

## Oireachtas Update



In Dáil Éireann this week, the Second Stage of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 will be on the agenda on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Bill 2014 will reach the Report and Final Stages in the Seanad on Tuesday. Minister Dara Murphy will be making statements to the Seanad on data protection on Tuesday evening.

On Tuesday the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation will discuss low pay and the living wage with trade union and small firms association representatives. The Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht has invited young people from three secondary schools to come in on Tuesday to discuss lowering the voting age to 16, youth mental health issues, and youth education on drugs and alcohol.

## New legislation being prepared to regulate Assisted Human Reproduction

The Government has agreed to prepare new laws to regulate surrogacy and the broader area of assisted human reproduction (AHR) and associated research. This move aims to bring to an end the “regulatory vacuum” in which these services currently operate.

Cabinet has authorised the Department of Health to prepare legislation to regulate the following: (i) surrogacy; (ii) embryo donation; (iii) the screening of embryos for serious genetic diseases; (iv) gamete (sperm or egg) donation; and (v) stem cell research. The draft legislation will include proposals for a Regulator to promote patient safety and good clinical practice and to maintain a national register of donors, recipients and donor-conceived children. It will also include the proposal to ban commercial surrogacy, except for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

The Department will draft the Heads of Bill and interested parties will then have the opportunity to make submissions as part of an extensive public consultation, including public hearings held by the Joint Committee on Health and Children.

## Oireachtas Banking Inquiry Committee agrees first witnesses for Nexus Phase

The first tranche of witnesses for the Nexus phase of the Inquiry into the Banking Crisis has been agreed upon and signed off by the Committee. This tranche will include NAMA and the first of the banking witnesses; Bank of Ireland, AIB (and EBS) and Ulster Bank. Witnesses will include those who held key roles and board and executive level.

Nexus phase hearings will begin on Wednesday April 22nd and end in mid-September. Sixty-four public hearings have been planned.

## EU Commission report says Ireland will not meet 2020 climate targets

According to the new EU Commission Country Report Ireland 2015, published February 26th, Ireland will fail to reach its climate targets, particularly its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. The report states: "Ireland is not on track to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets".

Ireland is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions in the non-emissions trading system sector (agriculture, transport, residential, non-energy intensive industry, commercial services and waste) by 20% between 2005 and 2020. Based on the latest national projections, emissions are expected to decrease by only 3% between 2005 and 2020. Emissions in agriculture are expected to remain stable between 2005 and 2020. Emissions in transport are expected to increase significantly between 2005 and 2020. According to the Commission's report, failure to reach transport emission targets is "mainly due to a lack of public transport, including the underdevelopment of rail and the lack of infrastructure to make it possible to reach national targets on electric mobility". Public investment in infrastructure in 2014 fell to an estimated 1.5% of GDP.

Ireland has adopted a renewable energy strategy, a second energy efficiency national action plan, and an agricultural, food sector-specific economic development strategy. Steps have also been taken to improve household segregation of food waste. But the report states the following: "However, no progress was made in identifying how Ireland commits itself to meeting its existing, binding climate and energy targets for the period up to 2020 in an integrated way and how best to use the earmarked, available EU support for the structural development needed in the different areas".

## Speakers confirmed for PAI conference on Data Protection on 25 March 2015

The final speaker line up for the PAI conference on Data Protection on 25 March in Dublin has been confirmed. The Conference, which will feature keynote addresses from Data Protection Minister Dara Murphy TD and Data Protection Commissioner, Helen Dixon, will also feature Seamus Carroll, from the Department of Justice, who will speak about the EU General Data Protection Regulation. This regulation will be a key reform in this area and have direct consequences for all organisations involved in the processing and collection of data. The conference will also hear contributions from expert legal speakers and feature practical workshops on data protection compliance. To register click [here](#) or visit [www.publicaffairsireland.com](http://www.publicaffairsireland.com).

## PAI BLOG

***Reducing Poverty in Ireland*** : Read [here](#)

## DAIL

## Tuesday 3 March

**2.00 p.m.**

Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)

**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

Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

**7.30 p.m.**

Private Members Business - Family Home Mortgage Settlement Arrangement Bill 2014 (Deputy Michael McGrath)

**9.00 p.m.**

Dáil Adjourns

## Wednesday 4 March

**9.30 a.m.**

Questions (Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government)

**10.45 a.m.**

Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)

**12.00 noon**

Leaders Questions

**12.21 p.m.**- Order of Business  
- Motion re Change of Committee Membership (without Debate)**12.51 p.m.**

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**1.51 p.m.**

Topical Issues

**2.39 p.m.**- Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)  
- Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 - (Amendments from the Seanad) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)**5.30 p.m.**

Statements on the Dairy Sector (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

**7.30 p.m.**

Private Members Business - Family Home Mortgage Settlement Arrangement Bill 2014 (Deputy Michael McGrath)

**9.00 p.m.**

Dáil Adjourns

## Thursday 5 March

**9.30 a.m.**

Questions (Minister for Social Protection)

**10.45 a.m.**

Betting (Amendment) Bill 2013 - Amendments from the Seanad (Department of Finance)

Gender Recognition Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

**12.00 noon**

Leaders Questions

**12.21 p.m.**

Order of Business

Revised Estimates (Back from Committee) (without Debate)

Gender Recognition Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Social Protection)

Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)

**4.42 p.m.**

Topical Issues

**5.30 p.m.**

Dáil Adjourns

## Friday 6 March

**10.00 a.m.**- Thirty-Fourth Amendment of the Constitution (Neutrality) Bill 2013  
- Report on Penal Reform (Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality)**2.00 p.m.**

Dáil Adjourns

## SEANAD

## Tuesday 3 March

**2.30 p.m.**

Commencement Matters

**3.30 p.m.**

Order of Business

**4.45 p.m.**

Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Bill 2014 - Report and Final Stages (Amendments from Dáil Éireann) (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

**5.00 p.m.**

Statements on the National Car Testing System (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)

**6.00 p.m.**

Statements on Data Protection (Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Data Protection)

**7.30 p.m.**

Seanad Adjourns

## Wednesday 4 March

**10.30 a.m.**

Commencement Matters

**12.00 noon**

Order of Business

**1.15 p.m.**

Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014 - Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)

**4.00 p.m.**

Private Members Business

## Thursday 5 March

**10.30 a.m.**

Commencement Matters

**12.00 noon**

Order of Business

**1.15 p.m.**

Workplace Relations Bill 2014 - Committee Stage (resumed) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## Tuesday 3 March

1.30 p.m.

**Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)****CR2, LH**

**AGENDA:** (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule B: COM(2014)638; COM(2014)677; COM(2014)705; COM(2014)707; and (ii) Low Pay and the Living Wage (resumed)  
Session A: 1.45 pm  
[Representatives from Mandate Trade Union; Unite Trade Union; and SIPTU]; and  
Session B: 2.45 pm  
[Representatives from Small Firms Association]

2 p.m.

**Department of the Taoiseach (Select sub)****CR1, LH****AGENDA:** Private Meeting

2.15 p.m.

**Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** Mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge, tá cuireadh á thabhairt ag an gCoiste do dhaoine óga ó 3 mheánscoil:  
(As part of Seachtain Na Gaeilge, the Committee is inviting young people from 3 secondary schools:)  
(i) Ar chóir an aois vótála a íslíú go 16 bliana d'aois?  
(Reducing the voting age to 16)  
(ii) Meabhairshláinte na n-óg a chosaint  
(Youth mental health issues)  
(iii) Ógra, alcól / drugaí agus oideachas  
(Youth education on drugs and alcohol)  
[Meánscoil San Nioclás, Co Phort Láirge; Scoil Phobail Chionn tSáile, Co Chorcaí agus Coláiste Feirste, Béal Feirste]

4 p.m.

**Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Select sub)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 33 (Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]

5 p.m.

**Environment, Community and Local Government (Select sub)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 34 (Environment, Community and Local Government) [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]

5 p.m.

**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)****CR3, LH****AGENDA:** Private Meeting

## Wednesday 4 March

9.30 a.m.

**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)****CR1, LH**

**AGENDA:** Session A: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.  
Public Hearing [Dr. Peter Bacon on the "Bacon reports" on the housing market in Ireland, and the development of the proposal to establish NAMA]; and  
Session B: 11.45 a.m. - 1.45 p.m.  
Public Hearing [Prof. Alan Ahearne, NUI Galway on issues relating to early warnings, divergent and contrarian views in the context of the Banking Crisis in Ireland]

9.30 a.m.

**Transport and Communications (Joint)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** Ambitions for the Western Rail Corridor and for disused railway lines [Representatives from West on Track and Iarnród Éireann]

10.45 a.m.

**Education and Skills (Select sub)****CR3, LH**

**AGENDA:** 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 26 (Education and Skills) [Minister for Education and Skills]

1.30 p.m.

**Social Protection (Select sub)****CR3, LH**

**AGENDA:** 2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 37 (Social Protection) [Minister for Social Protection]

2 p.m.

**Public Expenditure and Reform (Select sub)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** Session A: 2 p.m.  
Private Meeting  
Session B: 2.30 p.m.  
Motion re Finance Act 2004 (Section 91) - (Deferred Surrender to the Central Fund) Order 2015; and  
Session C: 3.30 p.m.  
Valuation (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2012  
[Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform]

2.30 p.m.

**Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)****CR1, LH**

**AGENDA:** The ongoing situation in the Ukraine [His Excellency Mr. Sergii Reva Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Ireland]

4 p.m.

**Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR3, LH****(a) 4 p.m. (P)****(b) 4.30 p.m. (T)****AGENDA:**

(a) Private; and

(b) Public Petitions received

## Thursday 5 March

9.30 a.m.

**Health and Children (Joint)****CR2, LH**

**AGENDA:** The cost of prescription drugs in Ireland [Representatives from the Irish Pharmacy Union; Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association; Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in Ireland; and Teva Pharmaceuticals Ireland]

9.30 a.m.

**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)****CR3, LH****AGENDA:** Private Meeting

9.30 a.m.

**Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 [Minister for Justice and Equality]

10 a.m.

**Public Accounts****CR1, LH**

**AGENDA:** (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) Session A: 10 a.m.  
Procurement issues  
[Officials from the Small Firms Association and the Irish Schools Arts Supply Federation]; and (iii) Session B: 12 noon  
Comptroller and Auditor General Appropriation Accounts 2013  
(a) Vote 11: Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform;  
(b) Vote 12: Superannuation and Retired Allowances;  
(c) Vote 18: Shared Services;  
(d) Comptroller and Auditor General Special Report no 87: Effectiveness of Audit Committees in State Bodies; and  
(e) Issues with Public Procurement  
[Officials from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform]

2.30 p.m.

**European Union Affairs (Joint)****CR2, LH**

**AGENDA:** Session A: 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.  
United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'Brexit') [Baroness Quin, House of Lords; and Mr. Brendan Halligan, Chairman of the Institute of International and European Affairs]; and  
Session B: 3.30 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'Brexit'); and update on the recent developments at EU level on Greek debt issue [Minister of State for European Affairs]

## Friday 6 March

9.30 a.m.

**Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)****CR2, LH**

**AGENDA:** Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 (resumed) [Minister for Justice and Equality]



# Public Affairs Ireland Data Protection Conference 2015

*Data Protection in 2015: the current state of  
play and the prospect for reform*

Wednesday, 25th March 2015

The Westin Hotel

Dublin 2

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