Weekly Newsletter
Issue 433
Business for week beginning 13/02/17

Appointments Opportunities
The Minister for Justice and Equality has opened up applications for an ordinary Member position on the Board of the National Disability Authority.

Applicants should be able to show “in-depth knowledge and experience of issues and services relating to mental health matters as well as disability issues”. They should also have senior-level experience in either finance and audits or risk management. Experience in the areas of public policy and strategy development, as well as previous Board experience are desirable.

Successful candidates may be asked to sit on an Audit Committee.

More information can be found here.

This position was first advertised on 27 January 2017. Closing date for applications is Friday 17 February 2017. The position listing can be found here.

Intellectual Property legislation discussed
This week, the members of Dáil Éireann will discuss the Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016.

This Bill would allow small companies to claim a tax benefit on the basis of their possession of a Knowledge Development Box certificate for an invention that is deemed to be “novel, non-obvious and useful”. Companies covered under the Knowledge Development Box would qualify for a reduced corporate tax rate of 6.25%. The issuing of these certificates would be within the remit of the Controller of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.

The Bill will also amend previous Patent Acts to ensure that long-term Irish patents continue to qualify for the Knowledge Development Box after 1 January 2017.

The Bill was first presented in November 2016 and will reach its Second Stage this week. You can view the Bill here.

Reports on cost of operating a vehicle to be launched
This week will see the examination of two reports relating to the cost of motor insurance.

The first is the Report on the Rising Costs of Motor Insurance undertaken by the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (November 2016). In a foreword to this Report, chairman of the Committee, John McGuinness TD, said:

“The cost of motor insurance poses a serious risk to national competitiveness and the performance of the overall economy.”

You can read this Report here.

The second is a Report of the Cost of Insurance Working Group, published in January 2017. Much like the previous Report, the Working Group found that the rising cost of motor insurance was an issue that would require a large-scale overhaul of the insurance industry. Minister of State for Financial Services, eGovernment and Public Procurement, Eoghan Murphy TD, said that “the market in Ireland is further impacted by practices that are outdated and which also appear to be unique to the market here”.

You can read this Report here.
During this three-day course, attendees will learn how their individual traits and characteristics can be best used when leading a team. Theory won’t just be read and forgotten, but put to practice in a hands-on approach to all manner of leadership scenarios. By the end of the course, participants will feel confident in leading people in a work environment.

This course is led by Ashley Hughes, a training and development specialist with over fifteen years’ experience working in both academic education and management development arenas.
Update: Legal Professional Privilege  
**Thursday 23 February**

Special rules apply to Legal Professional Privilege within the context of public bodies. Recent developments in case law will be explored, with special attention given to the level of legal professional privilege that applies in the case of in-house counsel. This seminar will be led by a solicitor from A&L Goodbody and a practicing barrister.  
[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Sale and Development of Public Land  
**Friday 3 March**

Pillar 2 of Rebuilding Ireland identifies the need to build more housing units as tantamount to the success of the Action Plan for Housing. In an attempt to achieve the goals set by the Government, it may be necessary for local authorities to sell and develop on land in their holdings. This update seminar will explore the practicalities and challenges of this.  
[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Whistleblowers and Protected Disclosure  
**Friday 3 March**

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 brought about protections for workers who raise alarms about any wrong-doings in a workplace. This kind of protection, previous to this, was only enjoyed in certain sectors, such as healthcare. Precedent and best practice, since the publishing of the Act, has developed a significant amount, due in part to the media coverage of several high-profile whistleblowing cases. This update seminar will look at these developments, and where the legislation stands.  
[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Data Protection Law in Ireland & EU’s New Data Protection Regulation  
**Monday 6 March**

Next year, the GDPR will become operational across EU countries. This will demand higher standards for data transfers. This update seminar will explore the ways in which this will impact on civil servants and the public service in Ireland.  
[Click here for more information](#)

