Appointment Opportunities

The Institute of Technology Tralee are now accepting applications for consideration for the position of President. The successful candidate’s responsibilities will be “to lead and oversee the development of the Institute in a period of significant change in the higher education sector in Ireland”. This will include the Institute’s merging with Cork Institute of Technology to form the Munster Technological University.

“The ideal candidate will preferably hold a PhD/Doctoral Qualification (Level 10) or Level 10 equivalent and will have a strong academic background as well as an established record of leadership and achievement at a senior level in business, industry, the public sector or higher education.” More information on desired experience and qualifications can be found in the Information Booklet, which can be viewed here.

The appointment is full-time, for a fixed period of five years. The closing date for applications is 3pm on Thursday 2 March 2017.

This position is advertised on publicjobs.ie. The ad can be viewed here.

Supervised Injection Facility legislation reaches Second Stage

This week in Dáil Éireann, the Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017 will reach its Second Stage.

The legislation, in the main, provides for the “establishment, licensing, operation and regulations of” supervised injection facilities nationally. These injection centres are established with the purpose of trying to minimise the risks associated with intravenous drug use. It would also serve to reduce the issue of drug-users injecting in public, and leaving drug-related litter in areas where these activities occur.

Extra funds allocated for the Drugs strategy has been earmarked for the provision of these resources. Catherine Byrne TD, answering a Written Question, stated: “the additional funding will also be used to support the establishment of a pilot supervised injecting facility in Dublin city centre during 2017” (18 October 2016).

You can view the Bill here.

For more information about supervised injection facilities, read Maureen O’Sullivan’s blog here.

New Public Procurement Contract requirements bumped

A Bill first introduced by members of the Seanad that was indicated for discussion will not be timetabled this week. The Public Services and Procurement (Social Value) Bill 2015 has not been included in the discussions for this week.

The Bill will require public bodies to pay due diligence to “economic, social and environmental well-being” when making procurement decisions.

Committee members suggested that the legislation be amended to include a section that allows for the need for contractors vying for contracts of over €1m to adhere to certain “community benefit requirement clauses”, including employing one long-term unemployed person, “while retaining all current employees of the company”.

It is unsure when this Bill will be discussed by the Dáil. You can view the Bill, as enacted, here.
Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD, has told the members of the Dáil that state-owned land may be useful in achieving the goal of Pillar 2 of the Action Plan for Housing: build more houses. This would involve local authorities selling or developing on land holdings in order to provide more housing units. It is expected that such development will contain a mix of tenures: social housing, low-cost housing, starter homes and private housing. This Update will look at the practicalities and challenges of this development.
In 2016, Public Affairs Ireland began the roll-out of our New Entrant programmes. These two-day courses are developed with expert input to ensure attendees gain the skills required at their grade. For those who are established in their role, these courses can serve as a refresher for all the competencies needed to at your current grade or ease the transition into the next.

Due to the success of our Core Skills courses, we have now launched regional delivery of our Core Skills for Clerical Officers (COs) and Core Skills for Executive Officers (EOs) taking place in the Killeshin Hotel in Portlaoise.

**Core Skills for COs**
On successful completion of this module, learners will have a firm understanding of the following core skills and how to apply them to be an effective CO (and grade equivalent):

- Team-work: how to effectively work with your team members
- Effective records and information management (FOI, Data Protection & Procurement overview)
- Strategies for the effective delivery of results through planning, time management and problem-solving skills
- Customer Service & Communication Skills
- Wellbeing in the workplace
- Self-Development opportunities

**Upcoming Dates**
Monday 6 & Tuesday 7 March
[Click here for more information or to book](#)

**Core Skills for EOs**
On successful completion of this module, learners will have a strong understanding of many topics, including:

- Interpersonal & Communication Skills
- Analysis & Decision Making (FOI, Data Protection and Procurement)
- Project Management & Delivery of Results
- People Management
- Wellbeing in the workplace
- Self-Development

**Upcoming Dates**
Thursday 2 & Friday 3 March
[Click here for more information or to book](#)
Tuesday 21 February

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

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion re. Capital Carryover Order (without debate) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

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

3.47 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral – Minister for Social Protection (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 - Second Stage resumed (Deputy Colm Brophy) (Departments of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)
Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

8.00 p.m.
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): Public Services and Procurement (Social Value) Bill 2017 (120 mins)

10.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 22 February

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, LAB, RIG) (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.
P.Q.s: Oral – Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (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): Industrial Relations (Right to Access) (Amendment) Bill 2016 — Second Stage (120 mins)

6.45 p.m.
Government Business (210 mins)
Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Report and Final Stages resumed (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Minerals Development Bill 2015 [Seanad] - Second Stage (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 23 February

12.00 p.m.
Leaders’ Questions (FF, SF, AAA-PBP, I4C) (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)
Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)
Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Health)

3.30 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral – Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (90 mins)

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

5.48 p.m.
Committee Report/ PMB: (120 mins)
Employment Equality (Abolition of Mandatory Retirement Age) Bill 2016 - Second Stage

