

Notice of Appointments

Thursday 30 November

Following the departure of Frances Fitzgerald TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD announced the appointment of Simon Coveney to the position of An Tánaiste. He will continue on in his position as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Two other cabinet changes were made. Heather Humphreys TD has been appointed to the position of Minister for Business, Enterprise, and Innovation. An Taoiseach noted the benefit of having a native of a border county in this position where Brexit is concerned.

Josepha Madigan TD, whose first Dáil appointment was only last year, was appointed as Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

With these new appointments, women hold four out of the 15 senior Minister positions. This represents a total of just over 36%.

Available Appointments

The Public Appointments Service is now facilitating an open competition for a forthcoming vacancy Board of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. The appointment will be made by the Government, on the nomination of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Denis Naughten TD.

The Board is made up of nine members, no less than four of whom should be women, and no less than four of whom should be men.

The ideal candidate for the position should have a wide range of experience, but notably should have “extensive experience in the evolving media environment generally”. It would be advantageous to have previous experience in regulatory matters, media affairs, board membership, cultural matters and digital media technologies. A full description of the role can be found in the information booklet, [available here](#).

This appointment is for a period of five years. The closing date for applications is 3pm on Friday 15 December 2017. You can view the full listing on [stateboards.ie](#) by [clicking here](#).

2015 Bill reaches Final Stage

This week, the Technological Universities Bill 2015 will reach its final stage.

First presented in December 2015, the Bill lapsed when the 31st Dáil dissolved. Following 2016’s general election, it was restored to Committee Stage – this meant all previous amendments at Committee Stage were no longer applicable. The Bill, as initiated, went before a Committee in November 2017 and will now reach Final Stage discussions.

In the main, the Bill provides for the establishment of a new type of higher education institution: a technological university. These institutions would be formed through existing institutes of technology merging and consolidating. It also revises governance structures for those institutions.

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

Bill to effect recommendations of report on 2016 Census

Under the Electoral Act 1997, the Constituency Commission was established to make a report regarding the constituencies for the election of members to the Dáil and to the European Parliament with regard to the Census of 2016. The Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017, which will be debated in the Dáil this week, gives effect to the Commission’s Report, “Dáil and European Parliament Constituencies” (June 2017).

In the end, 13 constituencies will have 5 seats of representation, 17 will have 4 seats, and 9 will have 3 seats.

Full details, including population-per-TD and percentage variance from the national average can be found on [www.constituency-commission.ie](#).

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

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This week in Dáil Éireann

Tuesday 5 December

2.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, Sol-PBP) (32 mins)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion without debate: - Financial Resolution re. Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform) (without debate)

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

3.47 p.m.
Parliamentary Questions: Oral - Minister for Justice and Equality (90 mins)

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

6.05 p.m.
Government Business: (2 hrs 55 mins)
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Health)
Financial Resolution re. Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 - (Department of Health) (without debate)
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Report Stage (resumed) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

9.00 p.m.
Private Members Business - Motion re. Syrian Sanctions (Independents4Change) (120 mins)

11.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 7 December

10.30 a.m.
Parliamentary Questions: Oral - Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government (90 mins)

12.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, Sol-PBP, I4C) (32 mins)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)
Government Business:
Further Revised Estimates (back from committee) (without debate)
Supplementary Estimates (back from committee) (without debate)

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 mins)

1.30 p.m.
SOS (40 mins)

2.10 p.m.
Government Business: (2 hrs 50 mins)
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017 - All Stages (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Report Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Intoxicating Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)
Statements re. Climate Change (8 x 15 minutes)

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

4.48 p.m.
Government Business: (120 mins)
Statements re. Paradise Papers (8 x 15 minutes)

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 6 December

10.30 a.m.
Parliamentary Questions: Oral - Minister for Education and Skills (90 mins)

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.
Parliamentary Questions - Oral Taoiseach (45 mins)

1.47 p.m.
SOS (60 mins)

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

3.35 p.m.
Private Members' Business - Motion re. Neurological Services (Fianna Fáil): (120 mins)

5.35 p.m. Government Business: (4 hrs 40 mins)
Motion re. Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations (back from committee) (with debate) (8 x 5 minutes)
Social Welfare Bill 2017 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
Technological Universities Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Education and Skills)
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Report Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017 - All Stages (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Friday 8 December

10.30 p.m.
Government Business: (4 hrs)
Statements re. Climate Change (resumed, if not previously concluded)
Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Health)
Financial Resolution re. Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 (Department of Health) (without debate, if not previously taken)
Intoxicating Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)
Companies (Statutory Audits) Bill 2017 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation)

2.30 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

This week in Seanad Éireann

Tuesday 5 December

3.30 p.m. Order of Business
Motion regarding the Discharge of Order for Committee for the Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 - without debate.
"That the Order of the Seanad of 29th November, 2017, fixing the Committee Stage of the Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 for Thursday, 7th December, 2017, be discharged and that the Committee Stage be taken on Tuesday, 5th December, 2017."

