**Tusla in need of more social workers, and funding**

Recent reports have shown that the chronic lack of social workers has left Tusla with five thousand delayed cases.

Gordon Jeyes, Chief executive of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, said they would need just shy of 300 social workers to adequately keep up with the demand. He said more than two thousand high-priority cases still have no case worker assigned to them.

They plan to introduce a new out-of-hours service, and a text notification system which will be done in cooperation with An Garda Síochána. However, Mr Jeyes said that reforms were subject to budgetary confinements.

Following a report on the North Dublin area, Tusla also plan to make changes to their waiting lists, with cases now being triaged and attended to accordingly. They also plan to increase staff numbers and train in cultural diversity.

**Informal Gardaí complaints mechanism proposed**

Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD, has suggested that there should be a mechanism for investigating and dealing with complaints made about members of An Garda Síochána that can be considered “less serious”.

She suggested that the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (Gsoc) should look at a less formal resolution process for complaints regarding, for example, the individual conduct of a member of the police force.

This comes as figures of complaints emerge. There was an 11% increase in the number of complaints between 2013 and 2014, with Gsoc resolving 8% cases in that period.

She was speaking at the announcement that newly-appointment High Court Justice Mary Ellen Ring was nominated as chairwoman of Gsoc.
Finance Ireland look for €230m funding

Finance Ireland, a privately-owned financial group, is pursuing €230 million funding in aid of future growth. They intend on raising €30m in equity and €200m in debt funding. The group consists of multiple businesses, such as a motor finance company, a debt purchase and recovery company, and an asset management company. They are also key lenders to industries such as the domestic film industry, and short-term finance to car rental operators.

Recent figures show that net revenues grew by 66% in 2014, with pre-tax profit rising by 75%.

Chief Executive, Billy Kane (formerly of PTSB), said it had been a “good year”.

No basis for Minimum Wage increase, says Ibec

Over the next few days, the Low Pay Commission will present their report to Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD. It is expected that they will suggest a fifty-cent increase in the minimum wage, up from €8.65 per hour to €9.15 per hour.

The reception to the suggestion has been mixed. Both Ibec and the RAI have spoken out against this increase, dismissing it as a threat to the still-recovering business sector. Ibec’s Danny McCoy has commented that there was no reason to go ahead with the increase, “given the economic evidence available”.

Trade unions such as Unite Ireland have noted that this is still significantly below the €11.50 living wage that was calculated by the Living Wage Technical Group this year. In a similar vein, IKEA have announced they will be introducing a policy of providing Living Wage wages, at €11.50 per hour.

Last week, July 15 2015, Minister Nash said, “While I am on record as endorsing the concept of a Living Wage, I would differentiate between the application of a mandatory National Minimum Wage and a societal movement that would see employers volunteer to pay what might be considered to be a Living Wage.”

However, the Minister does plan on holding a Living Wage forum in autumn, “to which civil society organisations, trade unions and, crucially, employers will be invited” to discuss the application in Ireland.

PAI BLOG

Media Mergers
read Fiona McGarry’s article here

Occupation Transformation
read John Kearns’ article here

Financial Regulation – who pays?
read Tom Ferris’ article here

Rounding comes to Ireland
read Ronnie O’Toole’s article here

Age Action’s Lifelong Learning – University of the Third Age (U3A) Programme
read Sam O’Brien–Olinger’s article here

“Lobbying is a good and proper thing to do”
read PAI report here
### Dáil

**Tuesday 21 July**  
No Dáil session

**Wednesday 22 July**  
No Dáil session

**Thursday 23 July**  
No Dáil session

### Seanad

**Monday 20 July**  
12.30 p.m.  
Order of Business

1.45 p.m.  
Houses of the Oireachtas (Appointments to Certain Offices) Bill 2014 – Committee, Report and Final Stages  
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

2.45 p.m.  
Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 – Committee, Report and Final Stages  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Seanad Adjourns

**Tuesday 21 July**  
10.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

11.45 a.m.  
Children First Bill 2014 – Second Stage  
(Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

1.45 p.m.  
Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Amendments back from the Dáil  
(Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

2.30 p.m.  
Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages  
(Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

Seanad Adjourns

**Wednesday 22 July**  
No Seanad Session

**Thursday 23 July**  
No Seanad Session

**Friday 17 July**  
No Seanad Session
**Tuesday 21 July**

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Financial losses due to lands being designated as special protection areas for the Hen Harrier [Representatives from Irish Farmers with Designated Land (IFDL)]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 4.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

**Wednesday 22 July**

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry
Session A: 9.30 a.m.
[Mr. David Begg, former General Secretary ICTU and Non-Executive Director Central Bank and CBFSAI and Mr. John Dunne, Director General IBEC and former Non-Executive Director Central Bank and IFSRA];
Session B: 11.30 a.m.
[Mr. Fergus Murphy, former Group Chief Executive Officer, EBS];
Session C: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Sean Mulryan, Founder, Ballymore Homes]; and
Session D: 4.30 p.m.
[Mr. Michael O’Flynn, Founder, O’Flynn Construction Group]

Health and Children (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Procurement practices for the purchase of hospital medical supplies and equipment [Officials from the HSE; and St. Vincent’s University Hospital]

**Thursday 23 July**

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry
Session A: 9 a.m.
[Mr. Enda Kenny T.D., An Taoiseach and Mr. Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation - regarding the policies of the Fine Gael Party while in opposition];
Session B: 12 noon
[Ms. Joan Burton T.D., An Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection and Mr. Pat Rabbitte T.D.- regarding the policies of the Labour Party while in opposition]; and
Session C: 3.30 p.m.
[Mr. Joe O’Reilly, Founder, Castlehorn Construction and Chartered Land Group]

Friday 24 July

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry
Session A: 9.30 a.m.
[Ms. Fidelma Clarke, former Chief Risk Officer, EBS]; and
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Peter Fitzgerald, former Director of Corporate and Retail Treasury, Anglo Irish Bank]
Public Affairs Ireland

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“Smart” Public Procurement

Wednesday, September 30th, 2015
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