

Notice of Appointments

Monday 11 December 2017

The Electricity Association of Ireland has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer. Dara Lynott was named as the new appointee for the representative body for the all-island electricity sector.

Mr Lynott previously held the role of Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where he has been for over a decade. He holds a BE from NUI Galway and a MSc from North-Eastern University, Boston. Before joining the EPA he worked in the private sector as an environmental consultant in the US.

Mr Lynott will take up the post from outgoing Chief Executive, Dr Owen Wilson, who is retiring following five years in the role.

Speaking about his appointment, Mr Lynott commented that he was looking forward to “addressing the major challenges facing the sector and ensuring the continued success of the Association”.

SIPTU Leadership Shuffle

SIPTU’s Vice President, Gene Mealy, announced his retirement following a meeting with the National Executive Council on Thursday 14 December.

Mr Mealy is a life-long active trade unionist. Previously, he held the role of Vice-Chairperson of the Public Services Committee of ICTU and thus was instrumental in negotiating terms in the public sector pay agreements.

The Union was recently restructured, resulting in the establishment of the new national executive officer board, who have now taken over leadership of the union. The board is led by Joe O’Flynn, SIPTU’s Secretary General, and is otherwise comprised of:

- Joe Cunningham, General Secretary Designate;
- Gerry McCormack, Deputy General Secretary for the Private Sector;
- John King, Deputy General Secretary for the Public Service; and
- Ethel Buckley, Deputy General Secretary for Organising and Membership Development.

Dáil Christmas Recess

There will be no Dáil meetings this week, as the Houses will begin their winter recess. They are due to resume again on 16 January 2018.

As there will be no parliamentary meetings during this time, PAI will not publish our weekly newsletter until Friday 12 January 2018.

PAI’s Holiday hours

PAI’s offices will be closed from the afternoon of Friday 22 December. We will reopen again on Tuesday 2 January. During this time, our website will be monitored and any issues you may have can be sent to support@pai.ie.

PAI recognised in Public Sector Magazine Annual Awards



Public Affairs Ireland are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Excellence in Training to Public Sector Award as part of this year's Public Sector Magazine's Excellence in Business Awards 2017. Being given this award, as outright winners, comes as confirmation that our ethos of responsive and on-going education in the public sector translates well across the sector. We believe that a valued and skilled workforce provides better services, and better services mean happy citizens.

Going forward, PAI are continually developing and renewing training programmes to align with learner needs for those in the public sector. We believe in responsive education that ensures those in the sector can meet any challenge that presents itself. For example, our Update Series focuses on updating those in public sector

of any legal or policy changes that could impact their work.

To support the professionalisation of the Irish public sector and align learning development goals with PAS competencies, PAI have also designed a range of certified programmes for professional roles within the public sector, all accredited and tailored to sector specific needs in areas of expenditure management, public law, employment law, public procurement and governance.



Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD, and Corporate Governance expert and member of PAI's Academic Council, Andy Cullen, visited our head office at 25 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1, to present the award to PAI's Training Team.

At Public Affairs Ireland

On the Blog

Respecting the dignity of asylum seekers – Ireland’s ‘right to work’ dilemma

Jennifer DeWan

Read [here](#)

The EU/UK Report on Brexit Negotiations is very important for Ireland

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

Report on PAI’s 7th Annual Conference on Procurement

Read [here](#)

The NATO-EU “war against neutrality”

Dr Karen Devine

Read [here](#)

Ending the circus of wild animals in circuses

Maureen O’Sullivan

Read [here](#)

Moving towards a universal eInvoicing format

Declan McCormack, OGP

Read [here](#)

Training

Certificate in Public Procurement

When operating under Public Procurement guidelines, there are many considerations to take into account: value-for-money, legal rules and directives, organisational needs and goals.

PAI’s 8-day Certificate in Public Procurement is an essential qualification for anyone working with public procurement across the Irish public sector. This course has been designed and tailored specifically to address the issues faced by those in procurement roles, whilst offering practical guidelines and effective solutions.

Comments of previous course delegates

“A good course that gives you the knowledge and understanding on how to procure efficiently with public money”;

“An essential component to understanding procurement and removing the fear of it”.

[Begins 24 January. For more information, or to book, click here.](#)

You can find us on...

This week in Dáil Éireann

Dáil Éireann is adjourned until Tuesday 16 January 2018.

This week in Seanad Éireann

Seanad Éireann is adjourned sine die.

This week's Committee Meetings

Tuesday 19 December

Education and Skills (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Challenges facing island schools [Representatives from Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); Donegal Education and Training Board; Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB); Gaelscoileanna Teoranta/Gaeloideachais; Coláiste Naomh Eoin, Inis Meáin; Coláiste Naomh Éinne, Inis Mór and Coláiste Ghobnait, Inis Oírr]