

## Appointments

*Monday 13 March*

The Irish Exporters Association (IEA) have hired a new Head of Business Development.

Ronan Treacy will focus on expanding "on the IEA membership engagement strategy to help the IEA further support the Irish export industry" in light of Brexit. Mr Treacy's experience includes the position of Head of Sales and Marketing at the Sandymount Hotel, and other marketing positions at companies such as Aer Lingus and 123.ie.

Commenting on the new role, Mr Treacy said:

"The IEA is a highly progressive and influential independent representative body for all Irish exporters, and plays a vital role in guiding its members through their export journey, whether in the manufacturing or services sectors ... Part of my remit will also be to liaise with key stakeholders in government and the private sector, representing ambitious Irish businesses who are playing their part in driving the country's sustained economic growth."

The appointment became effective on 1 February 2017.

## GP cover to be expanded; prescription costs amended

This week's Dáil discussions will have a focus on the Health (Amendment) Bill 2017. In the main, the Bill will give effect to promised measures in relation to both free attendance to GP services and amended prescription costs.

All children, under the Act, in respect of whom Dependent Child Allowance is currently being paid, will now be able to attend General Practitioner services free of charge.

A new provision is included which states that "drugs, medicines and surgical appliances" will also be made available at no cost to those that qualify for full eligibility under the Act, once passed. This is extended to those over the age of 70, for example. Provisions have also been made for those classified as qualifying for lower prescription rates at a charge of €2 per item, with a total aggregate price not exceeding €20.

[You can view the Bill here.](#)

## Legislation to promote mediation practice to be discussed

The members of Dáil Éireann will, this week, discuss the Mediation Bill 2017.

The Bill provides for four distinct aims:

- To "specify the principles applicable to mediation";
- To "specify arrangements for mediation as an alternative to the institution of civil proceedings or to the continuation of civil proceedings that have been instituted";
- To "provide for codes of conduct to which mediators may subscribe"; and
- To "provide for the recognition of a body as the Mediation Council of Ireland for the purposes of this Act".

The overall aim of the Bill is to help facilitate mediation as a solution to workplace grievances, as opposed to bringing these difficulties to court action.

Certain proceedings will be exempted for the remit of this Bill, including but not limited to "proceedings under the Arbitration Act, disputes arising within an employment context referred to statutory dispute-resolution processes such as those provided by the Workplace Relations Commission; matters under tax and customs legislation; proceedings under the Child Care Acts or the Domestic Violence Acts."

[You can view the Bill here.](#)

The Alexander Hotel, Dublin 2  
Thursday 30 March



# 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 Commissioners 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

[For more information, click here](#)

## 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.

## Registration Fee

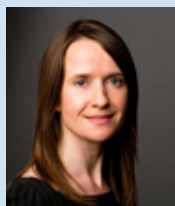
€295\*

\*includes conference registration, speaker materials, refreshments and three-course lunch. Please note that 23% VAT applies on conferences. Group and membership discounts may apply. For more information, call us on (01) 819 8500.

## Other Speakers



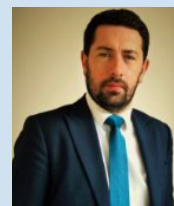
Garrett Fennell is a solicitor and a specialist consultant in regulatory and public affairs. He will be chairing this conference.



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 the Political Editor of the *Irish Examiner* and a best-selling author. Before that, he worked for almost a decade with Independent News and Media.



Ken Foxe is an assistant lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology in the School of Media. He also worked as a freelance journalist and consultant specialising in Freedom of Information, data journalism, and investigative reporting.

## At Public Affairs Ireland

### On the Blog

#### Prevention is Better than Cure – Improving Dignity at Work

Sile O'Donnell

Read [here](#)

#### Are pension rates further marginalising Ireland's older generations?

Justin Moran

Read [here](#)

#### Update on Regulatory Impact Assessment

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

#### Data-sharing in the Public Sector

Fleur O'Shea

Read [here](#)

### Training

#### **Certificate in Regulatory Investigations, Inspections and Prosecutions (2.5 days)**

22, 28 and 29 March

Where legal proceedings are involved, it is best to be aware of not only the legal and statutory obligations you must operate under, but also best practice in the field. This 2.5-day course takes attendees through preparation of evidence and reports, and taking and collating statements. Theory will be underpinned by demonstrations and practical work.

