

Notice of Appointments

Thursday 22 December

Breege O'Donoghue has been named as the new Chair of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

Ms O'Donoghue currently holds roles as non-executive director of both C&C and Shaws and Sons Ltd. Her career in fashion and retails spans over a 37 year period. Her previous Board roles include Chairperson of the Labour Relations Commission for nearly a decade. In 2014, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IMAGE Businesswoman of the Year Awards, the first of its kind.

Tuesday 10 January 2017

Mr Justice Nicholas Kearns has been appointed as the chairperson of the Personal Injuries Commission.

The breadth of Mr Justice Kearns' legal work was in the field of personal injuries. In 1998, he was appointed to the High Court, and was called to the Supreme Court in 2004. In 2009, he became President of the High Court, where he stayed until retirement in 2015.

Review of price cap mechanism for postal services

On Wednesday and Thursday, Dáil discussions will address the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016. Wednesday will see the beginning of the Second Stage discussions.

This Bill was presented to the Upper House in late December (20/12/16).

In the main, the Bill was introduced with the purpose of repealing s.30 of the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) Act 2011. This section deals with the system that regulates postal pricing through a price-cap mechanism. Section 10 of the Communications Regulation Act 2002 will also be amended to allow ComReg to undertake a review of the consequences to repealing the price capping mechanism; this review is to take place within 2 years following the enactment of this Bill.

[Read the Bill here.](#)

Second stage for Planning Development Bill resumed

Wednesday and Thursday will see the resumed Second Stage discussions of The Planning Development (Amendment) Bill 2016. This Bill is responsible for the establishment of the Office of the Planning Regulator, a body that will "evaluate and carry out assessments relating to planning matters and provide observations and recommendations in relation to those matters" and other related matters. The legislation also provides for a new National Planning Framework.

The Bill was first presented in January 2016; it was last seen in the Dáil in mid-October. It contains measures that pertain to Irish Water, and thus has been a Bill that is closely watched.

When enacted, this Bill will amend and develop on the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2015.

[Read the Bill here.](#)



At Public Affairs Ireland

On the Blog

2009 Working Group on Court Reform: A Missed Opportunity?

Michael Williams

Read [here](#)

Case Management and Talbot

Michael Williams

Read [here](#)

Brexit means Brexit, but at what cost?

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

Preparing for the new EU General Data Protection Regulation

MB Donnelly of the ODPC

Read [here](#)

The Public Service Pay Commission: A New Approach to pay bargaining

Conference Report

Read [here](#)

Upcoming Training

Update Series: Civil Service Disciplinary Codes

Tuesday 31 January

9am-1pm

As part of our Update Series, PAI will host an update workshop on the newly-implemented Civil Service Disciplinary Codes for dealing with underperformance and employee issues. The half-day workshop will be of great use to HR and employee relations professionals.

[For more information or to book click here](#)

Certificate in Freedom of Information

1.5 days: Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 February

Day one: 9.30am-4pm; Day two: 9.30am-12.30pm

PAI's 1.5 day Freedom of Information Certificate is delivered in association with Mason Hayes and Curran and is one of our flagship courses. Attendees will get practical, hands-on training in both the legislative background and the processes involved in processing FOI claims.

[For more information or to book click here](#)

Irish Civil Service projects recognised by Excellence Awards

The Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards took place last month, Tuesday 6 December 2016, in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. Implemented as part of Action 13 in the Civil Service Renewal Plan[i], the Awards event is run by the team in the Civil Service Renewal Programme Management office, led by Programme Director for the Reform and Delivery office, Dr Lucy Fallon Byrne.

Out of 74 projects submitted, 30 were shortlisted. Below, you can see the categories of the awards, the winning teams and the project that earned them the award. More information can be found on our [website](#).



The Civil Service Renewal Programme Management office team, with Programme Director for the Reform and Delivery office, Dr Lucy Fallon Byrne. (Picture: Lafayette Photography)

Category: Citizen Impact

Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Digital Excellence

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] – Direct Payments System
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Excellence in Customer Service

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Euro2016
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Excellence in Innovation

Department of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government
Catchments.ie – Water from Source to Sea
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Excellence in Policy

Department of Education and Skills
Early-years Education-focused Inspection [EYEI]
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Excellence in Skills Development

Office of the Revenue Commissioner
Investment in New Recruits
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Excellence through Collaboration

Property Registration Authority
Digital First – Spatial Data Solution
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Insight and Analysis

The State Laboratory
The Invisible Killer: Identifying New Designer Drugs in Post-Mortem Forensic Toxicology
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: Leading Civil Service Renewal

