**EROCs will be ready for first refugees, says Noonan**

In last week’s budget, Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, announced that the Government would allocate €25m to support the 4,000 refugees Ireland has agreed to take to help alleviate the migrant crisis. This money is to go to accommodation, and staffing and supplies for resettlement centres.

With the first wave of refugees expected to arrive at the end of this year, or early 2016. The first of the resettlement centres, or Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs) will be ready in time for their arrival, according to the Department of Justice.

Centres will be set up in State properties that are owned by the Office of Public Works. They are also calling for private property owners who are interested in getting involved—they have until next Friday 30 October to do so.

There has been some backlash which called for placement of these centres outside Dublin, in deference to the current homelessness crisis in the capital.

The Hazel Hotel in Monasterevin, Co Kildare, has already been announced as a centre. It will hold 520 refugees between now and the end of the year.

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**Teachers vote down Landsdowne Rd Agreement**

Both the ASTI and TUI, who represent secondary school teachers, have voted against the Landsdowne Road Agreement.

The Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI) voted against the deal with a margin of 74% to 26%. Only 31.5% of its members voted. The Teachers’ Union of Ireland (TUI) voted it down with a margin of 92% to 8%, with a 60% turnout.

The Landsdowne Road Agreement allows for restoration of wages which were reduced under the Croke Park Agreement. However, the pay rises are subject to productivity concessions, including an additional thirty-three hours work per annum.

The budget allows €43m for the restoration of pay.

The Agreement will be implemented regardless of the outcome of these votes, as the larger trade unions, including SIPTU, have voted in its favour.
**Rounding finally arrives**

On 3 July 2015, Dr Ronnie O’Toole of the Central Bank wrote an article for PAI in which he outlined the forthcoming Rounding Policy. The article announced that rounding would be rolled out later this year, on a voluntary basis.

The Central Bank has now said that next week, Wednesday 28 October, will be the starting point for this new plan. While one- and two-cent coins will remain legal tender, the total sum of transactions will be rounded to the nearest five cents in establishments who are opting in to the scheme. This rounding will only apply to cash payments. To date, the Central Bank has sent out 20,000 information packs.

Consumers can, when presented with their rounded figure, ask for their correct change.

Talking to RTÉ Morning Ireland, Dr O’Toole said: “We have produced around 2.5bn [one and two cent coins] since the launch of the euro … but there are very few in circulation because people are not putting them back.”

There are other uses for your coins. Dr O’Toole noted in his PAI article that Australia, who have already adopted rounding, melted down their coins and used them to make the bronze medals during their Olympic hosting. A number of charities are also encouraging people to donate their hoarded small coins.

For more information about rounding, see the Better All Round website, and Dr Ronnie O’Toole’s PAI article.

**Getting rid of the common law defence will ban smacking**

The Minister for Children, Dr James Reilly TD, has responded to an indictment UK-based human rights association APPROACH that said that the Irish common law defence of “reasonable chastisement” was in breach of the European Social Charter.

The complaint was lodged on 4 February 2013 (Case no 93/2013) and stated that “that the existence of the Irish common law of “reasonable chastisement” allows parents and some other adults to assault children with impunity.”

The Minister has said that he would not like to introduce explicit new legislation to ban parents smacking their children, but rather he would remove the common law defence. Laws that allowed parents and care-takers to use corporeal punishment on children was repealed in 2000. He has also said that he would introduce legislation that explicitly bans physical punishment of children in foster or residential care.

