Dublin Bus workers table further strike days

Dublin Bus workers announced last week that, following the failure of management to engage in the dispute, they had timetabled a further 13 days of strike action between September and October. This brings the total number of days affected by industrial action to 19.

The following are the planned upcoming days of work stoppages:

- Friday 23 September,
- Saturday 24 September,
- Tuesday 27 September,
- Wednesday 28 September,
- Saturday 1 October,
- Wednesday 5 October,
- Friday 7 October,
- Monday 10 October,
- Wednesday 12 October,
- Friday 14 October,
- Tuesday 18 October,
- Wednesday 19 October,
- Monday 24 October,
- Wednesday 26 October, and
- Saturday 29 October.

It is estimated that around 550,000 commuters are affected by the lack of bus services. The city has also seen huge increases in traffic congestion as a result of work stoppages.

However, as of yet, no plans have been made by the management or the Department of Transport to meet with trade unions representing Dublin Bus workers. Owen Reidy, SIPTU’s Transport, Energy, Aviation and Construction Division Organiser, has called on these two stakeholders to come to the table, in order to create “a long term sustainable funding model for Dublin Bus which is based on best international practice”.

Dr Quinn to succeed John Murphy

The current Assistant Secretary of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Dr Orlaigh Quinn, has just been named as the new Secretary General for the Department of Jobs. The decision for the appointment was made by the Government.

Dr Quinn also currently holds responsibility for the Public Service Reform and Delivery Programme, which oversees the Civil Service Renewal Plan. She has held various high-level roles throughout the Irish Civil Service and has also worked at the European Commission in Brussels. She has a Masters in Public Management and her doctorate is in Governance.

Speaking at the announcement, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O’Connor TD, commented:

“Amongst the Department’s various priorities is the central aim of the government’s effort to continue and strengthen the jobs recovery through initiatives such as the Action Plan for Jobs and regional development strategies … I am delighted that the Government has appointed Dr Orlaigh Quinn to lead this team at this very important time.”

Dr Quinn will be succeeding John Murphy as the Secretary General. The appointment is effective as of Monday 3 October.
Low Pay Commission to review Board and Lodging rates

Among the work that will be done by the Low Pay Commission in the next twelve months, Minister for Employment and Small Business, Pat Breen TD, has called for a re-evaluation of the reckonable rates for “board and lodging” as part of the minimum wage.

Under the National Minimum Wage Act 2000 (National Minimum Hourly Rate of Pay) Order 2000 (SI No. 95/2000), there are certain reckonable components that should be considered when calculating an employee’s hourly rate of pay.

Among these are rates allowed for board and lodgings, board only, and lodgings only. This is allowed when, in the course of employment, an employer provides either board, lodgings, or board and loadings to the employee. The rates, as set in the Order, are as follows:

• €54.13 for board and lodgings per week, or €7.73 per day;
• €32.14 for board only per week, or €4.60 per day;
• €21.85 for lodgings only per week, or €3.14 per day.

These rates have not been adjusted since the establishment of the Order.

Minister Breen said:
“Given the passage of time since these board and lodging rates were set in 2000, I think it is now timely that their appropriateness be reviewed”. He has therefore called on the Low Pay Commission to include this report in their findings on the sub-minima rates and gender pay equality, which are expected to be presented to the Minister by October 2017.

OBA conference will take place in Belfast

According to the NCB, “A revolution in governance is underway”.

The National Children’s Bureau Northern Ireland (NCB NI), in association with Clear Outcomes, will host a conference next month, Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 October, on the use of an Outcomes-Based Approach (OBA) to policy development. The conference, Outcomes & Impact, will be held in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast.

In a recent piece on PAI’s blog, NCB outlined the value of taking an OBA when it comes to service provision. It was noted that Stormont’s newest Programme for Government was developed based solely on such an approach. In fact, many of Northern Ireland’s statutory bodies now employ an approach which focuses on the outcomes of policy and services.

Speakers at the summit will include Mark Friedman, author of a cornerstone text in the OBA movement, *Trying Hard Is Not Good Enough*.

Other speakers include Andrew Kleine, an award-winning public servant who previously worked at the White House Office of Management and Budget and currently is Budget Director for the City of Baltimore in Maryland, USA; Diana Urban, a state representative from Connecticut; and Michael McAfee, Vice President for Programs at PolicyLink, an organisation that is transforming opportunities for young people across America.

For more information, or to secure a place, visit outcomesandimpact.com
This week at Public Affairs Ireland

**On the Blog**

Towards an Outcomes-Based Approach in the Public Service  
NCB NI  
Read [here](#)

The US Presidential Election 2016:  
*Could the electoral process throw up a major surprise this year?*  
Andy Cullen  
Read [here](#)

New Corporate Governance Code for State Bodies  
Tom Ferris  
Read [here](#)

Trends and Developments in Freedom of Information: A Year in Review  
Claire Hogan  
Read [here](#)

Emotional Intelligence: Why it’s even more important this year  
Billy Byrne  
Read [here](#)

**Notes from the Editor**

Issue 2 of *The Public Professional* is now available. Members can access it for free through our website. Non-members can buy print or digital versions on a copy-by-copy basis, or through a yearly subscription.

