Weekly Newsletter
Issue 428
Business for week beginning 05/12/16

Notice of Appointments

Please note
The website home of the Public Appointments Service, publicjobs.ie, is currently down for scheduled maintenance and, as such, will be unavailable to those seeking positions at this time.

Medical Practitioners must protect against negligence

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Government Business will cover the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2014, which has reached its Second Stage.

The Bill, in the main, is for the purpose of setting in place procedures to ensure that Medical Practitioners have an adequate level of medical indemnity insurance. Under this legislation, they must provide evidence of such to the Medical Council. Minimum levels of cover will be set by the Medical Council, dependent on the class of medical practitioner.

Currently, there is no legal obligation for medical practitioners to have medical indemnity insurance. The lack of this cover means that, should the practitioner be negligent in their care of a patient, that patient has no means of seeking redress for any damages.

Under Article 4(2)(d) of EU Directive 2011/24/ EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March, 2011, EU Member States must have in place systems of professional liability insurance for all professionals, including those in the medical profession.

View the Bill here.

Action taken on Action Plan for Housing

Government Business on Wednesday and Thursday will see the discussion of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Bill 2016.

This Bill, of course, gives effect to many of the provisions laid out in “Rebuilding Ireland”, the Government’s Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness published in July 2016. As winter settles in proper, this issue is at the fore of many peoples’ minds.

The Bill provides for:
• A Fast-tracked planning procedure for residential developments of more than 100 units, and for large-scale student accommodation projects.
• A streamlining of existing procedures in Local Authorities to ensure that plans move as quickly as possible.
• Ability of the Minister to make payments that relate to the provisions of the Bill.
• An amendment of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to enable screening for environmental impact assessment (EIA) to be carried out in advance of planning permission being sought for a particular development”
• Extensions to the duration of extant permissions that have already previously been extended for the duration of the Action Plan, in an attempt to boost supply.
• Systems whereby the Housing Finance Agency can lend to other bodies.
• Tenancy protections, as outlined in the Action Plan.

You can view the Bill here.
Core Skills for Clerical Officers
Two days: Tuesday 6 & Wednesday 7 December
9.30am–4.30pm

This two-day Clerical Officer programme is designed in alignment with CO grade competencies. The programme will enable you to understand your role covering core administration, communication and records management skills, to ensure the delivery of organisation goals and policy implementation.

For more information or to book click here
The Public Service Pay Commission –
a new approach or a return to benchmarking?

Keynote speaker: Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

As a background to all the current media attention around reopening public service pay negotiations, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, TD has announced the establishment of a Public Service Pay Commission (PSPC) to “examine pay levels across the public service, including entry levels of pay.” Mr Kevin Duffy has been appointed as Chairman of the Commission.

Minister Donohoe will open our Annual HR Conference, which will focus on issues relating to Public Service pay and will hear from a range of different perspectives on this issue. Minister Donohoe will deliver the keynote address. No doubt other more current issues may arise at the conference as well.

Speakers will address some of the issues around pay and will have contributions from union and employer sides as well as examining some of the IR, economic and legal issues involved in addressing public service pay issues. This practically focused conference will be of keen interest to all public servants, particularly those involved in HR, IR and corporate services functions.

Speakers will include

Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

Kieran Mulvey, former Head of the LRC/WRC

Tom Healy, Director of the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI)

Michelle Ní Longaín, partner at ByrneWallace

Patricia Callan, Director of the Small Firms Association (SFA)

Bill Roche, professor of IR and HR at UCD’s School of Business
This week in Dáil Éireann

Tuesday 06 December

2.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, LAB, AAA-PBP) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion re. PQ rota swap (Department of Defence and Department of Children and Youth Affairs) (without debate)
Further Revised Estimates (back from Committee) (without debate)

3.02 p.m.
Taoiseach’s Questions (45 mins)

3.47 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment (90 mins)

5.17 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

6.05 p.m.
Government Business: (115 mins)
Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2014 [Seanad] – Second Stage (Department of Health)
8.00 p.m. Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): (120 mins)
Bectoral (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014

10.00 p.m.
Adjournment

Wednesday 07 December

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, I4C, RIG) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)
Motion re. Appointments (3) to GSOC (without debate)

12.47 p.m.
Taoiseach’s Questions (45 mins)

1.32 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (90 mins)