The move to create these further protections has been openly welcomed by children’s charities such as the Children’s Rights Allowance, Barnardos and the ISPCC.
This Week at Public Affairs Ireland

**Training**

**Certificate in Data Protection**
1.5 day course
20 October 2015, 9.30am to 4pm
21 October 2015, 9.30am to 1pm
PAI Main Office

**No-Nonsense Project Management**
22 October 2015
9.30am to 4.15pm
PAI Main Office

**Editing Skills**
22 October 2015
9am to 1pm
PAI Main Office

**On the Blog**

A run-down of Budget 2016
PAI editor Shauna Nimmo
Read [here](#)

IMF shows confidence in Ireland’s economic prospects
Tom Ferris
Read [here](#)

The Problem with the Bail Bill
Michael Williams
Read [here](#)

Smart Public Procurement: More flexible, more transparent, and more cost effective
PAI Editor Shauna Nimmo
Read [here](#)
This week in Dáil Éireann

**Tuesday 20 October**

2.00 p.m.
Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)

3.15 p.m.
Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.
Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.
Order of Business

5.06 p.m.
Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

6.31 p.m.
Topical Issues

Motion re Proceeds of Sale of Aer Lingus (back from Committee) (to conclude within 20 minutes) (Department of Finance)

Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - Fianna Fáil

Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Bill 2015 - Second Stage Resumed (to adjourn at 10.00 p.m. if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

10.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

**Wednesday 21 October**

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

10.45 a.m.
Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)

Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Electoral (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

12.51 p.m.
SOS (1 hour)

1.51 p.m.
Topical Issues

2.39 p.m.
Morning Business Continued

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - Fianna Fáil

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

**Thursday 22 October**

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Health)

10.45 a.m.
Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Finance)

Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Electoral (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

Criminal Justice (Burglary of Dwellings) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

Motion re Intergovernmental Agreement to the Single Resolution Mechanism (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Finance)

Motion re Regulation for Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (Back from Committee) (without Debate) (Department of Health)

Morning Business Continued

4.42 p.m.
Topical Issues

5.30 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

**Friday 23 October**

10.00 a.m.
Management Fees (Local Property Tax) Relief Bill 2015

12.00 noon
Report on Voting Rights of Irish Citizens Abroad

2.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
This week in Seanad Éireann

**Tuesday 20 October**

- 2.30 p.m.
  Commencement Matters

- 3.30 p.m.
  Order of Business

  Motion regarding the proceeds of the sale of Aer Lingus (Back from Committee – Without Debate)

- 5.00 p.m.
  Marriage Bill 2015 – Second Stage
  (Department of Justice and Equality)

- 7.00 p.m.
  Seanad Adjourns

**Wednesday 21 October**

- 10.30 a.m.
  Commencement Matters

- 11.30 a.m.
  Order of Business

  1.00 p.m.
  Children First Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages
  (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

- 3.00 p.m.
  Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015 – Committee, Report and Final Stages
  (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

- 5.00 p.m.
  Private Members Business – Motion

- 7.00 p.m.
  Seanad Adjourns

**Thursday 22 October**

- 10.30 a.m.
  Commencement Matters

- 11.30 a.m.
  Order of Business

  Motion re Regulation for Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005
  (Back from Committee) (without Debate)
  (Department of Health)

- 1.00 p.m.
  Marriage Bill 2015 – Committee, Report and Final Stages
  (Department of Justice and Equality)

