



YOUR ESSENTIAL WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

Oireachtas Update



Wednesday and Thursday in Dáil Éireann will see the discussion of the Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015. This Bill is designed so that “The activities of credit servicing have been defined to ensure that the entity managing the relevant borrowers’ credit agreements will be have to be regulated.” It will reach Order for Report, Report and Final Stages this week.

In Seanad Éireann, Wednesday will see the Committee stage of the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015. This Bill has been under fire for its slow implementation in establishing a regulatory body for An Garda Síochána.

On Wednesday and Thursday, a Social Protection select sub-committee will discuss the Gender Recognition Bill 2014. This comes on the foot of the news that Ireland will put forward an opt-in policy for gender recognition, whereby people can opt to change the gender which they were assigned at birth to one that they feel is correct.

Final line-up for Lobbying Conference Announced, featuring Minister Howlin

PAI’s forthcoming conference on The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 has confirmed its final line-up. Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Brendan Howlin TD will join speakers such as Sherry Perreault, the newly-appointed head of regulation of lobbying in Ireland, Justice Daniel O’Keefe of SIPO, Professor Gary Murphy, Matheson’s Brid Munnelly and The Irish Independent’s John Downing.

The conference will also feature a panel discussion featuring John Carroll, CEO of the PRII, John Devitt of Transparency International, Iarla Mongey, Drury PN, Ivan Cooper from The Wheel and Aidan Moore of SIPO.

The conference will take place on 25 June in Dublin 2’s Westin Hotel.

Please see [here](#) for more details and a full agenda. For registration, you can visit our [website](#), [email us](#), or call us now on 01 819 8500. Places are limited, so please book to ensure your place.

Pointy helps mom-and-pop shops digitise

An Irishman named Mark Cummins, along with his English business partner Charles Bibby have engineered a product that will help small businesses increase their internet presence and make online marketing much easier.

The product, called Pointy, is a small device which interacts with a shop’s barcode and point-of-sales technology and build a website database of products available, through which customers can shop. The start-up that creates the device also aids businesses in building Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) into their websites so that they rank higher in Google results. By doing this, they hope to keep €3.6bn in online sales at home in Ireland.

The company has been in business less than a year, and has recently secured over €1m in funding from investors from companies like Wordpress, Bebo, and Google Maps.



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Clerys Redundancies addressed by Minister Burton

On Friday 12 June, Clery's Department Store was sold to real estate firm Natrium. Staff of the Dublin landmark were made redundant, effect immediately. SIPTU were quick to mention that many of those workers had given a lifetime of service to the department store, in fact, some of them had never worked anywhere else.

Following this, a large scale march took place on Saturday, with more than one hundred of the disgruntled workers marching to Clerys in an effort to begin talks between the new owners and the management.

SIPTU organiser, Teresa Hannick noted that it was merely hours between finding out the company had been sold, then liquidated, and padlocked shut. She commented further, "This treatment of hard working people marks a despicable new low in the annals of Irish business practice."

This morning, Monday 15 June, Joan Burton TD, the Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection announced that her Department would be holding briefing sessions for Clerys staff. These briefings will provide information on welfare and employment supports for all 460 staff, as well as get information specific to their individual situation. She also asserted that the Department would be in contact with the liquidator.

Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection, Kevin Humphreys TD made a statement in which he assured those disenfranchised by the redundancies: "The officials are there to help you through this very difficult time and to guide you on what supports are there for you and what steps you need to take to get back into employment as quickly as possible".

BOI Board appointment

Fiona Muldoon, group finance director of FBD Holdings Insurance Company, has been appointed as a non-executive director of the Bank of Ireland board.

Ms Muldoon has a strong career in the financial sector, working with the Central Bank between 2011 and 2014 as director, credit institutions and insurance supervisor.

She is also a chartered accountant and advisor to a panel of independent experts and the Central Bank. The Sunday Independent, in February, commented that Muldoon was "known for her outspoken and forthright approach".

PAI BLOG

Opinion piece from Jan O'Sullivan TD, on junior cycle reform

read the Minister's article [here](#)

"Gender balance is not a problem, it is a solution"

read PAI's conference report [here](#)

Have your say on Corporate Governance in Government Departments

read Tom Ferris' article [here](#)

Assisted Human Reproduction legislation and regulation eagerly awaited

read Fiona Duffy's Article [here](#)

Ireland's Offshore Wind Resources

read Brian Britton's article [here](#)

Delivering Better Regulation at EU Level

read Tom Ferris's article [here](#)

Bríd Munnelly

Partner | Regulatory and Investigations Group

Matheson



The first rule of success Surround yourself with the best

Irish Transfer Pricing Firm of the Year 2015

International Tax Review

European Law Firm of the Year 2015

Hedge Fund Journal

Law Firm of the Year 2014

Irish Pensions Awards

Financial Times 2012-2014

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Bríd Munnelly is head of Matheson's Regulatory and Investigations Group, the only group of its kind in an Irish law firm.

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Contact Bríd at brid.munnelly@matheson.com or your usual contact at Matheson.