Updates in Regulatory Impact Analyses  
**Friday 10 March**

Regulatory Impact Analyses, or Assessments (RIA)s are a measure introduced to analyse policy issues and solutions within public sector frameworks. They were first introduced in 2009. However, despite the length of time that they have been statutorily in place, the preparing and publication of them is still patchy. This half-day seminar will look at the process, the reasons behind the preparation, and the outcomes to which it can lead.  
[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Revised Paternity Rights & Family Leave Legislation  
**Monday 20 March**

In September 2016, new legislation was introduced that afforded parents, other than the mother, rights to take leave from employment following the birth or adoption of a child. Applying this legislation can be difficult, as there are many different classes of parent awarded rights through the Act. This Update seminar looks at the new allowances for Paternity Leave, as well as exploring Maternity Leave and Parental Leave more generally. The seminar will be of particular interest to HR professionals. The Update will be led by Law Library barrister, Helen Murray.  
[Click here for more information](#)
Tuesday 14 February

2.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, AAA-PBP, I4C) (32 mins)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion re. PQ Rota Change (Departments of Finance and Social Protection, and Departments of Foreign Affairs and Education) (without debate)
Motion re. Report of Services by the Defence Forces with the United Nations in 2015 (referral to Committee) (without debate) (Department of Defence)

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

3.47 p.m.
PQs: Oral – Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (90 mins)

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

6.05 p.m.
Government Business: (115 mins)
National Famine Commemoration Day Bill 2017 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (to conclude after 90 minutes) (Deputy Colm Brophy) (Departments of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - (Second Stage resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

8.00 p.m.
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): Motion re. North/ South Interconnector (120 mins)

10.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 15 February

9.30 a.m.
Statements on Recent US Executive Order on Immigration (150 mins)

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

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (30 mins)

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

1.47 p.m.
PQs: Oral – Minister for Defence (90 mins)

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

4.05 p.m.
SOS (40 mins)

4.45 p.m.
Private Members Business (Sinn Fein): Motion re. Brexit and the need for a special designation for the North (120 mins)

6.45 p.m.
Government Business (210 mins)
Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016 - (Order for Report and Report and Final Stages) (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - (Second Stage Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 16 February

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, LAB, RIG) (32 mins)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 mins)

1.30 p.m.
Government Business (120 mins)
Motion re. Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of draft Commission of Investigation (Certain matters relating to two disclosures made by members of An Garda Síochána under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014) Order 2017 (to conclude after 85 minutes)
Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - (Second Stage resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

3.30 p.m.
PQs: Oral – Minister for Justice and Equality (90 mins)

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

5.48 p.m.
Committee Report/ PMB: (120 mins)

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
### Tuesday 14 February

- **2.30 p.m.** Commencement Matters
- **3.30 p.m.** Order of Business
- **4.45 p.m.** Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 – Report Stage (Amendments from Dáil Éireann) and Final Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

### Wednesday 15 February

- **10.30 a.m.** Commencement Matters
- **11.30 a.m.** Order of Business
- **12.45 p.m.** Statements on Transport and Tourism (Minister for Transport and Sport)
- **2.45 p.m.** Private Members Business
- **4.45 p.m.** Annual National Transition Statement on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

### Thursday 16 February

- **10.30 a.m.** Commencement Matters
- **11.30 a.m.** Order of Business
- **1.30 p.m.** Motion re. Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of draft Commission of Investigation (Certain matters relating to two disclosures made by members of An Garda Síochána under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014) Order 2017 (Department of Justice and Equality)
- **2.15 p.m.** Private Members Business - Civil Law (Missing Persons) Bill 2016 – Second Stage (Senators Colm Burke, Marie Louise O'Donnell, Lynn Ruane)
- **4.15 p.m.** Seanad Adjourns
This week’s Committee Meetings