- 3.00 p.m.
  Seanad Adjourns
This week’s Committee Meetings

**Tuesday 20 October**

- **AGENDA:** (ii) Engagement with Mr. Eugene Magee, Chairperson Designate, 2015 [Minister for Health]; and Professionals Act 2005 (Section 4(7)) (Membership of Council) Regulations
- **AGENDA:** (i) Motion re: Amendment to the Health and Social Care Act 2013, LH 2000 5.30 p.m. (T)
- **AGENDA:** (ii) The Enterprise Ireland Annual Report 2014 [Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]
- **AGENDA:** (i) The Greyhound Racing Industry
  - Session A: [Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with special responsibility for horticulture, forestry, the greyhound industry and food safety]
  - Session B: [Representatives from the Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation (IGOBF)]; and
  - Session C: [Representatives from the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB)]
- **AGENDA:** (ii) The adherence of Public Service Bodies to their responsibilities under the Official Languages Act
- **AGENDA:** (i) An Coimisinéir Teanga Annual Report 2014; and
  - (ii) Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid Na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht 2006 – 2011
    - Conradh na Gaeilge, Udarás na Gaeltachta agus Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta
- **AGENDA:** (i) An Tuarascáil Nuashonrú Ar An Stáidéar Cuimsitheach
  - Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid Na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht 2006 – 2011
    - Conradh na Gaeilge, Udarás na Gaeltachta agus Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta
- **AGENDA:** (i) Engagement with Mr. Oliver Cussen, Chairperson Designate, CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)
  - (ii) Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2014; and
  - (iii) The Enterprise Ireland Annual Report 2014 [Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]
- **AGENDA:** (i) Engagement with Mr. H. Paul Shovlin, Chairperson Designate, National Forestry Council and its predecessor bodies; and (ii) The Enterprise Ireland Annual Report 2014 [Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]
- **AGENDA:** (i) The Enterprise Ireland Annual Report 2014 [Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]

**Wednesday 21 October**

- **AGENDA:** (i) Engagement with Mr. Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson Designate, Sport Ireland; and
  - (ii) Inincorrect emissions readings for Volkswagen cars [Representatives from Volkswagen Group Ireland and the Society of the Irish Motor Industry]
- **AGENDA:** (i) Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)
  - (ii) The Enterprise Ireland Annual Report 2014 [Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]
  - (ii) Better Europe Alliance: Response to 2015 Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland [Mr. Paul Ginnell, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland; Ms. Audrey Deane, Society of St Vincent de Paul; and Ms. Joan O’Donnell, Disability Federation of Ireland]
- **AGENDA:** (i) Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Victims of Crime Bill [ICCL/Victims’ Rights Alliance; SAFE Ireland; Rape Crisis Network Ireland; ISPCC; Irish Penal Reform Trust; Children’s Rights Alliance; Facing Forward; and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre]
  - (ii) Roles, remit and activities of the Ombudsman for Children in relation to schools and their Boards of Management [Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children]
- **AGENDA:** (i) European Movement Ireland: Accountability Report 2014 [Ms. Noelle O’Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland]; and
  - (ii) The adherence of Public Service Bodies to their responsibilities under the Official Languages Act
    - (ii) The adherence of Public Service Bodies to their responsibilities under the Official Languages Act
- **AGENDA:** (i) Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Adoption and Access to Records (Information and Tracing) Bill 2015 (resumed)
  - (ii) Chapter 21: Control over Supply of High Tech Drugs and Medicines
  - (iii) Chapter 20: Management of Private Patient Income in the Health Sector
- **AGENDA:** (i) Health and Children (Joint)
  - (ii) Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2014; and
  - (iii) 2014 Annual Report and Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General:
    - a. Vote 39: Health Service Executive
    - b. Chapter 19: Compliance with Prompt Payment Legislation in the Health Sector
    - c. Chapter 20: Management of Private Patient Income in the Health Sector
    - d. Chapter 21: Control over Supply of High Tech Drugs and Medicines
- **AGENDA:** (i) Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)
  - (ii) Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2014; and
  - (iii) 2014 Annual Report and Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General:
    - a. Vote 39: Health Service Executive
    - b. Chapter 19: Compliance with Prompt Payment Legislation in the Health Sector
    - c. Chapter 20: Management of Private Patient Income in the Health Sector
    - d. Chapter 21: Control over Supply of High Tech Drugs and Medicines

**Thursday 22 October**

- **AGENDA:** (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2014; and (iii) 2014 Annual Report and Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General:
  - a. Vote 39: Health Service Executive
  - b. Chapter 19: Compliance with Prompt Payment Legislation in the Health Sector
  - c. Chapter 20: Management of Private Patient Income in the Health Sector
  - d. Chapter 21: Control over Supply of High Tech Drugs and Medicines
- **AGENDA:** (i) Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)
  - (ii) Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2014; and
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    - a. Vote 39: Health Service Executive
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