DAIL

Tuesday 16 June

Wednesday 17 June

Thursday 18 June

2.00 p.m.	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)	Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
3.15 p.m.	10.45 a.m.	10.45 a.m.
Leaders Questions	Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Finance)	Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance) (to adjourn at 3 p.m. if not previously concluded)
3.36 p.m.	Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Education and Skills)	Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Education and Skills) (to adjourn at 3 p.m. if not previously concluded)
Questions (Taoiseach)	Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)	Houses of the Oireachtas (Appointment to Certain Offices) Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform) (to adjourn at 3 p.m. if not previously concluded)
4.36 p.m.	12.00 noon	Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Children and Youth Affairs) (to adjourn at 3 p.m. if not previously concluded)
Order of Business	Leaders Questions	12.00 noon
Motion re PQ Rota Change between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Defence (without Debate)	12.21 p.m.	Leaders Questions
Motion re Change of Committee Membership (without debate)	Order of Business	12.21 p.m.
5.06 p.m.	12.51 p.m.	Order of Business
Topical Issues	SOS	12.41 p.m.
5.54 p.m.	1.51 p.m.	Morning Business Continued
Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)	Topical Issues	2.30 p.m.
7.30 p.m.	2.39 p.m.	SOS (30 minutes)
Private Members Business - Employment Equality (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Technical Group)	Morning Business Continued	3.00 p.m.
9.00 p.m.	6.15 p.m.	Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015 - Second Stage (resumed) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)
Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015 - Second Stage (resumed)	Motion re Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act (Department of Justice and Equality) and Motion re Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act (To conclude within 1 hour 15 minutes) (Department of Justice and Equality)	10.00 p.m.
(Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)	7.30 p.m.	Topical Issues
10.30 p.m.	Private Members Business - Employment Equality (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Technical Group)	10.48 p.m.
Dail Adjourns	9.00 p.m.	Dáil Adjourns
	Dáil Adjourns	

SEANAD

Tuesday 16 June

Wednesday 17 June

Thursday 18 June

2.30 p.m.	10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters
3.30 p.m.	11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
Order of Business	Order of Business	Order of Business
4.45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.
Health (General Practitioner Service) Bill 2015 - Committee Stage (Department of Health)	National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)	Health (General Practitioner Service) Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Department of Health)
7.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns	Statements on Tackling Obesity in Ireland (Department of Health)	Seanad Adjourns
	5.00 p.m.	
	Private Members Business - Senators Marie Louise O'Donnell, Fiach MacConghail	
	7.00 p.m.	
	Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Committee Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)	
	9.00 p.m.	
	Seanad Adjourns	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 16 June

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 12 noon (T)

AGENDA: The basis for putting the North South Interconnector overground [Representatives of Single Electricity Market Committee (SEM)]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Beef Data and Genomics Programme [Officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]; and
(ii) Issues facing the 'Forgotten Farmers' [Representatives of the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association, and Macra na Feirme]

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Electoral Commission in Ireland [Professor Michael Marsh, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin; Professor David Farrell, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin; Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh, lecturer in Politics and Public Administration, Queens University Belfast; Dr Theresa Reidy, lecturer in the School of Government, University College Cork; Mr John O'Dowd, lecturer in the School of Law, University College Dublin.]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Health and Children (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 5.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Private Session

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 6 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Pre-Ecofin Council Meeting [Minister for Finance]

Wednesday 17 June

Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Select sub) CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2015

Session A: 9.30 a.m.

[Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

Session B: 12.15 p.m.

[Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry

Session A: 9.30 a.m.

[Mr. Tom Considine, former Secretary-General, Department of Finance]; and

Session B: 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. David Doyle, former Secretary-General, Department of Finance]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Select) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 [Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Primary Care, Social Care (Disabilities and Older People) and Mental Health]

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Sustainable Development Goals and Targets [Representatives of Irish Aid]

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Post EU Council meeting [Minister on Transport, Tourism and Sport]

Social Protection (Select sub) CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Gender Recognition Bill 2014 [Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection with Special Responsibility for Activation]

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Investigation into US Military and CIA use of Shannon airport and Irish airspace (Public Petition No P00072/12) (resumed) [Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade]

Thursday 18 June

Health and Children (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Affordable and Quality Childcare: disability and childcare needs, worker's rights and community childcare (resumed) [Ms. Mary Lacey-Crowe, Disability Nurse, Waterford; Ms. Rose Bradley, Social Worker, Central Remedial Clinic, Waterford; Ms. Marian Quinn, Chairperson, Association of Childhood Professionals; Ms. Denise Cormilla and Michelle Hart, National Childhood Network]

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry

Session A: 9.30 a.m.

[Mr. Kevin Cardiff, former Secretary General, Department of Finance];

Session B: 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. John Moran, former Secretary General, Department of Finance]; and

Session C: 4.15 p.m.

[Mr. Derek Moran, Secretary General, Department of Finance]

Public Accounts CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and

(ii) 2013 Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General:

Vote 30: Agriculture Food and the Marine [Officials from the Departments of Agriculture Food and the Marine and of Public Expenditure and Reform, and the Chief State Solicitors Office]

Social Protection (Select sub) CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Gender Recognition Bill 2014 (resumed) [Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection with Special Responsibility for Activation]

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Select) CR4, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2015 [Super Junior Minister of State for Business and Employment]

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 1.30 p.m.

Country Specific Recommendations 2015 (Ireland) [Mr. Seamus Coffey, Lecturer, UCC]; and
Session B: 2 p.m.

Engagement on (i) Country Specific Recommendations 2015 (Ireland);

(ii) Report on 'Better economic Governance of the Euro Area'; and

(iii) Migration Crisis in the Mediterranean [Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]



Public Affairs Ireland

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

*What are the implications for
political lobbying in Ireland?*

Thursday, 25th June 2015

The Westin Hotel

Dublin 2

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