

## Notice of Appointments

### *Tuesday 10 January 2017*

Through an open competition facilitated by the Public Appointments Service (PAS), four new members have been added to the Financial Services Ombudsman Council. They are:

Maeve Dineen, Chair: formerly business editor at the Irish Independent;  
Dermott Jewell: chief executive of the Consumers' Association of Ireland;  
Don Gallagher: chief executive of the Health Insurance Authority; and  
Elizabeth Walsh: solicitor.

The appointments were made by Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD.

### *Wednesday 18 January 2017*

Katherine Licken has been announced as the new Secretary General of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. This appointment was made by the Government; Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, announced the appointment.

Ms Licken's currently holds the role of Assistant Secretary at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Previous roles include work in the energy sector. She is a graduate of DCU and UCD's Smurfit Business School.

She will replace the current Secretary General, Joe Hamill.

## Spring/Summer Legislative Programme launched

On Tuesday 17 January, the Government launched their Legislative Programme for the Spring/Summer 2017 session.

This programme is divided into six sections; those sections, and the number of items therein are as follows:

- Section 1. Government Bills to be published by July 2017 (31)
- Section 2. Bills for Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (33)
- Section 3. Bills that every "Department plans to introduce" longer-term (69)
- Section 4. Published Bills that are currently before the Oireachtas (27)
- Section 5. Acts passed by the Government since establishment (18)
- Section 6. Bills published by the Government since establishment (28)

In a press release by An Taoiseach, he stated that the 31 Bills that have been prioritised and the 27 currently before the Oireachtas "will ensure that this Partnership Government will make progress on legislation across a wide range of issues as it enters its second year in office, in the first half of 2017".

This comes after a Government defeat in the Dáil concerning a motion to establish a compensation fund for tillage farmers; this motion was proposed by the Opposition. The Government were also saved from a second defeat when An Ceann Comhairle, Sean Ó Feargháil, voted with Government

[You can read the full programme 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](#)

#### Timely Review of Public Spending Code

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

#### ILM Certificate in Leadership

##### Level 6 Award

3 Days: Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February  
Dublin

During this three-day course, attendees will learn how their individual traits and characteristics can be best used when leading a team. Theory won't just be read and forgotten, but put to practice in a hands-on approach to all manner of leadership scenarios. By the end of the course, participants will feel confident in leading people in a work environment.

This course is led by Ashley Hughes, a training and development specialist with over fifteen years' experience working in both academic education and management development arenas.

[For more information on Ashley, the course, or to book click here](#)



## UPDATE SERIES 2017

Update on the Workplace Relations Commission  
Friday 27 January

[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Revised Disciplinary Codes  
Tuesday 31 January

[Click here for more information](#)

Updates in Legal Discovery  
Tuesday 31 January

[Click here for more information](#)

Update: Whistleblowers and Protected Disclosure  
Friday 3 March

[Click here for more information](#)

Updates in Regulatory Impact Analyses  
Friday 10 March

[Click here for more information](#)

# This week in Dáil Éireann

## Tuesday 24 January

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

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

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

3.47 p.m.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Social Protection (90 mins)

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

6.05 p.m.  
Government Business: (115 mins)  
Criminal Justice (Suspended Sentences of Imprisonment) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

8.00 p.m. Private Members Business (Sinn Féin): (120 mins)  
Motion re. Tracker Mortgages

10.00 p.m.  
Adjournment

## Thursday 26 January

10.00 a.m.  
Statements on Symphysiotomy (120 mins)

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, AAA-PBP, RIG) (32 mins)

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)  
National Shared Services Office Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed - (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)  
Criminal Justice (Offences Relating to Information Systems) Bill 2016 - Second Stage resumed- (Department of Justice and Equality)

3.30 p.m.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (90 mins)

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

5.48 p.m.  
Committee Report/PMB: (120 mins)  
Nursing Home Support Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Second Stage

7.48 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

## Wednesday 25 January

12.00 p.m.  
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, SD-GP) (32 mins)

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

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

1.47 p.m.  
Government Business (105 mins)  
Post European Council Statements

3.32 p.m.  
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (90 mins)

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

5.50 p.m.  
SOS

6.30 p.m.  
Private Members Business (I4C): (120 mins)  
Motion re. Establishment of Commission of Investigation into the Stardust Tragedy

8.30 p.m.  
Government Business (105 mins)  
Criminal Justice (Suspended Sentences of Imprisonment) Bill 2016 - [Seanad] - Second Stage resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)  
National Shared Services Office Bill 2016 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage - (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)  
Criminal Justice (Offences Relating to Information Systems) Bill 2016 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage - (Department of Justice and Equality)

10.15 p.m.  
Dáil Adjourns

# This week in Seanad Éireann

## Tuesday 24 January

2.30 p.m.  
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.  
Order of Business

4.45 p.m.  
Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2016 – Second Stage (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)

## Wednesday 25 January

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.  
Statements on Health (Minister for Health)

3.00 p.m.  
Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016 – Committee Stage (resumed) (Department of Job, Enterprise and Innovation)

4.30 p.m. Private Members Business

## Thursday 26 January

10.30 a.m.  
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.  
Order of Business

2.00 p.m.  
Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention) Bill 2016 – Committee Stage  
Statements on Northern Ireland (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

# This week's Committee Meetings

## Tuesday 24 January

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)

CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m.