Tuesday 14 February

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 12 noon
AGENDA: (i) Further Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals re “Clean Energy for all Europeans” package.
(ii) The effect of the proposed withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on the Irish energy market.
[Officials from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment]

Health (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) National Maternity Strategy 2016 - 2026 (resumed) [Representatives from the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services Ireland (AIMS Ireland)]
(ii) Appropriation Accounts 2015
Vote 30: Agriculture, Food and the Marine
C&AG Report 2015
Chapter 7: EU Refunds and Levies in the Agriculture Sector
[Officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Report on the Cost of Motor Insurance [Minister of State with special responsibility for Financial Services, eGovernment and Public Procurement]
(ii) Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Select)
Vote 1: Agriculture, Food and the Marine
[Representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services
Vote 7 (Office of the Minister for Finance), Vote 8 (Office of Public Works and Flood Relief)
Session A: 1.30 p.m - Vote 13 (Office of Public Works) [Minister of State for Office of Public Works and Flood Relief]
Session B: 3.15 p.m - Vote 7 (Office of the Minister for Finance), Vote 8 (Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General), Vote 9 (Office of the Revenue Commissioner), Vote 10 (Office of the Appeal Commissioners) [Minister for Finance]

Wednesday 15 February

Justice and Equality (joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Scrutiny of the Parole Bill 2016 [PMB] and the Prisons (Solitary Confinement) (Amendment) Bill 2016 [PMB]

Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Na saincheisteananna atá a dhéanamh mar aon leis an bhfeidhm as an bháis ar Éirinn [Ionadaithe ón mBrúghrúpa Éireannach le haghaidh Athchóiriú Inimirce] [Iomaidhe ansa san mBhruighrú Éireannach le haghaidh Athchóiriú Inimirce] The issues facing emigrants returning to rural Ireland [Representatives from the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform]

Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Water Supply Project for the Eastern & Midlands Region [Representatives from Irish Water]

Dáil Procedure
R160 5-Storey Block 10.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

European Union Affairs (joint)
CR1, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Briefing on the work of the General Affairs Council (GAC) and key developments on the European Agenda. [Minister of State for European Affairs]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services
Session A: 1.30 p.m - Vote 13 (Office of Public Works) [Minister of State for Office of Public Works and Flood Relief]
Session B: 3.15 p.m - Vote 7 (Office of the Minister for Finance), Vote 8 (Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General), Vote 9 (Office of the Revenue Commissioner), Vote 10 (Office of the Appeal Commissioners) [Minister for Finance]

Thursday 16 February

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Role of Regulators and Compliance with European Law [Representatives from the European Commission; Environmental Protection Agency; Commission for Energy Regulation; and Mr Matthias Kelly].
(ii) Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: The current situation at Bus Éireann [Mr. Willie Quigley, Unite the Union; Mr. Greg Ennis, Service Industrial Professional and Technical Union; Mr. Dermot O'Leary, National Bus and Rail Union (NBRU); Mr Patrick McLusker, Transport Salaried staffs’ Association, (TSSA) and Mr. Sean Heading, Technical Electrical and Engineering Union (TEEU)]

Health (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: National Maternity Strategy 2016 - 2026 (resumed) [Representatives from the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services Ireland (AIMS Ireland)]

Ad hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child
CR4, LH 2000 11.15 a.m.
AGENDA: Scrutiny of the Bill [PMB] of the Committee on the Education and Skills Committee

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 12 noon
AGENDA: Report on the Cost of Motor Insurance [Minister of State with special responsibility for Financial Services, eGovernment and Public Procurement]

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Select)
CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 27 (International Co-operation); and Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade) [Mr. Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Mr. Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Aid]

Dáil Business
R160 5-Storey Block 10.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Health (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: National Maternity Strategy 2016 - 2026 (resumed) [Representatives from the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services Ireland (AIMS Ireland)]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Justice and Equality (joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 27 (International Co-operation); and Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade) [Mr. Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Mr. Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Aid]