Minister for Drugs appointed

Labour TD Aodhán Ó Riordáin, who is already Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and Culture has now also been given special responsibility for Drugs Strategy.

On Thursday 23 April 2015, the Tánaiste announced that the Dublin Bay North TD would be appointed to the newly reinstated position, which is concerned with strategies for substance abuse issue in the country.

At the announcement, Mr Ó Riordáin said, “It is a vital role that needs the attention of a dedicated Minister. My experience as a teacher and principal in Dublin’s North Inner City taught me all about the horrors of drug abuse and the need to tackle the affects that it can have on families and communities.”

PAI to host conference on Innovations in Dispute Resolution

Next Wednesday 6 May, Public Affairs Ireland will host a day-long conference on Innovations in Dispute Resolution.

Special attention will be paid to the roles and functions of the Workplace Relations Commission and expanded Labour Court, and its impact on the HR sector. Speakers will include Kieran Mulvey, Chief Executive of Workplace Relations Commission and Caroline Jenkinson, Deputy Chair of the Labour Court, as well as academics from UCD, Tom O’Driscoll, Head of MISC and Pat Brady of Workplace Solutions.

The conference will take place in The Westin Hotel, Dublin 2. For more information, see publicaffairsireland.com.

PAI BLOG

Spotlight on Workplace Bullying

By PAI

Read Here

The Need for Good Public Policy Practices

By Tom Ferris

Read Here
**OIREACHTAS SCHEDULE: WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 27th 2015**

### DAIL

**Tuesday 28 April**
- 1.30 p.m. Leaders Questions
- 2.00 p.m. Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Ministers and Spokespersons)
- 5.15 p.m. Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)
- 6.30 p.m. Private Members Business (3 Hours)
- 9.30 p.m. Dáil Adjourns

**Wednesday 29 April**
- 9.30 a.m. Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)
- 10.45 a.m. Leaders Questions
- 11.06 a.m. Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed) (Leaders and others)
- 1.36 p.m. SOS
- 2.36 p.m. Morning Business Continued
- 9.00 p.m. Dáil Adjourns

**Thursday 30 April**
- 9.30 a.m. Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
- 10.45 a.m. Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed)
- 12.00 noon Leaders Questions
- 12.21 p.m. Order of Business
- 4.42 p.m. Topical Issues
- 5.30 p.m. Dáil Adjourns

### SEANAD

**Tuesday 28 April**
- 2.30 p.m. Commencement Matters
- 3.30 p.m. Order of Business
- 4.45 p.m. Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Report Stage (Department of Social Protection)
- 6.45 p.m. Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 – Amendments from Dáil Éireann (Department of Education and Skills)
- 7.45 p.m. Seanad Adjourns

**Wednesday 29 April**
- 10.30 a.m. Commencement Matters
- 11.30 a.m. Order of Business
- 12:45 p.m. Statements on Ash Dieback (Department of Agriculture)
- 2.30 p.m. Sport Ireland Bill 2014 – Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)
- 4.00 p.m. Statements on Children’s Mental Health Services (Department of Health)
- 5.30 p.m. Private Members Business – Fine Gael
- 7.30 p.m. Seanad Adjourns

**Thursday 30 April**
- 10.30 a.m. Commencement Matters
- 11.30 a.m. Order of Business
- 12.45 p.m. Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014 – Amendments from Dáil Éireann (Department of Transport)
- 12.45 p.m. Roads Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Transport)
Tuesday 28 April

- Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 11.30 a.m. (T)
  AGENDA: The South North Interconnector (resumed) [Representatives from Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee]
- Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)(M)
  AGENDA: The potential for job creation, innovation and balanced economic development in the creative economy (resumed)
  Session A: 1.45p.m. [Representatives from Dogpatch Labs; Ballyfermot College; Arts Council of Ireland; Harnessing Creativity; Dublin Business Innovation Centre and Animation Ireland]
  Session B: 3 p.m. [Representatives from RTÉ; Hot Press; Trinity College Dublin; Ashford Studios and Irish Film Board]
- Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
  AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule A: COM(2015)141; and (ii) Uncertainty faced by farmers regarding eligibility of marginal land under the Basic Payment Scheme and issues concerning GLAS [Officials from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]
- Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m. (T)
  AGENDA: Private Meeting
- Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 3.30 p.m.
  AGENDA: Private Meeting
- Finance (Select sub) CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)
  AGENDA: Customs Bill 2014 [Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade] 9.30 a.m.
- Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)
  10.45 a.m.
- Leaders Questions
  11.06 a.m.
- Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed) (Leaders and others)
  1.36 p.m.
- SOS
  2.36 p.m.
- Morning Business Continued
  9.00 p.m.
- Dáil Adjourns
Public Affairs Ireland

Industrial Relations Conference 2015

Innovations in Workplace Dispute Resolution
In Ireland

Wednesday, 6th May 2015
The Westin Hotel
Dublin 2