Notice of Appointments

Tuesday 5 December
Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, received approval from the Government to appoint three new members to the Board of TG4.

The Minister nominated each of the new members, following an open competition facilitated by the Public Appointments Service (PAS). They will hold the position for five years from the 21 November 2017.

The three new members are:

- Siobhán Ní Ghadhra: Ms Ní Ghadhra is the owner/producer of Danú Media Teo, and has been since since April 2014. Before that, she spent over a decade at Telegael, holding the role first of Head of Production and then moving up to Chief Operating Officer in 2012.

- Mairéad Ní Nuadháin: Ms Ní Nuadháin was RTÉ’s Head of External Relations until last year. Previous to that, she was the station’s Deputy Director of TV Programmes.

- Darach Ó Tuairisg: Since 2003, Mr Ó Tuairisg has been the Managing Director of Meangadh Fíbín. He also spent a time as a resident lecturer at National University of Ireland, Galway.

Issue of right to work referred to committee

This week’s Dáil business will include a motion, without debate, regarding those in Direct Provision and their right to work.

On Tuesday 5 December, Michael Harty TD raised the issue with Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, in Written Question. The Minister noted the recent Supreme Court judgment (in N.V.H. v the Minister for Justice and Equality) that the denial of the right to work for those in Direct Provision was unconstitutional.

He confirmed that the “Court recognised that this is a matter for the Executive and Legislature to consider and accordingly adjourned consideration of the Order the Court should make for a period of six months”, until 9 February 2018. He also noted that a taskforce in now in place to delve into the issue further ahead of that deadline.

Nasc, an Irish immigrant support centre, have welcomed the potential change that would allow those in Direct Provision the right to work. This is a matter of human dignity, according to the NGO. Late last month, Jennifer DeWan of Nasc wrote a blog on the issue for PAI. You can find it over on our website, by clicking here.

Bill to effect recommendations of report on 2016 Census

This week, the Government will discuss the Appropriation Bill 2017 (all stages).

The Bill, sponsored by Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD. This process was first introduced by the Finance Act 2004, wherein it was specified that certain amounts of moneys should be set out in an annual Appropriation Bill.

In the main, it will give statutory authority to the amounts of money that the members of the Dáil voted for throughout the year and set out in original Estimates, Further Revised Estimates, or in Supplementary Estimates.

Further, it will define the capital that will be brought over into 2018 from 2017.

It also provides for a mechanism for establishing repayable advances from the Central Fund to the Paymaster General’s Supply Account, which would help avoid liabilities payable by electronic fund transfer on the 1 and 2 February 2018. It will facilitate certain payments that can be made on an agency basis by An Post payable on the same dates, under the Social Welfare Acts.

You can view the Bill here.
On the Blog

Respecting the dignity of asylum seekers – Ireland’s ‘right to work’ dilemma
Jennifer DeWan
Read here

An outsider’s look at Investment in 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.
Tuesday 12 December

12.00 p.m.  Government Business: (120 mins)
Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

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

2.32 p.m.  Order of Business (30 mins)
Possible deferred divisions from Friday 8th December

Motions without debate:
Motion re: PQ Rota Change (with effect from January 2018)
Financial Resolution re: Intoxicating Liquor (Breweries and Distilleries) Bill 2016 [PMB] (Department of Justice and Equality)
Motion re: EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) (title corrected from Motion re: Direct Provision and Employment) (Referral to Committee) (Department of Justice and Equality)
Motion re: Fifteenth Report of the Committee of Selection and Appointment of Chair

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

3.47 p.m.  P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Defence  (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)
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017 - All Stages (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Health)

9.00 p.m.  Private Members Business (Rural Independent Group): (120 mins)
Motion re: homecare packages

11.00 p.m.  Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 14 December

10.30 a.m.  Parliamentary Questions: Oral- Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (90 mins)

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

12.32 p.m.  Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)
Government Business:
Revised Estimates (Referral to Committee) (without debate) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

12.47 p.m.  SOS (40 mins)

1.27 p.m.  Government Business: (5 hrs 45 mins)
Appropriation Bill 2017 - All Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform) (to conclude within 1 hour 40 minutes)
Technological Universities Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Education and Skills) (to adjourn after 2 hours if not previously concluded)
Recognition of Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill 2016 [Seanad] - (All Stages) (Department of Health) (to conclude within 2 hours if not previously concluded)
Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage Resumed (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

7.12 p.m.  Weekly divisions (40 mins)

7.52 p.m.  Government Business: (120 mins)
Statements on the McCartan Report on the Stardust Disaster (8 x 15 minutes)

9.52 p.m.  Topical Issues (48 mins)

10.40 p.m.  Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 13 December

10.30 a.m.  Parliamentary Questions: Oral- Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (90 mins)

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

12.30 p.m.  Questions on Promised Legislation (30 mins)
Motions without debate:
Financial Resolution re: Finance Bill 2017 (Department of Finance)
Motion re: Appointment of Ordinary Member of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission

1.02 p.m.  Parliamentary Questions - Oral Taoiseach (45 mins)

1.47 p.m.  Government Business: (85 mins)
Pre-European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

3.12 p.m.  SOS (60 mins)

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

5.00 p.m.  Private Members' Business (Fianna Fáil): Online Advertising and Social Media (Transparency) Bill 2017 (120 mins)
Online Advertising and Social Media (Transparency) Bill 2017 Second Stage

7.00 p.m.  Government Business: (4 hrs 15 mins)
Statements on Northern Ireland (to conclude within 2 hours) (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) (8 x 15 minutes)
Finance Bill 2017 Recommendation from the Seanad (Department of Finance)
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017 - All Stages (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Committee and Remaining Stages (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Health)
Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

11.15 p.m.  Dáil Adjourns

Friday 15 December

10.30 a.m.  Government Business: (4 hrs)
Statements re Child Homelessness (to adjourn after 2 hours if not previously concluded) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Domestic Violence Bill 2017 [Seanad] - (Second Stage) (Department of Justice and Equality)
Intoxicating Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)

2.30 p.m.  Dáil Adjourns
This week in Seanad Éireann

**Tuesday 12 December**

1.00 p.m.
Commencement Matters

2.00 p.m.
Order of Business
Motion regarding EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU - Referral to committee without debate (Department of Justice and Equality)

3.15 p.m.
Finance Bill 2017 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Finance)
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 – Second Stage (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

**Wednesday 13 December**

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.
Social Welfare Bill 2017 – Committee Stage (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)

5.00 p.m.
Statements on Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) (to conclude within 1 hour 15 minutes) (Minister of State for Defence)

6.15 p.m.
Private Members Business: re. Special Needs Assistants

8.15 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

**Thursday 14 December**

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business
Motion regarding the arrangements for the sitting of the House on Friday 15 December, 2017 – without debate

12.45 a.m.
Social Welfare Bill 2017 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 – Committee & Remaining Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

4.00 p.m.
Landlord and Tenants (Ground Rents) Bill 2017 – Committee & Remaining Stages (Senators Robbie Gallagher, Catherine Ardagh, Keith Swanick)
Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017 – Committee & Remaining Stages (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

**Friday 15 December**

10.30 a.m.
Appropriation Bill 2017 – All Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
Recognition of Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill 2016 [Seanad] – Report Stage (Amendments from Dáil Éireann) and Final Stage [Senators Mark Daly, Keith Swanick, Catherine Ardagh]
Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2017 - All Stages (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)
Tuesday 12 December

Health (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Oversight and Monitoring of Hospital Consultant Contracts as highlighted on the RTÉ Prime Time programme which aired on 21 November 2017
Session A: [Representatives from the Health Service Executive; Officials from the Department of Health]
Session B: [Representatives from the Irish Hospital Consultants Association, and the Irish Medical Organisation]

Housing, Planning and Local Government (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Detailed Scrutiny of Local Government (Establishment of Town Councils Commission) Bill 2017 [PMB]
Session A: [Deputy Shane Cassells, sponsor]
Session B: [Officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government]

Rural and Community Development (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m.
AGENDA: National Planning Framework [Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government]

Eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Completion of the examination of the Report and Recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly and preparation of a Draft Report in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee.

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Accessibility of Public Transport for people with disabilities [Senator John Dolan, Chief Executive Officer, National Disability Federation; Ms. Joan Carthy, Head of Advocacy, Irish Wheelchair Association; Mr. Eddie Redmond, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Deaf Society; Mr. Chris White, Chief Executive Officer, National Council for the Blind; Mr Paddy Connelly, Chief Executive Officer, Inclusion Ireland; Dr. Margaret Kennedy, Disability Activist]

European Union Affairs (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.
AGENDA: Session A: 2.00 p.m. The Future of Europe (resumed) [Ms. Fiona O’Donovan, Policy and Research Assistant, Disability Federation of Ireland]
Session B: 3.00 p.m. The Future of Europe (resumed) with a focus on Education and Culture [Mr Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport]

Thursday 14 December

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.
AGENDA: Session A: 9:00 a.m - Asia trade opportunities Post Brexit [Representatives from Asia Matters]
Session B: 10:45 a.m. The role of the ONE Campaign in ending extreme poverty and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. [Jamie Drummond, Executive Director, ONE Campaign]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.
AGENDA: Taxation matters arising from the publication of the ‘Paradise Papers’ (resumed) [Mr. Bernard Byrne, Chief Executive Officer, Allied Irish Banks]

Future of Mental Health Care (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: Primary Care in Mental Health [Professor Joyce O’Connor, Former Chairperson of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy and Dr. Brendan O’Shea, Director of the Postgraduate Resource Centre, Irish College of General Practitioners]

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday 13 December

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Coillte’s Annual Report 2016 and issues surrounding Climate Change [Chief Executive Officer and representatives from Coillte]

Budgetary Oversight
CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: Current position on re-valuation and calculation of Local Property Tax and Commercial Stamp Duty [Revenue Commissioners]

Business, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 4 p.m.
AGENDA: The Cost of Doing Business (resumed) [Representatives from Irish Farmers Association, Restaurants Association Ireland and Construction Federation Ireland]

Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting