

Oireachtas Update



In Dáil Éireann on Tuesday morning, there will be a motion of confidence in Taoiseach and Government. On Wednesday morning in the Dáil, there will be statements on homelessness. The Water Services Bill 2014 will also be up for discussion on Thursday and Friday in the Dáil.

The Finance Bill 2014 will be on the agenda on Wednesday and Thursday in Seanad Éireann. The Social Welfare Bill 2014 will be discussed on Thursday afternoon in the Seanad.

The 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services will be discussed by a number of Joint Committees on Tuesday and Wednesday including the Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport; the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Joint Committee on Environment, Community and Local Government; Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs; Joint Committee on Public Expenditure and Reform; and Joint Committee on Education and Skills.

Ireland ranked 17th 'least corrupt' country

In Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index, Ireland has been ranked as the 17th 'least corrupt' country out of 175 countries and territories in the world for 2014. This ranking is up from last year's ranking of 21st 'least corrupt' country. Transparency International measures countries on a scale which ranges from 0 (very corrupt) to 100 (clean/least corrupt). On this scale, Ireland's rating was 74/100.

Denmark has been ranked as the 'least corrupt' country in the world with a score of 92/100. Somalia and North Korea, on the other hand, have been jointly ranked as the most corrupt countries in the world scoring just 8/100.

7 of the 10 'least corrupt' countries in the world are located in Europe with the exception of New Zealand, Singapore and Canada.

Irish unemployment falls to 10.7%

According to figures released by the Central Statistics Office, the number of the unemployed on the Live Register fell by 4,100 people for the month of November compared to the previous month. This brings the figure for Irish unemployment to 10.7% which represents a decrease of 1.1%. Over 352,600 people were signing on the Live Registrar in November, which represents a decrease of 38,860 people from the same time period last year.

In addition, there are another 83,534 people taking part in programmes such as back-to work, JobBridge and community schemes but are not included in the Live Register figures even though they receive State welfare and benefits.

Teachers' Strike

Last Tuesday, over 730 secondary schools were closed due to secondary school teachers going on strike over changes to the Junior Certificate in the form of the introduction of the Junior Cycle Reform Plan. More than 333,175 secondary school students were affected.

Another one-day industrial strike is planned for January.

Ireland on track to regain AAA rating

According to Davy Stockbrokers, Ireland is on course to regain its AAA rating status by the end of the decade. Irish debt-to-GDP looks set to decrease to under 80% in this same timeframe. Davy Stockbrokers, the largest Irish stockbroking firm, has given a positive projection for Ireland for 2015.

Chief economist Conal MacCoille of Davy has stated he believes Gross Domestic Product will grow by 5% this year and by another 4% next year. Furthermore, sectors which have been some of the most affected industries since the by the economic crisis and downturn including tourism, construction and retail are expected to continue to recover.

Human Resources Conference

Public Affairs Ireland will host their annual Human Resources conference in the Westin Hotel, Dublin this Wednesday, 10th December. The topics that will be covered include:

- (i) Public Sector and Industrial Relations after the Recession;
- (ii) HR Post Recession: Can the Agenda Reform be sustained?;
- (iii) Developing a High Quality Working Life for Employees

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD, will be the keynote speaker.

PAI Blog

EU Press Release after Press Release: Read [here](#)

Update on the annual *HR Conference* taking place in Dublin on December 10th, 2014: Read [here](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 9th December

2.00pm
Motion of confidence in Taoiseach and Government

4.15pm
Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

5.30pm
Leaders Questions

5.51pm
Questions (Taoiseach)

6.51pm
Order of Business

Supplementary Estimates (Department of Defence) (Back from Committee) (without Debate)

Motion re Committee Membership Change (without debate)

7.21pm
Topical Issues

8.09pm.
Private Members Business

9.39pm
Water Services Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government) (to adjourn after 2 hours if not previously concluded)

11.39pm
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 10th December

9.30am
Questions (Minister for Social Protection)

10.45am.
Statements on Homelessness

12.00pm
Leaders Questions

12.21pm
Order of Business

12.51pm
SOS (1 Hour)

1.51pm
Topical Issues

2.39pm
Social Welfare Bill 2014 - Report Stage Resumed (Department of Social Protection)

Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Health)

Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill 2013 (Seanad) - (Fifth Stage) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

7.30pm
Private Members Business

Afternoon Business Continued

10.00pm
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 11th December

9.30am
Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)

10.45am
Water Services Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

12.00pm
Leaders Questions

12.21pm
Order of Business

Supplementary Estimates (Back from Committee) (without Debate)

SOS (1 hour)

Water Services Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

8.30pm
Companies Bill 2012 - Amendments from the Seanad (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

10.00pm
Dáil Adjourns

Friday 12th December

10.00am
Water Services Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)

2.00pm
Dáil Adjourns

SEANAD

Tuesday 9th December

2.30pm
Order of Business

Motion regarding changes in committee membership – without debate (Seanad Committee of Selection)

3.45pm
Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 – Second Stage (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

Matters on the Adjournment

Wednesday 10th December

10.30am
Order of Business

11.45am
Finance Bill 2014 – Committee Stage (Department of Finance)

3.30am
Statements on Sustainable Agriculture (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

5.00pm
Private Members Business re role of culture and the arts in Irish society

7.00pm
Matters on the Adjournment

Thursday 11th December

10.30am
Order of Business

11.45am
Finance Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages (Minister for Finance)

2.00pm
Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

3.00pm
Social Welfare Bill 2014 – Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

Matters on the Adjournment

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday December 9th

12pm

Health (Select sub)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 39 (Health Service Executive) [Minister for Health]

12pm

Transport and Communications (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Engagement with Ms. Lucy McCaffrey, Chair Designate, Dublin Port

1.30pm

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Select)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 32 (Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]

2pm

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA:

(i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule A: COM(2014)670; and
(ii) The Role of the Department's new Investigations Division [Officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

2pm

European Union Affairs (Joint)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

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

4.15pm

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

4.30pm

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Select)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 30 (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

5pm

Environment, Community and Local Government (Select sub)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 25 (Environment, Community and Local Government) [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]

5.30pm

Children and Youth Affairs (Select sub)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 40 (Children and Youth Affairs) [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

6pm

Public Expenditure and Reform (Select sub)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 12 (Superannuation and Retired Allowances); and Vote 17 (Public Appointments Service) [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]

Wednesday December 10th

9.30am

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting

9.30am

Transport and Communications (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: The new national postcode system - Eircode (resumed) [Representatives from Nightline]

10am

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: Effects of Gangland Crime on the Community [Representatives from the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development; Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign; Dublin North East Drugs Task Force; and The Probation Service]

1pm

Education and Skills (Select sub)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2014 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 26 (Education and Skills) [Minister for Education and Skills]

2pm

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: Overview of operations and functioning of the Office of Public Works [Representatives of the Office of Public Works (OPW)]

2.30pm

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: An update on the role of EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) and the experiences of its representatives in Palestine and Israel [Representatives from EAPPI]

4pm

Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann (Select)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Thursday December 11th

9.30am

Health and Children (Joint)

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: Health services issues for the Irish communities in both the UK and the USA [Minister of State at Departments of the Taoiseach and Foreign Affairs and Trade with special responsibility for the Diaspora; Dr. Mary Tilki, Chair and Ms. Jenny McShannon, CEO, Irish in Britain; Mr. Brian O'Dwyer, New York Lawyer and activist on behalf of the Irish Community in the USA and Mr. Mike Carroll, Member of the Irish-American Bar Association of Attorneys]

9.30am

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting

10am

Public Accounts

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA:

(i) Election of Vice-Chairman;
(ii) Business of the Committee; and
(iii) Accounts 2013:
a. Credit Union Fund;
b. Credit Institution Resolution Fund; and
c. Credit Union Restructuring Board
[Officials from the Department of Finance, Credit Union Restructuring Board and the Central Bank]

10.15am

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: Work of the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care [Ms. Karen Charnley, Programme Manager, Education and Communication Hub, All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care]

1.15pm

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

(a) 1.15 p.m. (P)**(b) 1.45 p.m. (T)****AGENDA:**

(a) Private; and
(b) Public Petitions received

PAI

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IRELAND

PROVIDING

Certificate level
accredited courses

Cutting edge seminars
and workshops

Conferences

-Personal Development

-Leadership Skills

-Business Skills

-Project Management &
Project Appraisal

-Compliance & Corporate Governance

-Legal Studies

-Accounting & Finance Studies

-Public Administration

-Customer Service

-Communication &
Presentation Skills

-Public Procurement

2015

25 Mountjoy Square
Dublin 1

(01)8198500
info@publicaffairsireland.com

Twitter @publicaffairsir
www.publicaffairsireland.com

