

## OIREACHTAS UPDATE

In Dáil Éireann on Tuesday afternoon, there will be a motion re the Social Welfare Bill 2014. Wednesday will see 4th Report of the Convention on the Constitution on the 'Dail Electoral System' brought to the forefront, whilst the Intellectual Property, Health Insurance, and Garda Síochána Bill's of 2014 will be discussed on Thursday.

On Wednesday evening, the Minister for Health will be discussing statements on Suicide and Mental Health with Seanad Éireann

In the Committee for the Environment, Community and Local Government, the agenda for Tuesday evening will be the approval of the terms of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

## WEB SUMMIT 2014

Over 20,000 from over 100 countries came to Dublin to attend the Web Summit held last week at the RDS. The Web Summit is a technology and innovation led conference where many industry leaders from the world's largest companies attend alongside founders of start-up companies.

Amongst the speakers at the event included a diverse list of high profile attendees including Bono; executives from Fortune 500 companies; journalists from major internationally-renowned news outlets and magazines such as Forbes, New York Times, The Economist and Financial Times; Kevin O'Malley, the US Ambassador to Ireland; Annie Machon, MI5 whistleblower; and CEO's of international NGOs.

The event has been described as "Davos for Geeks".

## LETTERS BETWEEN BRIAN LENIHAN AND JEAN-CLAUDE TRICHET RELEASED

The exchange of letters between the late Brian Lenihan, the then Minister of Finance and Jean-Claude Trichet, the then president of the European Central Bank (ECB) have been released to the public. These letters were written in the run-up to Ireland's bailout by the Troika in 2010 and reveal the background to one of the most tumultuous events in Ireland's recent history.

These letters reveal that the ECB threatened to stop emergency funding to the Irish banking system unless Ireland took a bailout. Since the release of the letters, the ECB have denied they forced Ireland to enter the Troika programme, and that it was the domestic crisis in Ireland that led to the bailout.

## REVENUE FROM TAX INCREASES

The latest figures released by the Exchequer have shown that revenue from taxes have increased significantly particularly from stamp duty. Stamp duty has increased by 29% this year so far mainly due to rising house prices and the property market boom. Further revenue has come from tax on stock market exchanges, income tax and VAT. The boost in revenue from taxes has added €1.5 billion to the State's income. Exchequer figures have shown that the tax intake is 9% higher than at the same point last year. The reasoning behind this is people are buying goods and putting money back into the Irish economy and more people are entering the workforce.

## SUPREME COURT RULING ON SURROGACY AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Supreme Court in a landmark case has ruled that a genetic mother is not the legal mother on a birth certificate when a child is born to a surrogate mother. In the particular case that brought about this ruling, the State had argued that a mother is a person that has given birth to a child rather than genetic links.

The Supreme Court has asserted that there needed to be clear legislation put in place in regards to this area. Following the ruling the Minister for Health Leo Varadkar TD said legislation on surrogacy, assisted human reproduction and gamete donation will be brought to the Government by the end of year.

## DAIL

## Tuesday November 11th

2.00 p.m.

Questions (Minister for Health)

3.15 p.m.

Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.

Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.

Order of Business

Motion re Change in Membership of the Oireachtas Commission (without Debate)

5.06 p.m.

Topical Issues

5.54 p.m.

Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Social Protection)

7.30 p.m.

Private Members Business - Motion re Fair Deal (Fianna Fáil)

9.00 p.m.

Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Social Protection)

10.00 p.m. Dail Adjourns

## Wednesday November 12th

9.30am

Questions (Minister for Finance)

10.45am

Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Finance)

12pm

Leaders Questions

12.21pm

Order of Business

12.51pm

Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

2.16pm

SOS (1 hour)

3.16pm

Topical Issues

4.04pm

Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Finance)

7.30pm

Private Members Business - Motion re Mortgage Arrears.