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
Tuesday 21 February

2.30 p.m.  
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.  
Order of Business

4.45 p.m.  
Statements on recent Education Announcements (Minister for Education)

Wednesday 22 February

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.  
Statements on Developments in the Organic Sector and in the Greyhound Industry (Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture)

3.00 p.m.  
Statements on Symphysiotomy (Department of Health)

4.30 p.m.  
Private Members Business  
Minimum Custodial Periods upon Conviction for Murder Bill 2017 - Second Stage (Senators Marie Louise O’Donnell, Gerard P. Craughwell, Kevin Humphreys)

6.30 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns

Thursday 23 February

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

1.30 p.m.  
Statements on the Diaspora

3.00 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns
Updates on Current Developments Impacting on Freedom of Information in Ireland

Key themes to be addressed

- The impact of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 on public organisations
- The Information Commissioner's perspective on compliance with the FOI regime and identifying best practice in managing FOI requests
- An analysis of recent decisions of the Information Commissioner and the Courts on FOI cases
- The perspective of the Central Policy unit in DPER on the operation of FOI policy
- Practical issues for FOI Officers concerning requests for the release of different categories of confidential information
- FOI requests and cross border bodies
- The requesters perspective – an analysis from a media commentator on latest trends in the operation of the FOI Act
- Analysis of the results of a survey of FOI officers on current issues and current practices impacting on the operation of the FOI Act in Ireland

Keynote Speaker: Paschal Donohoe TD

Paschal Donohoe is the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Prior to this appointment he served, from July 2014-May 2016, as the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. Paschal has also held the position as the Minister for European Affairs at the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs from July 2013-July 2014. Paschal was formerly the Chair of Ireland’s Future in Europe Oireachtas Sub-Committee, as well as a member of the Public Accounts Committee.

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For more information, click here

Other Speakers

Garrett Fennell is a solicitor and a specialist consultant in regulatory and public affairs. He will be chairing this conference.

Annette Hogan is a partner in the McCann Fitzgerald’s and specialises in data protection and freedom of information

Paul Lavery is the head of the McCann Fitzgerald’s Technology & Innovation Group and advises on a wide range of information technology, intellectual property, data protection, confidentiality and freedom of information issues.

Daniel McConnell is a Political Correspondent at the Irish Examiner.

More TBC...
Tuesday 21 February

Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 11 a.m.
AGENDA: Strategy for the Rental Sector [Representatives from the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Residential Tenancies Board and Housing Agency]

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 11 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals:
(ii) Hearings on the Banded Hours Contract Bill 2016 [PMB] (resumed)
Session A (11.15 am): Representatives from Primark Ireland.
Session B (12 pm): Ms. Marguerite Bolger SC; Ms. Cathy Maguire Chairperson of the Employment Bar Association.

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 11.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

European Union Affairs (Joint); Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 12.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Engagement with the First Vice President of the European Commission. [Mr. Frans Timmermans, First Vice President of the European Commission]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Education and Skills (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Positive Mental Health in Our Schools [Representatives from Moodwatchers; the Crooked House Theatre Company; the School of Human Development at Dublin City University (DCU); and Jigsaw Mental Health Services].

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Matters relating to the banking sector (resumed)
Session A: 4 p.m. - Mr Larry Broderick, Financial Services Union
Session B: 5.30 p.m. - Mr Padraic Kissane, Financial Advisor, Tracker Mortgage Campaign

An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin (Comh)
CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m.
AGENDA: ‘Na seirbhísí na scileanna, an oiliúint agus na saoráidí is gá chun go gcuirfidh státseirbhís na hÉireann seirbhís iomlán ar fáil don phobal, dá custaiméirí agus dá fostaithe’.[Ionadaithe ó Gaelchultúr]

Children and Youth Affairs (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Session A: Cybersecurity for children and young adults [Representatives from the ISPCC]
(ii) Session B: Governance and control procedures in TUSLA - The Child and Family Agency [Representatives from TUSLA]

Justice and Equality (Select) CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Criminal Justice (Suspension of Imprisonment) Bill 2016 [Seanad] and Criminal Justice (Offences Relating to Information Systems) Bill 2016 [Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: The current situation at Bus Eireann, the Rural Transport Programme and the Free Travel Pass Scheme [Ms. Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority; and officials from Department of Social Protection]

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

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Equity, Fairness and Conservation Measures [Representatives from the Public Water Forum].

Health (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Quarterly update on Health Issues [Minister for Health and Officials from the Department of Health; and Mr. Tony O’Brien, Director General and Officials from the Health Service Executive]

Public Petitions (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Public Petitions received

Budgetary Oversight
CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m.
AGENDA: Fiscal outlook, competitiveness and labour market developments [Representatives from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)]

Thursday 23 February

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee;
(ii) Appropriation Accounts 2015 Vote 31: Transport Tourism and Sport [Representatives from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport]

Social Protection (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) restructuring [Representatives from Citizens Information Board and MABS]

Dáil Business
Room 2, LH 10.30 a.m.AGENDA: Private Meeting