Issue 3 will be available through our subscriber platform on our website. It will be released on Friday 21 October and will include an interview with the Trinity College Dublin team responsible for the development and creation of the new Talent Analytics Lab, and an examination of what exactly Big Data is and how your organisation can use it best.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact our editor, Shauna, at [editor@pai.ie](mailto:editor@pai.ie).
Membership

Early Bird Offer

PAI members enjoy a range of benefits, including:

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• Invitation to our Annual HR Conference for the HR Manager and Head of Training
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• Access to a suite of bespoke in-house training courses (additional costs apply)
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For more information, call us on (01) 819 8500 or email lkearney@pai.ie
This week in Dáil Éireann

Adjourned until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 27 September 2016

This week in Seanad Éireann

Adjourned until 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 28 September 2016

This week’s Committee Meetings

**Tuesday 20 September**

**Budgetary Oversight**  
CR3, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.  
AGENDA: Session A: 9:30 a.m. Private Session  
Session B: 10 a.m. Revenue raising proposals [Officials from the Revenue Commissioners, and the Minister for Finance]

**Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht (Joint)**  
CR1, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.  
AGENDA: Regional development and the provision of infrastructure in rural areas [Representatives from the municipal districts of: Belturbet; Conamara and Kells]

**Future of Healthcare (Select)**  
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Session A: 9 a.m. General Practice in disadvantaged areas of Ireland [Dr. Edel McGinnity, Professor Susan Smith, Dr. John DeLap and Dr. David Gibney, representing Deep End Ireland]  
Session B: 11 a.m. The Carlow-Kilkenny Model of Care [Dr. Ronan Fawsitt and Professor Garry Courtney]

**Justice and Equality (Joint)**  
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Priorities for the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission in the near future [Chairperson Judge Mary Ellen Ring]

**Housing, Planning and Local Government (Joint)**  
CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.  
AGENDA: (i) Session A: 9:30 a.m. Engagement with Mr. Tony Kehane, Chairperson Designate, Evria (ii) Session B: 10.00 a.m. Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (resumed) [Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government] (iii) Session C: 11.00 a.m. Mid-year Review of 2016 Estimates for Public Services - Vote 34 (Housing, Planning and Local Government) [Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government]

**Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)**  
CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m.  
AGENDA: Session A: 10 a.m. Private Session  
Session B: 10.30 a.m. Mid-year Review of 2016 Estimates for Public Services - Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

**Dáil Business Room 2 (off the Main Hall), Leinster House 12 noon**  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

**Public Accounts**  
CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.  
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee and (ii) Comptroller and Auditor Special Report 91: Management of Severance Payments in Public Sector Bodies [Representatives from the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and the Central Bank]

**Budgetary Oversight**  
CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: Current and capital expenditure [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]

**Education and Skills (Joint)**  
CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: The non-payment of maintenance grants to students attending private 3rd level colleges [Representatives from the Wake Up SUSI Committee]

**Health (Joint)**  
CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: Regulation and scrutiny of Section 39 Organisations [Mr. John Farrell, CEO, Charities Regulatory Authority]

**Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources (Joint)**  
CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m.  
AGENDA: Mid-year review of the 2016 Estimates for Public Services - Vote 29 (Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) [Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment]

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**Thursday 22 September**

**An Ghaeilge, An Ghaeltacht agus na nOileán (Comh)**  
CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.  
AGENDA: Ról Chonradh na Gaeilge i gcur chun cinn agus i gcothú na Gaeilge [An tUasal Julian de Spáinn, Rúnaí Ginearálta, Conradh na Gaeilge]

**Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Joint)**  
CR1, LH 2000 2.30 p.m.  
AGENDA: Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust [Mr. Colin Bell]

**Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)**  
CR2, LH 2000 2.30 p.m.  
AGENDA: Mid-Year Review of the 2016 Estimates for Public Services - Vote 32 (Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]
Policy development and legislation in a changed political environment:

*How has a minority government impacted on the legislative process?*

The advent of a new minority Government this year represents a new vista for many in the public service and the political system. Instead of a Government being able to rely on an in-built majority in both the Dail and Seanad, the new Government has no guaranteed assurances that legislation will be passed as proposed or in a timely fashion. From a public policy and public administration perspective, this presents real challenges and forces consideration of new approaches to the development of policy and legislation.

To address these changes PAI will hold a conference in Dublin on 30 September, specifically on policy development and the legislative process in a changed political environment.

**Friday 30 September 2016**

9am–1pm

Public Affairs Ireland building, 25 Mountjoy Sq E, Dublin 1.