9pm

Dáil Adjourns

## Thursday November 13th

9.30am

Questions (Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)

10.45am

-Finance Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)  
-Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

12pm

Leaders Questions

12.21pm

Order of Business

12.41pm

-Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)  
-Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)  
-Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)

4.42pm

Topical Issues

5.30 p.m.

Dáil Adjourns

## SEANAD

## Tuesday November 11th

2.30 p.m.

Order of Business

3.45 p.m.

Statements on Suicide and Mental Health (Minister for Health)

Matters on the Adjournment

## Wednesday November 12th

10.30 a.m.

Order of Business

11.45 a.m.

Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Minister for Education and Skills)

2.00 p.m.

Statements on Fisheries (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

4.00 p.m.

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Committee Stage (Minister for Health)

17.30 a.m.

Private Members Business - Seanad Bill 2013 - Committee Stage (Senators Katherine Zappone, Feargal Quinn, Mary Ann O'Brien)

7.30 p.m.

Matters on the Adjournment

## Thursday November 13th

10.30 a.m.

Order of Business

12.30 p.m.

Statements on Commemoration Planning (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

7.30pm

Matters on the Adjournment

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## Tuesday November 11th

**12.00pm****Transport and Communications (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Engagement with Ms Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson Designate, Road Safety Authority**1.30pm****Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** (i) Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals: Schedule A: Com(2014)452 Proposal re certain aspects of the organisation of working time in inland waterway transport; and Com(2014)539, Com(2014)573, and Com(2014)574 Proposals re Agreements on Government Procurement in respect of Japan, Montenegro and New Zealand; and (ii) Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2014  
Session A: 1.45 p.m. [Minister of State for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]; and  
Session B: 2.45 p.m. [Representatives of Labour Relations Commission]**2.00pm****Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Private Meeting**2.00pm****Finance (Select sub)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 [Minister of State]  
Session A: 2 p.m.  
Session B: 5.30 p.m. in Committee Room 2**3.15pm****Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)**

Committee room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Private Meeting**3.30pm****Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Update on Foreign Affairs and Trade Issues [Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade]**4.00pm****Environment, Community and Local Government (Select sub)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Approval of the terms of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]**5.30pm****Children and Youth Affairs (Select sub)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Protection of Children's Health (Tobacco Smoke in Mechanically Propelled Vehicles) Bill 2012 (changed from Protection of Children's Health from Tobacco Smoke Bill 2012) [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

## Wednesday November 12th

**9.30am****Transport and Communications (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Mobile phone coverage and the quality of high speed broadband availability particularly in rural Ireland (resumed) [Representatives of Telecommunications and Internet Federation; and Irish Cellular Industry Association]**11.30am****Global Taxation (Joint sub)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Private Meeting**1.00pm****Education and Social Protection (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Further Education and Training Strategy [SOLAS; Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI); Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU); Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)]**2.00pm****Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland (resumed) [Mr. Jeremy Masding, Group Chief Executive Officer, Permanent TSB]**2.30pm****Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Update from the Reserve Defence Forces Representative Association (RDFRA)**4.00pm****Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Remit of the Office of the Ombudsman (resumed) [Mr. William Prasifka, Financial Services Ombudsman]**4.30pm****Public Accounts**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Private Meeting

## Thursday November 13th

**10.00am****Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Select sub)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 33 (Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]**10.00am****Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland (resumed)

Session A: 10 a.m.

[Mr. Jim Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Ulster Bank]; and

Session B: 2 p.m.

[Mr. David Duffy, Chief Executive Officer, Allied Irish Banks]

**11.30am****Health and Children (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

**AGENDA:** Update on Children and Youth Issues [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]**2.00pm****European Union Affairs (Joint)**

Committee Room 3

**AGENDA:** (i) Forthcoming General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting [Minister of State for European Affairs]; and

(ii) EU Enlargement Strategy: Progress Report on the Balkans region [Mr. Erwan Fouéré, The Centre for European Policy Studies]



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