[Click here for more information](#)

#### **Develop your Confidence in Workplace Communications**

Half-day, 23 March

For some, developing a tone that is appropriate for the workplace can be difficult. This workshop helps attendees build their confidence in their professional communications – be that written or spoken. Our trainer works with attendees to help them develop their own unique communication style that is, above all, productive, positive and direct.

[Click here for more information](#)

*You can find us on...*

# This week in Dáil Éireann

## Tuesday 21 March

2.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, I4C) (32 mins)

2.32 p.m.  
Order of Business (30 mins)  
Motion re. Companies Act 2014 (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

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

3.47 p.m.  
Post European Council Statements (105 mins)

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

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

7.50 p.m.  
Government Business (10 mins)  
Companies (Accounting) Bill 2016 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

8.00 p.m.  
Private Members Business (Sinn Féin) (120 mins)  
Motion re. Mother and Baby Homes

10.00 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## Thursday 23 March

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, AAA-PBP, 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)  
Health (Amendment) Bill 2017 - (Committee and Remaining Stages (resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Health)  
Companies (Accounting) Bill 2016 - Report and Final Stages (resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)  
Mediation Bill 2017 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

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)  
Intoxicating Liquor (Breweries and Distilleries) Bill 2016 - Second Stage

7.58 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## Wednesday 22 March

10.00 a.m.  
Government Business (120 mins)  
Statements on the Announcement by the Commission of Investigation confirming Human Remains on the Site of the former Tuam Mother and Baby home (resumed)

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, I4C, 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.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (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 (Independents 4 Change)  
Thirty Fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) Bill 2016 - Second Stage

6.45 p.m.  
Government Business (210 mins)  
Health (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Health)  
Companies (Accounting) Bill 2016 - Report and Final Stages (resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)  
Mediation Bill 2017 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)

10.15 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

# This week in Seanad Éireann

## Tuesday 21 March

2.30 p.m.  
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.  
Order of Business  
Motion regarding the Companies Act 2014 – Referral to Committee without debate (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

4.45 p.m.  
Statements on Rebuilding Ireland 2nd Quarterly Progress Report (Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal)

6.45 p.m.  
Statements on JobPath (Minister for Social Protection)

8.00 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns

## Wednesday 22 March

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.  
Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2016 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

3.00 p.m.  
Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2017 – Committee and Remaining Stages (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

4.00 p.m.  
Private Members Business  
Pensions (Equal Treatment in Occupational Benefit Scheme) (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage (Senators Ivana Bacik, Kevin Humphreys, Ged Nash, Aodhán Ó Riordáin)

6.00 p.m.  
Statements on the Reports of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach entitled 'Report on the Rising Costs of Motor Insurance' and the Cost of Insurance Working Group's Report on the Cost of Motor Insurance (Minister of State at the Department of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform)

## Thursday 23 March

The Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union will meet in the Seanad Chamber.

# This week's Committee Meetings

## Tuesday 21 March

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)  
CR3, LH 2000 11 a.m.  
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals  
Schedule A: COM(2016)595 and COM(2016)596 Marrakesh Treaty  
Schedule B: COM(2016)34; COM(2016)63; COM(2016)64; COM(2016)233; COM(2016)412; COM(2016)440; and  
(ii) ConnectIreland's 'Succeed in Ireland' programme  
Session A: [Representatives from ConnectIreland]  
Session B: [Officials from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]

Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann  
CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Select)  
CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.  
AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 30 (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

Education and Skills (Joint)  
CR2, LH 2000 4 p.m.  
AGENDA: Session A: 4 p.m. Detailed Scrutiny of the Education (Amendment) Bill 2015 [PMB] and Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Education (Parent and Student Charter) Bill 2016 [Representatives from Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO), Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI); Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI); and Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU)]  
Session B: 5 p.m. The Implications of Brexit for the Irish Educational System [Representatives from the Higher Education Authority; the Irish Research Council; Dublin City University (DCU); the British Irish Chamber of Commerce; the Irish Universities Association; and International Schools Dublin]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)  
CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m.  
AGENDA: Overview of the Credit Union Sector - Review of Implementation of the Recommendations in the Commission on Credit Unions Report [Irish League of Credit Unions (ICLU), Credit Union Development Association (CUDA), Credit Union Manager's Association (CUMA) and MABS]