4.45 p.m.
Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 - Committee & Remaining Stages (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
Statements on the new Department of Rural and Community Development (Minister for Rural and Community Development)

Wednesday 6 December

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.
Tributes to former Senator Mr. Des Hanafin

1.45 p.m.
Finance Bill 2017 - Committee Stage - (Department of Finance)

4.15 p.m.
Statements by the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine on the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

5.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - Regional Technical Colleges (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage (Senators Paddy Burke, Michelle Mulherin, John O'Mahony)

Statements by the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

Thursday 7 December

10.30 a.m.
Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business
Motion regarding the arrangements for the sitting of the House on Tuesday 12th December, 2017 - without debate

12.45 p.m.
Social Welfare Bill 2017 - Second Stage (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 - Second Stage (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

This week's Committee Meetings

Tuesday 5 December

Seanad Public Consultation
Seanad Chamber 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Public Consultation on the Status, Treatment and Use of the National Anthem

Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Session A: Statement [Representatives from the Arts Council]
Session B: Examination of the Heritage Bill 2016 (Seanad) (resumed) [Representatives from Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association, Hedge Laying Association of Ireland, Birdwatch Ireland, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland]

Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann
CR1, LH 2000 1 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Housing, Planning and Local Government (Select)
CR4, LH 2000 2.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: 2017 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 34 (Housing, Planning and Local Government)
[Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government]

Education and Skills (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Department of Education and Skills - 2017 Supplementary Estimate for Public Services - Vote 26 [Minister for Education and Skills and Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development]

An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin (Comh)
CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Plean Forbartha don Ghaeltacht [Ionadaithe ó Údarás na Gaeltachta]

Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann
CR1, LH 2000 5 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Thursday 7 December

Employment Affairs and Social Protection (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Labour Activation (resumed)

Housing, Planning and Local Government (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000
(a) 9 a.m. (T)
(b) 2.30 p.m. (P)
AGENDA:
9.00 am (i) Business of the Committee
(ii) C&AG Report 2016
Chapter 16: Regularity of Social Welfare Payments
Chapter 17: Management of Social Welfare Overpayments
Chapter 18: Department Reviews of welfare Schemes
Social Welfare appeals process
[Officials from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection]
2.30 pm Private Meeting

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Matters relating to the Tracker Mortgage Examination and the Consumer Protection Framework [Mr Ger Deering, Financial Services Ombudsman and Ms Isolde Goggin, Chairperson, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission]

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

Justice and Equality (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 10.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Crowe Horwath report to Policing Authority on Garda breath testing and issuing of summonses.
(ii) Garda overtime.
(iii) Opening and closure of Garda Stations.
(iv) Relationship between the Office of the Garda Commissioner and the Minister for Justice and Equality.
[Mr. John Twomey, Deputy Commissioner, An Garda Síochána]

Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Select)
CR1, LH 2000 1.15 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: National Archives (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]

Wednesday 6 December

Health (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Detailed Scrutiny of the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2017 [PMB]
Session A: [Mr. Billy Kelleher, T.D. (Sponsor)]
Session B: [Officials from the Department of Health]

Justice and Equality (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Matters relating to O'Higgins Commission and role of Department of Justice and Equality.
(ii) Proposal for the creation of an external enquiry into the functioning of the Department of Justice and Equality; and
(iii) Related matters.
[Ms. Oonagh McPhillips, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Working Hours for Pilots and Implications for Pilot Welfare
(i) [Representatives from Irish Air Line Pilots' Association]
(ii) [Representatives from Irish Aviation Authority]

Children and Youth Affairs (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Session 1: Cyber Security for Children and Young Adults (resumed) [Representatives from Facebook]
Session 2: Consideration of the Ombudsman for Children's Annual Report 2016 [The Ombudsman for Children]

Health (Select)
CR3, LH 2000 11.45 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: 2017 Supplementary Estimate for Public Services - Vote 38 (Department of Health) [Minister for Health]

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

Budgetary Oversight
CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Fiscal Assessment Report [Representatives from the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC)]

Eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Session A: Private Meeting
Session B: Statements by Members of the Committee regarding the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly

Future of Mental Health Care (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Business, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) EU Scrutiny: Schedule A: COM(2017)637 (sales of goods)
Schedule B: COM(2015) 635
(ii) Direct threats to Irish Foreign Direct Investment and Jobs Growth [Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr Martin Shanahan CEO and representatives from the IDA]

Business, Enterprise and Innovation (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 7 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: 2017 Supplementary Estimate for Public Services - Vote 32 (Business, Enterprise and Innovation)
[Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection and Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development]