

Oireachtas Update



Dáil Éireann is adjourned until Tuesday 22 September 2015.

Seanad Éireann is adjourned until Wednesday 23 September 2015.

The Banking Inquiry will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday will see former Tánaiste Mary Harney present her testimony. David Drumm, former Chief Executive of Anglo Irish Bank is also scheduled to give testimony on Wednesday, however, the committee must first decide if he may give testimony via video link.

Ibec Budget 2016 Submission calls for €2.5bn investment in infrastructure

Ibec have released their Budget 2016 Submission. In it, they examine George Osborne's latest budget, which shows real dedication to incoming investment, job creation and entrepreneurship. Ibec have said that this requires an Irish response.

Ibec CEO, Danny McCoy said, "[The UK] have embarked on a radical reform of the tax code to attract the next wave of inward investment, champion entrepreneurship and boost job creation. We need to show similar ambition. We have an opportunity to re-position post-crisis Ireland as a nimble, dynamic, pro-business and pro-entrepreneurship economy."

They have proposed an "income tax system that better rewards work", whereby the Government cut the marginal rate by one per cent, and further year-on-year. They also called for an additional investment of €1bn above the €1.5bn already planned for the budget. This would "ensure the country has the transport, education, housing and broadband infrastructure it needs to prosper".

Gender-equality review to be headed by former European Commissioner

Máire Geoghan-Quinn, former European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (2010—2014), is to lead a review of gender-equality in the State's third-level institutions.

The panel will examine gender profiles and equality policies of staffing in educational institutes currently funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The review will be "comprehensive" and "system-wide", across all grades of staff, including administrative staff. It is expected the report will be available in the twelve months.

The panel will also include Prof Pat O'Connor (UL), Prof Helen Peterson (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Ryan Shanks (Accenture Ireland) and Prof Paul Walton (University of York).

This comes after NUI Galways establishment of a Gender Equality Task Force in March, a task force which is committed to "implementing international best practice for women working in research and academia" and therefore "achieving equality of opportunity for all staff, irrespective of their gender"

HSE spending on agency nurses and overtime a cause for concern

The hiring of agency staff to fill gaps in front-line services is a serious problem for the HSE.

An internal briefing note by management shows that the hiring of temporary staff is a great concern, one which is forced upon them by the combination of “lower pay, unattractive geographic locations, together with a shortage of certain types of professionals”. Agency staff and overtime are required to fill crucial gaps; with a focus on tackling delayed discharges in acute hospitals this year, this practice was evermore necessary.

In 2014, the HSE paid €336m on overtime and agency staff, compared to €259m in 2012. In the first trimester of 2015, they spent €110m on overtime and agency staff, up from €104 for the same period in 2014.

Review of An Bord Pleanála announced

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, announced on Sunday 26 July 2015 that an organisational review of An Bord Pleanála would take place over the next six months. The Minister said that this review will ensure that An Bord Pleanála is “appropriately positioned to meet future challengers”. It will consider whether or not its remit should be extended.

In a press release by the Department, the following issues were identified as points to be reviewed by the expert group: “anticipated increase in construction activity”, “changing national and EU legislative and policy context”, “more effective coordination of the planning permission process”, appropriateness of current legislation”, foreshore licensing, “systems, procedures and administrative practices employed in the Board”, and “the optimal organisational structure”. It will also consider the establishment of the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The Minister said, “The Board is a vital part of the planning architecture in Ireland and in the context of the recovering national economy, the further potential expansion of the Board’s remit and the increasingly challenging national and EU legislative and regulatory context in which it operates, I consider that now is an opportune time to undertake an organisational review to ensure that it is appropriately positioned for the future”.

The Report drafted by the expert review group, chaired by Gregory Jones of the Queen’s Counsel in London, is expected to be presented to the Minister by the end of the year.

PAI BLOG

Anonymous Hactivism: Can we be blasé about security threats to digitised information of public bodies?

read Maureen O’Sullivan’s article [here](#)

Low Pay Commission recommends an increase in the National Minimum Wage

read Tom Ferris’ article [here](#)

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](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 28 July**Wednesday 29 July****Thursday 30 July**

No Dáil session

No Dáil session

No Dáil session

SEANAD

Tuesday 28 July**Wednesday 29 July****Thursday 30 July**

No Seanad session

No Seanad Session

No Seanad Session

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 28 July**Wednesday 29 July****Thursday 30 July**

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

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. Alan Merriman, former Finance Director, EBS];
Session B: 11.30 a.m.
[Ms. Ethna Tinney, former Independent Non-Executive Director, EBS];
Session C: 2.30 p.m.
[Ms. Mary Harney, former Tánaiste and Leader of the Progressive Democrats and Mr. John Gormley, former Government Minister and Leader of the Green Party];
Session D: 4.30 p.m.
[Ms. Fidelma Clarke, former Chief Risk Officer, EBS]; and
Session E: 6.30 p.m.
[Mr. David Drumm, former Group Chief Executive, Anglo Irish Bank - to be confirmed]

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. Fintan Drury, former Non – Executive Director, Anglo Irish Bank];
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Alan Dukes, former Chairman, IBRC]; and
Session C: 4.30 p.m.
[Mr. Mike Aynsley, former Chief Executive Officer Anglo/IBRC]



Public Affairs Ireland

Annual Public Procurement Conference

“Smart” Public Procurement

Wednesday, September 30th, 2015

9am to 1pm

Westin Hotel, Dublin 2

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