

Notice of Appointments

Tuesday 18 April

Retail Ireland has appointed Willie O'Byrne as its new Chairman. Mr O'Brien is currently the Managing Director of BWG Foods. The appointment will last two years.

Retail Ireland are the Ibec group that represents the retail sector; they lobby the Government on key issues relating to the retail sector. Currently those issues include regeneration of high streets and a centralised system of support for the sector.

Mr O'Brien will replace current Chairman, Conor Whelan, who is the Managing Director of Eason Group.

Friday 28 April

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) has announced that, following its restructuring last month, former member, Tony Donohoe, has been appointed as Chair.

Mr Donohoe has been head of education, social and innovation policy in Ibec since 2006. His career has also included roles in journalism, publications, and research and information.

He will replace Una Halligan in the position; Ms Halligan had held the position since 2009.

The EGFSN was established in 1997. Its role is "to conduct research and identify skills needs and submit its findings and make recommendations" to the newly-established National Skills Council.

Friday 28 April

Sharon Bailey has been appointed as the Chairperson of the European Association of Research Managers Administrators (EARMA).

Ms Bailey is currently Director of Research Finance & Operations in University College Dublin. Previous roles include Director of Finance & Business Planning at the Irish Blood Transfusion Service. She is a qualified member of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants. She will also be the first female to be appointed to this position at EARMA.

Minister for Skills, Training and Innovation, John Halligan TD, welcomed the appointment. He said,

"The appointment of Sharon Bailey is a fantastic achievement both for her personally and the Irish research community. I wish to extend my congratulations to Ms Bailey and wish her every success in her new role. Gender equality in research and development continues to be a priority area for my Department, both nationally and at EU level".

Bill to improve mental health services to be discussed

This week in Dáil Éireann, the Mental Health (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2017 will be discussed.

The Bill is intended to amend the Mental Health Act 2001 and to include certain provisions of the Assisted Decision-making (Capacity) Act 2015 where it relates to treatment under the Mental Health Act. It is concerned with improving both mental health services and the rights of those who avail of treatment under the Mental Health Act.

An amendment to Section 4 of the Mental Health Act would provide for mental health care that is at the "highest attainable standard of mental health consistent with least restrictive care, autonomy, privacy, bodily integrity, dignity, equality and non-discrimination and with due respect for the person's own understanding of his or her mental health".

[You can view the Bill here.](#)



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Deirdre Cronnelly

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Training

Certificate in HR Management

16, 23 and 24 May

This three day course focuses on the core proficiencies required by Human Resource professionals. The programme covers the main subjects in human resource management with a focus on the practical application of our course material. It looks at subjects including performance management, diversity policy, capability management and Strategic HR.

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Finance for Non-Financial People

11 May

Without a background in accounting or finance, delving into an organisation's accounts can be daunting. The language used, the standard practices and the processes through which things are done can seem confusing to an outsider. This workshop will help those with little or no experience in a financial position get to grips with financial documentation or reports, and accounts.

[Click here for more information](#)

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This week in Dáil Éireann

Tuesday 02 May

2.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, RIG) (32 mins)

2.32 p.m.
Order of Business (30 mins)
Motion re. Change to Standing Order 21 (without debate)
Motion re. PQ Rota Change (Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) (without debate)

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

3.47 p.m.
Government Business (105 mins)
- Post-European Council Statements (to conclude within 1 hour 45 minutes if not previously concluded)

5.32 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (90 mins)

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

8.00 p.m.
Private Members Business (Fianna Fáil): - Mental Health (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2017 (120 mins)

10.00 p.m.
Motion re. Change to Standing Order 27 (40 mins)

10.40 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 04 May

10.00 a.m.
Private Members Business Prohibition of Micro-Plastics Bill 2016 Second Stage (Deputy Seán Sherlock)(120 mins)

12.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, I4C, SD-GP) (32 mins)

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

12.47 p.m.
Weekly divisions (43 mins)

1.30 p.m.
SOS (30 mins)

2.00 p.m.
Government Business (120 mins)
Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage (resumed, if not previously concluded) (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Courts (No. 2) Bill 2016 - Report and Final Stages (resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)
Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed) (Department of Foreign Affairs)
Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Foreign Affairs)

4.00 p.m.
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (90 mins)

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

6.18 p.m.
Committee Report/PMB: - Rural Equality Bill 2017 Second Stage (Deputy Martin Kenny) (120 mins)

8.18 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 03 May

2.00 p.m.
Leaders' Questions (FF, SF, LAB, Sol-PBP) (32 mins)

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

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

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

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

6.05 p.m.
Private Members Business (Sinn Féin): - Motion re. Health (120 mins)

8.05 p.m.
Government Business (210 mins)
Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2017 - Second Stage (resumed) (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)
Courts (No. 2) Bill 2016 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)
Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention) Bill 2016 [Seanad] - Second Stage (resumed) (Department of Foreign Affairs)

10.15 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Seanad Éireann Adjourned until 2.30pm on Tuesday 9 May 2017

This week's Committee Meetings

Tuesday 02 May

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)

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

AGENDA: (i) Pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Greyhound Industry Bill 2017 [Representatives from the Irish Council Against Bloodsports and the Greyhound Rescue Association of Ireland]; and

(ii) Issues relating to the Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme [Representatives from the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland]

Education and Skills (Select)

CR2, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: 2017 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 26 (Education and Skills) [Minister for Education and Skills]

An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin (Comh)

CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Plean infheistíochta na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta aontaithe ag 80 grúpa Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta; (ii) Tráchtairéacht ar Chóras na Scéimeanna Teanga – Tuairisc an Choimisiúneara Teanga faoi Alt 29 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003. [An tAire Gnóthaí Gaeltachta agus Acmhainní Nadúrtha]

Education and Skills (Joint)

CR2, LH 2000 5.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Future Funding of Higher Education in light of the Cassells Report (including Income Contingent Loans in Ireland for Higher Education Financing) [Dr. Charles Larkin; Dr. Shaen Corbet; Dr. Aedin Doris (Maynooth University) and Dr. Darragh Flannery (University of Limerick)]

Thursday 04 May

Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (Joint)

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

AGENDA: Detailed scrutiny of the Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Water in Public Ownership) (No. 2) Bill 2016 [PMB]

Session A: [Ms. Joan Collins T.D., Mr. Séamas Ó Tuathail S.C. and Ms. Treasa Brannick O'Cillín]

Session B: [Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government]

Public Accounts CR3, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: (a) 9 a.m. Business of the Committee;

(b) Bord na gCon Financial Statements 2015

[Officials from Bord na gCon]

(c) 2015 Appropriation Accounts

Vote 20: Garda Síochána - Audit of the Garda College

[Officials from An Garda Síochána]

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

CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Improving investment opportunities in the wider economy [Mr. Nick Ashmore, Chief Executive Officer, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland and Mr. Andrew McDowell, Vice-Chairman, European Investment Bank]

Social Protection (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Pensions (resumed) [Representatives from Age Action Ireland]

Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Seanad Select) Seanad Chamber 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Implications for the Irish economy of a hard and soft exit

Session A: 10 a.m. [Mr. Gabriel Fagan, Chief Economist; Mr. Mark Cassidy, Head of Financial Stability; and Ms. Mary-Elizabeth McMunn, Head of Risk Division, Central Bank of Ireland]

Session B: 11 a.m. [Mr. Kevin Sherry, Executive Director; and Ms. Anne Lanigan, Brexit Manager, Enterprise Ireland]

Session C: 12 p.m. [Mr. Arnold Dillon, Brexit Campaign Lead and Mr. Gerard Brady, Economist, Ibec; Ms. Patricia Callan, Director, Small Firms Association; and Mr. Ciaran Fitzgerald, Agri-Food Economist, Alcohol Beverage Federation of Ireland (ABFI)]

Session D: 2.30 p.m. [Mr. Paul McGarry SC, Chairman of the Bar of Ireland and Chairman of the Working Group on Brexit, Bar of Ireland]

Dáil Business

Room 2, LH 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Future of Healthcare (Select)

CR1, LH 2000 2 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)

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

AGENDA: Acht na Gaeilge [Mr. Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, Bainisteoir Abhcóideachta, Conradh na Gaeilge; Mr. Julian de Spáinn, Ard-Rúnaí, Conradh na Gaeilge; Mr. Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh,

Wednesday 03 May

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: Detailed Scrutiny of the Employment Equality (Abolition of Mandatory Retirement Age) Bill 2016 [PMB] [Mr. John Brady, T. D.]

Transport, Tourism and Sport (Joint)

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

AGENDA: Upgrading of the N4 and N5 roads infrastructure [Ms. Lisa Brady, Chief Executive Officer, Longford Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ciaran Corcoran, Abbot Diagnostics and Midland Chairman, IBC, Mr. Seamus Butler, Butler Manufacturing Services and Former President, Longford Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Brian McCann, Lecturer, Institute of Technology, Sligo]

Children and Youth Affairs (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: The work of the City and County Childcare Committees [Representatives from the City and County Childcare Committees]

Health (Joint)

CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Issues in relation to recent media reports that some residential centres for people with disabilities are not in compliance with regulations laid down in the Health Acts

Session A: 1.30 p.m. [Representatives from the Health Information and Quality Authority]

Session B: 3 p.m. [Representatives from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies]

Public Petitions (Joint)

CR1, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Public Petitions received