Department of Social Protection
Engagement and Innovation [E&I]: Results-focused Partnership
[Find out more here.](#)

Category: World Class Civil Service

Department of Social Protection
My GovID – SAFE
[Find out more here.](#)



UPDATE SERIES JANUARY 2017

Update on the Workplace Relations Commission
Friday 27 January
[*Click here for more information*](#)

Revised Disciplinary Codes
Tuesday 31 January
[*Click here for more information*](#)

Updates in Legal Discovery
Tuesday 31 January
[*Click here for more information*](#)

This week in Dáil Éireann

Tuesday 17 January

2.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, AAA-PBP) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)

Motion re. Changes to Standing Orders (without debate)

3.02 p.m.
Taoiseach's Questions (45 mins)

3.47 p.m.
Government Business (130 mins)
Statements on Northern Ireland

5.57 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Finance (90 mins)

7.27 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)

Private Notice Question (if any)

8.15 p.m.
Private Members Business (AAA-PBP): (120 mins)
Anti-Evictions Bill 2016

10.15 p.m.
Adjournment

Thursday 19 January

12.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, RIG, SD-GP) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (15 mins)

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 minutes)

1.30 p.m.
Government Business (120 mins)
Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Planning Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government)

3.30 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (90 mins)

5.00 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

5.48 p.m.
Committee Report/PMB (120 mins)
Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill 2016 - Second Stage

7.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 18 January

12.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, I4C, RIG) (32 mins)
SO 34 (if any)

12.32 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation (30 mins)

1.02 p.m.
Taoiseach's Questions (45 mins)

1.47 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Education and Skills (90 mins)

3.17 p.m.
Topical Issues (48 mins)
Private Notice Question (if any)

4.05 p.m.
SOS

4.45 p.m.
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): (120 mins)
Motion re. Tillage Farming

6.45 p.m.
Government Business (210 mins)
Communications Regulation (Postal Services)(Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Planning Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed (Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

This week in Seanad Éireann

Adjourned until 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24 January 2017

This week's Committee Meetings

Tuesday 17 January

An Ghaeilge, An Ghaeltacht agus na nOileán (Comh)

CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Gaillimh le Gaeilge' An chéad chathair in Éirinn a bhfuil stádas dátheangach bainte amach aici - Conas is féidir í a neartú is a athchruthú i mbailte agus cathracha eile [Ionadaithe Gaillimh le Gaeilge]

(ii) Tionchar an Bhille Oideachais - Ligean Isteach i Scoileanna ar scoileanna a fheidhmiú trí mheán na Gaeilge [Ionadaithe Cearta Oideachais]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals;

Schedule A: COM(2016)698:

(ii) Impact of the UK Referendum on membership of the European Union on the Irish agri-food sector; and

Review of the Common Agricultural Policy

[Professor Alan Matthews, Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin]

Budgetary Oversight

CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) The revised book of estimates

(ii) 2016 outturn for expenditure, and

(iii) Developments and challenges for public expenditure policy in 2017

[Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
[Representative from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]

Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) EU Scrutiny: COM (2016) 761 - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (Text with EEA relevance)

(ii) Policy issues arising from the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2016

and Report of the Post Office Network Business Development Group (and the Implementation Group)

[Officials from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Representatives from ComReg (Commission for Communications Regulation), Post Office Network Business Development Group, An Post, Age Action, Communications Workers Union, and Irish Postmasters Union]

Wednesday 18 January

Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Céard a theastaíonn a dhéanamh chun pobal tuaithe inmharthana a chaomhnú (atógáil) [An tÁire Ealaíona, Oidhreacht, Gnóthaí Réigiúmach, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta]

What it takes to sustain a viable rural community (resumed) [Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs]

Future of Healthcare (Select)

CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Justice and Equality (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Engagement with Mr Philip O'Leary, Chairperson Designate, Legal Aid Board

Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness - First Quarterly Progress Report Strategy for the Rented Sector
[Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government]

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Consideration of the Report on the Funding of Domestic Public Water Services in Ireland (resumed) [Representatives from the Department of Finance, and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government]

European Union Affairs (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) The European Commission's Annual Work Programme and the work of the European Commission Representation in Ireland [Mr. Gerry Kiely, Head of Representation, European Commission Representation in Ireland]; and

(ii) Policy implications for the European Union of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel's work [Mr. Alex Dunne, Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)

CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Sport in Ireland: Challenges, Strategies and Governance

[Mr. John Delaney, CEO, Football Association of Ireland (FAI), Mr. Páircé Duffy, Director General, Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and Mr. Philip Browne, CEO, Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)]

Thursday 19 January