

## New workplace accident legislation signed in by Minister Breen

The Minister for Employment and Small Business, Pat Breen TD, has just signed into law the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2016 [S.I. No. 370 of 2016].

It is widely-believed that there is a significant practise of under-reporting to the HAS. This was bolstered by recent research done by the ESRI.

Minister Breen commented, "I know that businesses will welcome the much simplified, updated and consolidated set of rules that make it easier for them to identify the particular incidents that should be reported to the Health and Safety Authority. Safety in the workplace is of paramount importance and this information will support the HSA's activities and enable them to advise employers on how to prevent injuries and accidental loss of life."

This amendment seeks to improve the framework for employers to report workplace accidents or dangerous occurrences. If an incident occurs at work which results in an injury that requires more than four days out of work, it is an employer's duty to report the situation to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). This includes the self-employed and farmers. The legislation clearly acknowledges this duty.

It also relaxes previous rules on disclosing incidents to members of the public. The SI establishes a rule wherein if there is hospitalisation of the injured party, then the accident must be report to the public. However, if it not to that level, there is no legal obligation to disclose.

An updated definition of "dangerous occurrences" is included, to reflect the modern workplace.

The legislation will come into effect on 1 November 2017.

## Draft Action Plan for Housing released

Minister for Housing and Planning, Simon Coveney's Action Plan on Housing is due to be published this week, subject to Cabinet approval. However, a copy was leaked late last week.

Within, it lays out measures for tackling the housing crisis. It provides for the construction of 50,000 units. However, it is not clear whether these houses will be publicly-owned or in the not-for-profit sector.

Some of the proposals are aimed at the construction sector, such as upfront payment for Part 5 social houses and the use of public land for mixed tenure development. Other suggestions target the planning process and aim to bring about the needed housing units expediently. This would include sending social housing plans straight to An Bord Pleanala. A €200m local infrastructure housing activation fund will also be activated in order to aid the construction of new housing schemes.

In addition to this, funds have been provided for the Housing Agency to purchase houses in arrears, to prevent the homelessness of the families. Under the plan, local authorities will operate a below-cost renting scheme, in partnership with developers.

Last year, it was announced that €4bn would be allocated to alleviating the crisis this year. However, the draft plan does not contain costings for delivering the 50,000 units that were proposed by the Oireachtas Housing and Homelessness Committee last month.

## Preliminary results of Census 2016 released

The first results of this year's census were released late last week.

They note that, on Census Night (Sunday 24 April), the population of the Republic of Ireland was 4,757,976. This is up nearly 4% from the 2011 eleven census count (4,588,252). Population growth was pronounced in certain areas, such as "the four administrative areas of Dublin, along with the commuter belt counties of Meath, Kildare and Laois and the cities of Cork and Galway." Three counties saw negative population growth: Donegal (-1.5%), Mayo (-0.2%) and Sligo (-0.1%).

In housing, the report announces that the number of occupied houses has increased by 49,285 since April 2011; the number of vacant dwellings has fallen by 29,889. However, there is a shortfall between the population growth and the "household formation" which "has fallen behind ... over the five years 2011 to 2016."

In terms of migration patterns, the CSO found that "Net migration varied widely across Ireland, from a low of -6,731 in Donegal to a high of 7,257 in Dublin City".

However, as these results are delivered just 12 weeks after census night, they are only preliminary. CSO statistician, Brendan Murphy explained that the results were "based on a clerical summary of each enumeration area compiled by the 4,663 enumerators. These counts were returned to the CSO in advance of the census forms themselves and the results published ... The first definitive results are due to be published next March, within a year of census day."

## Board of the Heritage Council appointed

Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphrey TD, has appointed a new board of the Heritage Council. The Public Appointments Service has reviewed all of the appointees and deemed them suitable for the position. The new board consists of:

- **Marie Bourke** (Former Secretary of the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland and Chair of the Board of the Irish Museums Association)
- **Kieran Coughlan** (A former Clerk of the Dáil and board member of the Ethics in Public Office Commission).
- **Miriam Fitzpatrick** (An Architecture lecturer at UCD and a former board member of the WIT Academic Council with speciality in Urban Design at UCD)
- **Mary Gallagher** (Previously, Secretary to the Authority of the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) and Company Secretary, NSCDA (Operations) Ltd. Also, formerly Secretary to the Board of Enterprise Ireland.)
- **Jane Maxwell** (Currently the Principal Curator of the Manuscripts & Archives Research Library in Trinity College Library.)
- **Fionnuala May** (Currently the Fingal County Council County Architect and previously a member of the Heritage Councils Standing Committee on Architecture).
- **Sinead McCartan** (At present, Ms McCartan is acting as Interim Director of Collections and Interpretation for National Museums Northern Ireland. She previously held the post of Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology at the Ulster Museum in Belfast.)
- **Ivor McElveen** (Mr McElveen is the founder of historic building and conservation consultancy practice in Wexford. He was formerly an advisor to the Czech Government.)
- **Michael Parsons** (Currently chairperson of the Laois Heritage Society and has been a member of the Heritage Council since 2012.)
- **Muiris Ó Súilleabháin** (Currently a lecturer at UCD's School of Archaeology. Previously, the Dean of Arts and the Head of Archaeology in UCD.)
- **Brian Walsh** (Currently curator of the County Museum in Dundalk. He was also a member of review committee on the National Monuments Act.)