An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin (Comh)  
CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m.  
AGENDA: An Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ar bhonn uile-Éireann tar éis an Bhreitheachta [Ionadaithe ó Foras na Gaeilge, Pobal - Béal Feirste agus Conradh na Gaeilge]

## Thursday 23 March

Public Accounts  
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee:  
(ii) 9 a.m. Appropriation Accounts 2015  
Vote 26: Education and Skills [Officials from the Department of Education and Skills]  
(iii) 2.30 p.m. Correction of the record in relation to HSE meeting of 2 February 2016 [Officials from the Health Service Executive]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)  
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.  
AGENDA: Overview of the Credit Unions Sector - Review of Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission on Credit Unions Report (resumed)  
Session A: Officials from Department of Finance  
Session B: Ms. Anne-Marie McKiernan, Registrar for Credit Unions, Central Bank of Ireland

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Select)  
CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.  
AGENDA: Session A. 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Votes 35 (Army Pensions) and 36 (Defence)  
Session B. UN Motion re: Proposal that Dáil Éireann approves the report by the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, regarding service by the Defence Forces with the United Nations in 2015.  
[Minister of State at the Departments of An Taoiseach and Defence with special responsibility for Defence]

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

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Joint)  
CR1, LH 2000 11.15 a.m.  
AGENDA: The work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America with particular reference to Irish migrants living in the US [Mr. Danny O'Connell and Judge James McKay, AOH]

Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (Joint)  
CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: EU Action on Breach of Urban Waste Water Directive [Officials from Environmental Protection Agency, Commission for Energy Regulation and Irish Water]

Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Joint)  
CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.  
AGENDA: Forbairt phobail, shóisialta agus eacnamaíochta agus comhar i gcontaetha na teorann sa toadhchái  
Session A: 2.30 p.m. Comhar Éireann  
Session B: 3.30 p.m. An Láirionad um Staidéar Trasteorann  
Session C: 4.30 p.m. Idir-Thrádail Éireann

The Future of community, social and economic development and cooperation in border counties  
Session A: 2.30 p.m. Co-operation Ireland  
Session B: 3.30 p.m. The Centre for Cross Border Studies  
Session C: 4.30 p.m. InterTrade Ireland

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)  
CR2, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

## Wednesday 22 March

Future of Healthcare (Select)  
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Health Service Reform [Minister for Health]

Justice and Equality (Joint)  
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Penal Reform [The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice; and The Prison Officers Association]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)  
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Motion re Bus Éireann (Deputy Robert Troy) and Road Safety Strategy (resumed) [Mr. Michael Moroney, Chief Executive Officer, The Association of Farm & Forestry Contractors in Ireland (FCI Ireland); Mr. Harry Lee, Lee and Associates Consultants; Ms. Verona Murphy, President, Irish Road Hauliers Association and Mr. John Farrell, General Manager, Tullamore Motor.]

Children and Youth Affairs (Joint)  
CR1, LH 2000 10 a.m.  
AGENDA: The work of Scouting Ireland [Representatives from Scouting Ireland]

Dáil Reform (Sub)  
Room 2, LH 10.15 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Public Petitions (Joint)  
CR1, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.  
AGENDA: (i) Engagement with the Financial Services Ombudsman arising from Public Petition No. P00035/16  
(ii) Office of the Financial Services Ombudsman Annual Report 2015 [Mr. Ger Deering, Financial Services Ombudsman]

Budgetary Oversight  
CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m.  
AGENDA: Review of the Capital Plan [Mr. Michael Nolan, Chief Executive, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)]

Health (Select)  
CR3, LH 2000 2.30 p.m.  
AGENDA: Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017 [Minister of State for Communities and the National Drugs Strategy at the Department of Health]

Dáil Procedure  
Room 2, LH 6 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting