

Oireachtas Update



In the Dáil on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 will pass through its Report and Final Stages. The Order for Second Stage and Second Stage of the Teaching Council Amendment Bill 2014 is on the agenda for Wednesday and Thursday.

In the Seanad the Gender Recognition Bill 2014 and Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 will have both reached their Report and Final Stages.

On Tuesday the Committee on European Union Affairs will discuss the possible exit of the UK from the European Union (“BrExit”). The Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis will hold a public hearing on Wednesday and a private meeting on Thursday.

Year-long awareness campaign launched today to inform SMEs of 80 available supports

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD and Minister of State for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, have today launched a new awareness campaign. *Actionplanforjobs.ie* aims to provide information to start-ups and SMEs of over 80 Government supports available to grow their businesses.

The 12-month campaign starts today and it aims to encourage users to engage with the “Supporting SMEs” online guide through a national radio and online advertisement campaign, and via the new website – *www.actionplanforjobs.ie*. Nine business leaders from established Irish SMEs and new start-ups will act as ambassadors for the campaign. SMEs currently employ 650,000 people in Ireland, and start-ups account for two-thirds of all new jobs growth.

Oireachtas Banking Inquiry considers nexus phase

The Oireachtas Banking Inquiry is considering the design for the public hearings of the nexus phase of the inquiry, scheduled to begin on the 22nd of April. During the nexus phase the Committee will engage with institutions and persons who had roles during the banking crisis, and its work will focus on three elements: banking systems and practices; regulatory and supervisory systems and practices; and crisis management systems and policy responses.

The nexus phase is distinct from the context witness phase as there will be a much larger volume of witnesses and hearings, with 64 public hearings planned from April to September hearing testimony from approximately 50 witnesses. Other key differences this time include the legal compellability of witnesses and statements, the requirement to produce and issue an evidence book, the intent to secure evidence in hearings and statements, and the intent to cross reference for conflicting and corroborating views.

State appoints William Fry legal advisor for potential capital restructuring actions in AIB

Corporate law firm William Fry has been appointed to provide legal advice to the Department of Finance. They will advise on potential capital restructuring actions and other matters regarding the State's investments in AIB. This appointment has been made following a mini tender competition earlier this month involving all members of the Department's legal advisory panel, set up in March 2014.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations pass 8th negotiation round

Formal negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership began in July 2013, with the 8th round taking place in Brussels during the week of the 2nd to 6th of February 2015. The Agreement is divided into three areas: Market Access, Regulatory Cooperation and the Rules. The Rules includes trade facilitation, intellectual property, sustainable development, labour, the environment and SMEs.

Market Access discussions in the 8th round focused on tariffs, services and public procurement. In the area of Regulatory Cooperation, negotiators discussed horizontal and sector-specific regulatory issues. In relation to the horizontal regulatory cluster, written proposals from both sides of the TTIP negotiating table were collected in the 8th round on the following areas: regulatory cooperation and technical barriers to trade, i.e. standards and conformity assessment and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS). This was carried out in order for negotiators to attempt to find common ground between the sides. In the 9th round negotiators will work on the basis of these "consolidated" texts to seek agreement.

Housing Assistance Payment being phased in

Under the legislative provisions governing rent supplement, the Department of Social Welfare's contractual relationship is with the tenant. For the provision of the rent supplement scheme on a short term basis, this is considered the most efficient basis for its administration and payments will continue to be administered by the Department to the tenant.

Under the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), responsibility for recipients of rent supplement with a long-term housing need have been transferred from the Department of Social Welfare to housing authorities. HAP payments are made directly to landlords by housing authorities. HAP is currently being phased in, with approximately 800 HAP recipients so far. By the end of 2015, the target set out in the "Social Housing Strategy 2020: Support, Supply and Reform" aims to achieve 8400 HAP cases.

PAI BLOG

Do we need Social Partnership? : Read [here](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 17 February

2.00 p.m.

Questions (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

3.15 p.m.

Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.

Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.

Order of Business

5.06 p.m.

Topical Issues

Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed)
(Department of Justice and Equality)**7.30 p.m.**

Private Members Business - Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Deputy Dessie Ellis)

9.00 p.m.

Dail Adjourns

Wednesday 18 February

9.30 a.m.

Questions (Minister for Defence)

10.45 a.m.Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed)
(Department of Justice and Equality)Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Second Stage
(Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)**12.00 noon**

Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.

Order of Business

12.51 p.m.

SOS

1.51 p.m.

Topical Issues

2.39 p.m.Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed)
(Department of Justice and Equality)Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 - Second Stage
(Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Education and Skills)**7.30 p.m.**

Private Members Business - Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Deputy Dessie Ellis)

9.00 p.m. Dail Adjourns

Thursday 19 February

9.30 a.m.

Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)

10.45 a.m.Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 - (Amendments from the Seanad)
(Department of Finance)Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Second Stage Resumed
(Department of Education and Skills)**12.00 noon**

Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.

Order of Business

Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 - (Amendments from the Seanad)
(Department of Finance)Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Second Stage Resumed
(Department of Education and Skills)**4.42 p.m.**

Topical Issues

5.30 p.m.

Dáil Adjourns

Friday 20 February

10.00 a.m.Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Justice and Equality)**3.00 p.m.**

Dáil Adjourns

SEANAD

Tuesday 17 February

2.30 p.m.

Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.

Order of Business

4.45 p.m.Gender Recognition Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages
(Department of Social Protection)

Wednesday 18 February

10.30 a.m.

Commencement Matters

12.00 noon

Order of Business

1.15 p.m.Garda Síochána (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 – Second Stage
(Department of Justice and Equality)**3.30 p.m.**Betting (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Committee Stage
(Department of Finance)**5.30 p.m.**

Private Members Business - Motion re Housing Policy

7.30 p.m.

Seanad Adjourns

Thursday 19 February

10.30 a.m.

Commencement Matters

12.00 noon

Order of Business

1.15 p.m.Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)**2.30 p.m.**Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Committee Stage
(Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 17 February

1.30 p.m.**Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Select)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 32 (Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Super Junior Minister of State for Business and Employment; and Minister of State for Skills, Research and Innovation]

2 p.m.**European Union Affairs (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'Brexit'): The 'Four Freedoms' & Ireland/UK Economic Interdependence (resumed) [Mr. Steve Aiken, former Chief Executive of British-Irish Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Alan Matthews, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin; Ms. Siobhan Mullally, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights; and Mr. Dáithí Ó Ceallaigh, Director of Corporate Affairs, The Institute of International and European Affairs]

2.15 p.m.**Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting**2.30 p.m.****Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule B: COM(2014)613; COM(2014)614; COM(2014)690; COM(2014)695; COM(2014)696; COM(2014)697; and
(ii) Progress on the recommendations made in the Joint sub-Committee's Report on Promoting Sustainable Rural Coastal and Island Communities [Representatives from Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO)]

4.30 p.m.**Health (Select sub)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Bill 2014 [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

Administration (Joint sub) CR2, LH 2000**5.30 p.m.****AGENDA:** Private Meeting

Wednesday 18 February

9.30a.m**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Public Hearing [Mr. Marco Buti, Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs on International, EU and domestic policy context]; and

Session B: 11.45 a.m. - 1.45 p.m.

Public Hearing [Dr. Donal Donovan on issues relating to the International, EU and domestic policy context for the Banking Crisis in Ireland]

9.30 a.m.**Transport and Communications (Joint)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: (i) Regulation of the Gas Industry particularly in relation to gas boiler installations; and
(ii) The cost of electricity and gas to consumers in the context of falling wholesale crude oil and gas prices [Representatives from the Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors Ireland and Commissioners for Energy Regulation]

10 a.m.**Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

(a) 10 a.m. (P)**(b) 2.30 p.m. (T)****AGENDA:**

(a) Private Meeting; and

(b) Gangland Crime (resumed) [Representatives from the Community Policing Forum, North East Inner City; Health Research Board; and An Garda Síochána]

1 p.m.**Education and Social Protection (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: (i) Update on Employment activation measures [Department of Social Protection]; and
(ii) Update on One-Parent Family Payment [One Family; Single Parents Acting for the Rights of Kids (SPARK); and Department of Social Protection]

2.30 p.m.**Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)**

Committee Room 1, Leinster House

AGENDA: The ongoing Crisis in Egypt [Mr. Bahey el-din Hassan, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies]

3 p.m.**Department of the Taoiseach (Select sub)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 1 (President's Establishment); Vote 2 (Department of the Taoiseach); Vote 3 (Office of the Attorney General); Vote 4 (Central Statistics Office); Vote 5 (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions); and Vote 6 (Office of the Chief State Solicitor) [An Taoiseach; and Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach]

4 p.m.**Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Investigation into US Military and CIA use of Shannon airport and Irish airspace (resumed) (Public Petition No. P00072/12) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]

5 p.m.**Finance (Select sub)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 7 (Office of the Minister for Finance); Vote 8 (Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General); Vote 9 (Office of the Revenue Commissioners); and Vote 10 (Office of the Appeal Commissioners) [Minister for Finance]

Thursday 19 February

9.30 a.m.**Health and Children (Joint)**

Committee Room 2, Leinster House

AGENDA: Update on Children and Youth Issues [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

9.30 a.m.**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)**

Committee Room 3, Leinster House

AGENDA: Private Meeting**2 p.m.****Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)**

Committee Room 4, Leinster House

AGENDA: Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014 [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]



DATA PROTECTION CONFERENCE 2015

*Horizon scanning for 2015 and the implications
of Data Protection Reform*

Wednesday, 25th March 2015

The Westin Hotel

Dublin 2

Confirmed speakers at this year's event include:

***Minister Dara Murphy TD, Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commissioner, Colin Rooney,
Rob Corbet, Partners, Arthur Cox and Dr Eoin O'Dell, Trinity College Dublin***

This year's conference will focus on:

- Data Protection in Ireland and the Government's key priorities for 2015
- The remit and focus of the Data Protection Commissioner
- The sign of things to come – the EU Regulation for General Data Protection – an update and implications for data controllers and individuals across Member States
- Achieving data protection compliance now and into the future – some practical guidance on meeting data protection obligations
- Smart Cities: The Privacy Challenges of the Internet of Things
- Data Protection - Key developments in 2014 and 2015 and how they affect you

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