## This week at Public Affairs Ireland

### On the Blog

#### Publicly-Funded Higher Education was the only Viable Option the Cassells Report Suggested

Annie Hoey

Read [here](#)

#### Ireland needs to make the most of Brexit

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

#### Who Governs Ireland?

Michael Williams

Read [here](#)

#### Fiscal Advisory Council Delivers Some Unpopular Advice

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

#### Futures Trading: Brexit and All-Island Trade

Martin McTaggart

Read [here](#)

### Upcoming Training

#### Certificate in Freedom of Information

Two days: Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 July

[Book here](#)

#### Speed reading

Tuesday 26 July

[Book here](#)

#### EO/HEO Management Skills

Tuesday 19 July

[Book here](#)

#### Dealing with Difficult Customers

Tuesday 26 July

[Book here](#)

# This week in Dáil Éireann

## Tuesday 19 July

2.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions

2.32 p.m.  
Order of Business  
Motion re: Standing Orders 141 and 146A (without debate)  
Motion re: Business of Select Committees (without debate)

3.02 p.m.  
Taoiseach's Questions

3.47 p.m. P  
.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport

5.17 p.m.  
Topical Issues

6.05 p.m.  
Government Business:  
Statements on the Housing Strategy (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

8.00 p.m.  
Private Members Business (Sinn Féin) - Motion re: Domiciliary Care Allowance

10.00 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## Thursday 21 July

10.00 a.m.  
Government Business  
Motion re: CEPOL (Department of Justice and Equality)  
Motion re: Legal Services Regulatory Authority - Membership of Board (Department of Justice and Equality)  
Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Justice and Equality) (resumed)

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions

12.32 p.m.  
Questions on Promised Legislation

12.47 p.m.  
Weekly divisions

1.30 p.m.  
Government Business  
Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Justice and Equality) (resumed)  
Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Health)  
Finance (Certain European Union and Intergovernmental Obligations) Bill 2016 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Finance) changed from Single Resolution Board (Loan Facility Agreement) Bill 2016

4.30 p.m.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

6.00 p.m.  
Topical Issues

6.48 p.m.  
Private Members' Bill - Education (Amendment) Bill 2015

8.48 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## Wednesday 20 July

10.00 a.m.  
Government Business  
Health (Amendment) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - All Stages (Department of Health)

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions

12.32 p.m.  
Questions on Promised Legislation

12.47 p.m.  
Taoiseach's Questions

1.32 p.m.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

3.02 p.m.  
Topical Issues

3.50 p.m.  
SOS

4.30 p.m.  
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil) - Housing (Sale of Local Authority Housing) Bill 2016

6.30 p.m.  
Government Business  
Motion re: Standing Order 149 (Department of Finance)  
Motion re: Terms of Reference of Commission of Investigation (IBRC) (Department of the Taoiseach)  
Energy Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)  
Statements on the Housing Strategy (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government) (resumed)  
Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Justice and Equality) (resumed)

10.00 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

# This week in Seanad Éireann

## Tuesday 19 July

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Debates

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.  
Paternity Leave and Benefit Bill 2016 – Committee and Remaining Stages

Publication of Commission of Investigation (Irish Bank Resolution Corporation) Bill 2016 - Second Stage [Department of Justice and Equality]

3.30 p.m.  
Motion regarding the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (to conclude within 45 Minutes)

Motion regarding CEPOL (to conclude within 45 minutes) (Department of Justice and Equality)

5.00 p.m.  
Private Members Business

7.00 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns

## Wednesday 20 July

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Debates

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.  
Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2016 – Committee and Remaining Stages

2.30 p.m.  
Statements on the Action Plan for Housing (Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government)

4.30 p.m.  
Commission of Investigation (Irish Bank Resolution Corporation) Bill 2016 – Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)

Motion regarding Commission of Investigation (Irish Bank Resolution Corporation) (Amendment) Order 2016 – without debate (Department of the Taoiseach)

## Thursday 21 July

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Debates

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

1.30 a.m.  
Energy Bill 2016 – Report Stage (Amendments from Dáil Éireann) and Final Stage (Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources)

2.30 p.m.  
Seanad Adjourns

# This week's Committee Meetings

## Tuesday 19 July

Dáil Reform (Sub)  
Room 2 (off the Main Hall), Leinster House 5 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands  
CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

European Union Affairs (Select)  
CR3, LH 2000 7 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

## Wednesday 20 July

Children and Youth Affairs (Select)  
CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Discussion of the Strategic Plan 2016-2018 for the Office of the Ombudsman for Children [Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children]

Future of Healthcare  
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: The Future of Healthcare [Representatives from the Health Reform Alliance]

Justice and Equality (Select)  
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Business Committee  
Room 2 (off the Main Hall), Leinster House 11 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select)  
CR3, LH 2000 3 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources (Select)  
CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m.  
AGENDA: Engagement with the Chairman Designate of An Post, Mr. Dermot Divilly

## Thursday 21 July

Health (Select)  
CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Public Accounts  
CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)  
AGENDA: (i) NTMA 2015 Financial Statements  
(ii) 2014 Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General:  
Chapter 2: Government Debt  
Chapter 24: Accounts of the National Treasury management Agency  
[Representatives from the National Treasury Management Agency]

Public Petitions (Select)  
CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Select)  
CR4, LH 2000 11.45 a.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Education and Skills (Select)  
CR2, LH 2000 3 p.m.  
AGENDA: Private Meeting