3.02 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

3.50 p.m.
SOS

4.30 p.m.
Private Members Business (Sinn Féin): (120 mins)
Motion re. Pension Equality and Fairness

6.30 p.m.
Government Business (210 mins)
Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Bill 2016 [Seanad] – Second Stage (resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government)
Statements re. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 08 December

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, RIG, SD-GP) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)
Supplementary Estimates (back from Committee) (without debate)

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 minutes)

1.30 p.m.
Government Business (120 mins)
Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Bill 2016 [Seanad] – Second Stage (resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government)
Statements re. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)

3.30 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (90 mins)

5.00 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

5.48 p.m.
Committee Report/ PMB: (120 mins)
Social and Affordable Housing Bill 2016 – Second Stage

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 06 December</th>
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<td>2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>10.30 a.m. Commencement Matters</td>
<td>12 noon Commencement Matters</td>
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<td>3.30 p.m.</td>
<td>3.30 p.m. Order of Business</td>
<td>Order of Business Motion regarding appointments to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission - without debate [Department of Justice &amp; Equality]</td>
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<td>4.45 p.m.</td>
<td>12.45 p.m. Social Welfare Bill 2016 - Committee Stage [Minister for Social Protection]</td>
<td>12.45 p.m. Finance Bill 2016 - Committee Stage [Department of Finance]</td>
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<td>5.00 p.m. Private Members Business</td>
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<td>Public Bodies Review Agency Bill 2016 - Second Stage [Senator Pádraig Ó'Céidigh]</td>
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<td>1.30 p.m.</td>
<td>1.30 p.m. Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage</td>
<td>Statements on the Funding of Orkambi for Cystic Fibrosis patients [Department of Health]</td>
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Tuesday 06 December

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals:
Schedule A: COM(2016)662
(ii) The likely economic impact of Brexit with particular emphasis on jobs and enterprise and the steps being taken to mitigate these risks (resumed) [Mr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Northern Ireland Minister for Finance; Mr. Chris Hazzard, Northern Ireland Minister for Infrastructure]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Select)
CR1, LH 2000 3 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: 2016 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 30 (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

Budgetary Oversight
CR3, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Engagement with the EU Commission [Mr. Carlos Martínez-Mongay, Director, Economies of the Member States II, Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs]

Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday 07 December

Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Céard a theastaíonn a dhéanamh chuimhneachán a chur a bhíonn le fáil i drained na hÉireann [Ms. Laoise Ó Longáin, Minister; Mr. Eoghan Murphy, Minister of State; and Mr. Alan Kelly, Minister of State]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select)
CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: 2016 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

Justice and Equality (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 [Seanad]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Taxation matters relating to Kerry Co-Operative shareholdings

Dáil Procedure Room 2 (off the Main Hall), Leinster House 6 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Thursday 08 December

Education and Skills (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Observations and insights into the findings of Investing in National Ambition: a Strategy for Funding Higher Education, Report of the Export Group on Future Funding for Higher Education [Ms. Annie Hoey President, Union of Students in Ireland; Mr. Kieran McNulty, President, Students Union, Trinity College Dublin; Ms. Jane M Hayes Nally, President, Irish Second Level Students Union; Dr. Mary Elizabeth Daly, President, Royal Irish Academy; Ms. Catherine McGuinness, Chair, Governing Authority, University College Dublin; and Ms. Catherine Day, Chair, Governing Authority, University College Cork];
(ii) Observations and insights into the findings in National Ambition: a Strategy for Funding Higher Education, Report of the Export Group on Future Funding for Higher Education [Mr. Tony Donohoe, Director of Education, IBEC; Ms. Patricia King, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions; Dr. Seán Healy, Director, Social Justice Ireland; Mr. James Doorley, Deputy Director, National Youth Council of Ireland; Mr. Richard Kennedy, Deputy President, Irish Congress of Trade Unions; and Prof. Diamuid Hegarty, Chair, Higher Education Colleges Association]

Health (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Session A: 9.00 a.m. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the ‘Open Disclosure’ provisions contained in the Civil Liability (Amendment) Bill [Representatives from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation; the Irish Medical Council Primary and the National Parents Council Post Primary]

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Dáil Business Room 2 (off the Main Hall), Leinster House 10.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 12.15 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Statute Law Revision Bill 2016 [Minister of State for Financial Services, eGovernment and Public Procurement]