

Oireachtas Update



In Dáil Éireann on Wednesday and Thursday, the motion re Water Sector Reforms is on the agenda. The Report Stage of the Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 is set to be concluded by Wednesday morning.

In the Seanad on Tuesday the motion regarding Protocol No. 21 – UK and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice annexed to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Function of the European Union – is being referred to the Committee without debate.

On Tuesday, the Poolbeg Waste-to-Energy project is on the agenda for the Joint Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht, and on Wednesday the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications will discuss Eircode; the new national postcode system.

Workers on long-term sick leave can now accrue annual leave

The Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, will introduce an amendment to legislation to include that employees on long-term sick can accrue annual leave. This means that an employee on long-term sick leave can accrue annual leave subject to a carry-over that is capped at 15 months from the end of the year it accrued. The aim of the amendment is to strike a balance between reducing the cost to employers of absent workers and protecting employees who are off sick from work with serious illness. Minister Nash stated that this legislation will bring Irish law into line with EU legislation on this area.

Policing Authority

Josephine Feehily the outgoing chairman of the Revenue Commissioners has been appointed by the Government to be the new chairwoman of the Policing Authority. Ms Feehily's nomination will go before Oireachtas Committee on Justice, the Dáil and the Seanad.

The establishment of an independent policy authority was one of key reforms that the Joint Committee on Justice recommended in their review of the Garda Síochana Act 2005. The legislation for a policy authority is aimed to provide an oversight of policy in Ireland that is independent and transparent. It also will enable a more robust level of public accountability in policing. The policy authority will also act as a go-between politics and policing. The policing authority will not be in operation for some months.

The legislation will also enable Garda Security Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) to investigate cases which arise when a member of the public believes a member of the Garda Síochana has engaged in a criminal act.

Cost of rent increasing in each county

A report carried out by Daft.ie shows that the cost of rent has increased in each county in the last 12 months. The average rate of rent in Galway is €875 which is an increase of 8%; Cork's average rate of rent increased by 8% to €897 while it was up 6% in Limerick to €704 and Waterford saw an increase of 5% in rent to €628 per month. In the commuter belt outside of Dublin, there has been a double-digit increase in rent. Kildare rent went up by 14%, in Meath by 11% and in Wicklow it went up by 13%.

However, despite the significant rise of rent nationwide, for the first time in five years in Dublin the annual growth rate in rent has slowed. A significant factor being attributed to the increase in rent is that there has been a major decrease in the amount of properties to rent.

Establishment of an Irish division of the International Patent Court

It has been announced by the Minister Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, that a division of the International Patent Court will be set-up in Ireland. The Unified Patent Court is part of measures intended to make patenting of inventions and protection for patents more streamlined and less expensive for European inventors and businesses. The Court will allow inventors/companies to file actions on patent in a single court case rather than country-by-country patent litigation. The Unified Patent Court will be established once the international agreement on it is ratified.

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A half-day seminar, November 25th, 9.00am-1.00pm



DAIL

Tuesday November 18th

2pm

Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)

3.15pm

Leaders Questions

3.36pm

Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36pm

Order of Business

Finance Bill 2014 (Financial Resolutions) without Debate
(Department of Finance)

Motion Re: Breakdown of Time on Committee Stage of the Finance Bill (without debate)

Motion re Change of Committee Membership (Technical Group)

Motions re CEPOL (Referral to Committee without Debate)
(Department of Justice and Equality)

5.06pm

Topical Issues

5.54pm

Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Second Stage Resumed
(Department of Social Protection)

Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages,
(Department of Social Protection)

7.30pm

Private Members Business - Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Deputy Brian Stanley

9pm

Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday November 19th

9.30am

Questions (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

10.45am

- Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded)
(Department of Social Protection)
- Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Report Stage Resumed
(Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

12pm

Leaders Questions

12.21pm

-Order of Business
-Motion re Financial Resolution for Committee Stage of the Social Welfare Bill 2014 (without debate) (Department of Social Protection)
-Motion re Climate Change Kyoto (Back from Committee) (Without Debate) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

12.51pm

SOS (1 hour)

1.51pm

Topical Issues

2.39pm

-Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded)
(Department of Social Protection)
- Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Report Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
- Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No 3) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)

4pm

Motion re Water Sector Reforms
(Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

7.30pm

Private Members Business - Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Deputy Brian Stanley

Thursday November 20th

10am

Motion re Water Sector Reforms (resumed)
(Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

1pm

SOS (30mins)

1.30pm

Motion re Water Sector Reforms (resumed)
(Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

8pm

Dáil Adjourns

Friday November 21st

10am

Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2014 - initiated by Deputy Dessie Ellis

12pm

Local Government (Rates and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - initiated by Deputy John McGuinness

2pm

Dáil Adjourns

SEANAD

Tuesday November 18th

2.30pm

Order of Business

Motion regarding Protocol No. 21 on the position of the UK and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Referral to Committee without debate

4.15pm

Statements on Horizon 2020
(Minister of State at the Department with Special Responsibility for Research and Innovation)

Matters on the Adjournment

Wednesday November 19th

10.30am

Order of Business

11.45am

Estimate provision for the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund allocation for 2015 - Referral to Committee without debate
(Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

2pm

Statements on the Report of the Commission on the Economic Development of Rural Ireland
(Minister of State at Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

4pm

Statements on Access to Finance for SME's
(Super Junior Minister of State for Business and Employment)

5pm

Private Members Business - Adoption (Identity and Information) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Senators Averil Power, Jillian van Turnhout, Fidelma Healy-Eames)

Matters on the Adjournment

Thursday November 20th

10.30am

Order of Business

Motion regarding Protocol No. 21 on the position of the UK and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Back from Committee without debate

11.45am

Valuation (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2012 - Report and Final Stages
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

Matters on the Adjournment

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday November 18th

1.30pm**Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2014 (resumed)

Session A: 1.45 p.m.

[Representatives of the Construction Industry Federation; and IBEC]; and

Session B: 2.45 p.m.

[Representatives of the Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland); National Electrical Contractors Ireland; Technical Electrical and Engineering Union (TEEU); and Construction Workers Alliance]

2pm**European Union Affairs (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA:

(i) European Movement Ireland's Accountability Report 2013 [Ms. Noelle O'Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland]; and (ii) The activities and priorities of Eurofound [Mr. Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound]

2.15pm**Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Waste to Energy Facility - Poolbeg [Mr Owen Keegan, Chief Executive, Dublin City Council]

5.30pm**Administration (Joint sub)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Private Meeting

6pm**Finance (Select sub)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Finance Bill 2014 [Minister for Finance]

Wednesday November 19th

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

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA:

The new national postcode system - Eircode (resumed) [Officials from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; and Representatives from Capita Business Support Services Ireland Ltd.]

10am**Finance (Select sub)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA:

Finance Bill 2014 (resumed) [Minister for Finance]

10am**Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA:**Session A: 10 a.m.**

Proposals to address "problem drinking" from a public order perspective [Representatives from the National Off-Licence Association and Vintners Federation of Ireland]; and

Session B: 11.30 a.m.

Motion re: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Union agency for law enforcement training (CEPOL) (subject to referral)

2.30pm**Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA:

ISIS - The current situation in Syria and in the remainder of the Middle East [Dr Nader Hashemi and Ms. Rafif Jouejati]

4pm**Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA:

The role and remit of the Ombudsman [An Coimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill]

Thursday November 20th

10am

Finance (Select sub)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House**AGENDA:**

Finance Bill 2014 (resumed) [Minister for Finance]

10am**Public Accounts**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA:

(i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) 2013 Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General: Vote 22: Courts Services [Officials from the Courts Service; and from the Department of Justice and Equality]

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