AGENDA: Engagement on EU Corporate Taxation Strategy and EU Investment and Growth Strategies [Mr. Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Taxation and Customs, European Commission]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 4 p.m.

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals - Schedule A: COM(2016)750 Geographical Indications - Spirit Drinks

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

[Representatives from the Irish Fish Producers Organisations and the Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association]

Education and Skills (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 4 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

An Ghaeilge, An Ghaeltacht agus na nOileán (Comh)

CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

## Thursday 26 January

Public Accounts

CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee;

(ii) Appropriation Accounts 2015

Vote 35: Army Pensions

Vote 36: Defence

C&AG Report 2015

Chapter 8: Disposal of Government Jet

[Representatives from the Department of Defence and Public Expenditure and Reform]

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m.

AGENDA: (i) 9:30 a.m. The work of UNHCR, with particular reference to the situation in Syria [Grainne O'Hara, UNHCR]

(ii) 11:00 a.m. Discussion on the killing of Michael Dwyer in Bolivia [Mrs Caroline Dwyer]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m.

AGENDA: Business & Banking [Mr. Gerry Beades, Chairman, Friends of Banking Ireland, Ms. Jackie Lavin, Bill Cullen Premier Cars; and Mr. Seamus Ó Muilleaneoir, Chairman, Public Banking Forum of Ireland]

Social Protection (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m.

AGENDA: Labour Activation (resumed) [Representatives from Ibec, SIPTU, the ICTU and The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed]

Dáil Business

R160 5-Storey Block 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.

AGENDA: The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and its Institutions (resumed) [Dr. Neil Jarman, Institute for Conflict Research; Mr. Tom Arnold, Director General, Institute of International and European Affairs]

## Wednesday 25 January

Future of Healthcare (Select)

CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m.

AGENDA: Health Service Reform [Dr. Brian Turner, Department of Economics, Cork University Business School, University College Cork]

Justice and Equality (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 9 a.m.

AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2016 and the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2016 [PMB] [Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 9 a.m.

AGENDA: Session A: 9 a.m. Sports in Ireland: Challenges, Strategies and Governance [Mr. Kieran Mulvey, Chairman, Sport Ireland, Mr. John Treacy, CEO, Sport Ireland and Mr. James Galvin, CEO, Federation of Irish Sport]

Session B: 11.15 a.m. Current financial situation at Bus Éireann, The Expressway Service and the Rural Transport Programme. [Mr Ray Hernan, Acting CEO, Bus Éireann and Mr Seamus Boland, CEO, Irish Rural Link]

Children and Youth Affairs (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 10 a.m.

AGENDA: Issues relating to the weight of schoolbags [Representatives from the National Parents Council Primary; the National Parents Council Post Primary; and Dr. Sara Dockrell, Assistant Professor, Trinity College Dublin]

Future Funding of Domestic Water Services (Joint)

CR4, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.

AGENDA: Public Ownership of the Public Water System [Representatives from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, and Mr. Séamas Ó Tuathail, Senior Counsel]

Health (Joint)

CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.

AGENDA: Session A: 1.30 p.m. Overcrowding at Hospital Emergency Departments [Representatives from the Irish Association of Emergency Medicine; the Irish Congress of Trade Unions; and Patient Focus]; and Session B: 3 p.m. Overcrowding at Hospital Emergency Departments [Representatives from the Health Service Executive]

Public Petitions (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 1.30 p.m.

AGENDA: Public Petitions received

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

CR1, LH 2000 4.15 p.m.

AGENDA: (i) Na socrúithe agus na costais a bhaineann le Seanad Éireann a lonnú i Seomra Críadóireachta Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

(ii) Saincheisteanna maidir le hAcmhainní Daonna in Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

(iii) Láithreán stairiúil an Lusitania a chosaint agus tumadóireacht ar an láithreán a cheadúnu [Oifigigh ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltacht]

(i) The arrangements and costs involved in the location of Seanad Éireann in the Ceramics Room of the National Museum of Ireland

(ii) Human Resources issues in the National Museum of Ireland

(iii) The protection of the Lusitania historical site and the licencing of diving at the site. [Officials of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs]