

Next week in the Oireachtas

In the Dáil next week, the Qualification and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 will be discussed at second stage. In the Seanad, the Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 will be discussed at committee and remaining stages. The Committee for Foreign Affairs and Trade will hear from Young Ballymun and the Early Learning Initiative at the National College of Ireland on Wednesday when they discuss Educational disadvantage.



News & Appointments

A new era for Data Protection in Ireland

Over recent months there has been an increased focus on the strict responsibilities that Irish Data Protection Law imposes on organisations that collect, store and process the personal data of individuals. While traditionally data protection issues hit the news following a breach of data security or the unintentional release of personal data, the focus in recent months has had some new dimensions. Firstly, some public bodies have been exploring ways in which personal data collected by different agencies for different purposes can be shared across the public service for the improvement of service delivery to citizens and to facilitate payment for the delivery of these services. There has also been controversy where public organisations have sought to outsource services to private operators and needed to transfer customer data as part of the reconfiguration of service delivery.

All of these challenges are taking place against a backdrop of pending EU reforms in Data Protection which will increase the responsibilities on data controllers and enhance the protection



of individuals anxious to ensure the integrity of their personal data. In an Irish context, the pending EU reforms have a major significance for many of the global Internet Service Providers and social media providers who have their European headquarters in Ireland and fall under the Irish Data Protection regime.

To address these issues, Public Affairs Ireland is organising a special conference on Data Protection in Ireland on 13 June 2012. The Conference will feature the Irish Data Protection Commissioner, Billy Hawkes as the keynote speaker and will also hear contributions from a range of expert speakers that will address the EU, legal, regulatory and technical issues concerning the operation and reform of data protection rules in Ireland.

For more information on this conference, please click [here](#).

HSE to recruit 57 social workers to fill current vacancies

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD, has confirmed that the HSE is to recruit 57 social workers across all care groups to fill current vacancies. According to the Minister, a significant number of those recruited will be posted to Child and Family Services.

The current vacancies have arisen as a result of recent retirements as well as career breaks and extended leave within the department. 31 members of staff have retired in previous months. The new vacancies, which are additional to the 63 social work positions filled in recent months, will further increase the number of

front-line social workers employed by the Government and go some way toward fulfilling the recommendations of the Ryan Report.

In a statement at a meeting of the Select Sub-Committee on Children and Youth Affairs the Minister maintained that these latest recruitments, as well as the increased budget for HSE Child and Family Services this year, show the Government's commitment to "enhanced service delivery".

Gordon Jeyes, National Director of the HSE, has been charged with filling the vacancies.



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May issue of the Public Affairs Ireland Journal to be published next week

In the next issue of the PAI monthly Journal, Sarah Kilduff discusses a range of issues with Philip Nolan, President of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth including the proposed HEA reforms. Also in this issue, Laurie Mannix, managing director of MKC Communications and Chairman of the Public Relations Consultants Association offers her opinions on the proposed statutory register of lobbyists in Ireland and discusses why regulation must extend beyond a focus on professional lobbyists. Eoghan Murphy TD outlines the recently introduced Tax Transparency Bill which aims to provide the taxpayer with an annual statement showing how much they paid in tax and how the government intends to spend that money. For more information on how to receive the Journal, click here.



Reform of the employment rights and industrial relations structures continues

Addressing the IBEC employment law conference during the week, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD mentioned a number of developments which have made in relation to the reform of the of the employment rights and industrial relations structures. The new single Workplace Relations Customer Service portal is now fully operational; a new workplace relations interim website is now in place; a single complaint form that deals with over 100 first instance complaints has replaced the 30 forms previously in use; complaints are now acknowledged and employers notified, on average,

within five working days; delivery of the pilot early resolution service has commenced; and the backlog for Rights Commissioner hearings has been eliminated. The next step will be the establishment of the two-tier workplace relations structure whereby two statutorily independent bodies will replace the current five. Furthermore, the responses to the feedback on the Blueprint document, published in April are currently being considered which will serve to inform the drafting of the Workplace Relations Bill.

SPECIAL OFFER

For a limited time we are offering two deals on selected courses and seminars.

Book one delegate, add additional delegates at half-price
This applies to:
Certificate in Change Management May 23 2012
Cloud Computing and the Public Sector May 29 2012

10% off bookings before Monday June 4 2012
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Plain English 12 June
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IR Negotiation Skills June 19

Click on any of the topics for more information

COURSES

Certificate in Change Management
3 days. Commences May 23 2012

Certificate in Freedom Of Information
1.5 days. Commences June 6 2012

SEMINARS

Minute Taking
May 22 9am - 1pm

Cloud Computing and The Public Sector
May 29 9am - 1pm

Measuring the Effectiveness of Training
May 30 9am - 3pm

Understanding and Dealing With Workplace Conflicts
May 31 10am - 4pm

Bullying and Harrassment in the Workplace
June 6 9am - 1pm

Speed Reading
June 7 9am - 1pm

Lessons from the 7 Habits Model of Personal Effectiveness
June 7 9am - 4pm

Plain English
June 12 9am - 1pm

No Nonsense Project Management
June 12 9.30am - 4.15pm

Achieving More with Less: Lean 6 Sigma for the Public Sector
June 13 9am - 1pm

Managing Performance and Interim Reviews
June 13 9am - 4pm

IR Negotiation Skills
June 19 10am - 4pm

Time Management and Personal Effectiveness
June 21 9am - 1pm

Giving Excellent Customer Care
June 26 9 am - 1pm

Dáil

May 22	May 23	May 24
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)</p> <p>3.15pm Leaders Questions</p> <p>3.36pm Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p>4.36pm Order of Business</p> <p>Pre European Council Statements (to conclude in 65 minutes)</p> <p>Topical Issues</p> <p>Qualification and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Education and Skills)</p> <p>9pm Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 Second Stage Resumed (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) Bill 2012 Order for Report Stage (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport)</p> <p>Qualification and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Second Stage (Resumed to adjourn at 6.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Education and Skills)</p> <p>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Environment Community and Local Government)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Finance)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical issues</p> <p>4.33pm Morning business continued</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p> <p>Afternoon business continued</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>11.11am Motion re Transfer of Passenger Name Records Between Ireland and the U.S.A (Back from Committee) (to conclude in 20 minutes) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2012 All Stages (to conclude at 12.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment Community and Local Government)</p> <p>Electricity Regulation (Carbon Revenue Levy) (Amendment) Bill 2012 All Stages (to conclude at 3.42pm if not previously concluded)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)</p>

Seanad

May 22	May 23	May 24
<p>2.30pm Order of Business</p> <p>Motion regarding the agreement between the EU and the USA on the use and transfer of Passenger Name Records to the United States Department of Homeland Security – back from Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality without debate [Department of Justice and Equality]</p> <p>3.45pm Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 - Committee Stage [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Committee and Remaining Stages [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>2.30pm Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 – Report and Final Stages [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>3.45pm Statute Law Revision Bill 2012 – Committee and Remaining Stages [Minister of State for Public Service Reform and the OPW]</p> <p>4.45pm Private Members Business – Motion re National Lottery: [Senators – Taoiseach’s Nominees]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Statements and Q&A on the 2012 Sports Capital Programme [Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport]</p> <p>5pm Electricity Regulation (Carbon Levy) (Amendment) Bill 2012 – All stages [Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]</p>

Committee Meetings

May 22	May 23	May 24
<p>2pm Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Report on Investigation Pursuant to Section 53 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 in respect of the Programme “Prime Time Investigates – Mission to Prey” [resumed] [Mr Tom Savage, Chairman and Mr. Noel Curran, Director General, RTE]</p> <p>2.15pm Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 33 (Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht); and Vote 34 (National Gallery) [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]</p> <p>2.30pm Health and Children Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: The Tallaght Hospital Investigation Report [Dr Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive, Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)]</p> <p>2.30pm Social Protection (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Further Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 37 (Social Protection) [Minister for Social Protection]</p> <p>3.30pm Environment, Community and Local Government (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 25 (Environment, Community and Local Government) [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]</p>	<p>9.30 am Jobs, Social Protection and Education Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Educational disadvantage [Young Ballymun; and the Early Learning Initiative at the National College of Ireland]</p> <p>10am Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>10am Members’ Interests (Seanad Éireann) Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>1.45pm Justice, Defence and Equality 1. Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Hearings on submissions received in relation to the Mediation Bill [Ms Karen Erwin, President from The Mediators’ Institute of Ireland and representatives]</p> <p>Justice, Defence and Equality 2. 3pm Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Revised Estimates for Public Services – (i) Vote 35 (Army Pensions); and Vote 36 (Defence) [Minister for Defence]; and (ii) Vote 20 (Garda Síochána); Vote 21 (Prisons); Vote 22 (Courts Service); Vote 23 (Property Registration Authority); and Vote 24 (Justice and Equality). [Minister for Justice and Equality]</p> <p>3pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Draft Heads of the General Scheme of Protected Disclosures in the Public Interest Bill 2012 [Representatives from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions(ICTU)]</p> <p>5pm Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>10am Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>11am Transport, Tourism and Sport (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport]</p> <p>11.30am European Union Affairs Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: The April General Affairs Council Meeting and the forthcoming May General Affairs Council Meeting [Ms. Lucinda Creighton, T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]</p> <p>11.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Delays in processing medical cards [Mr. Paddy Burke, Assistant National Director, HSE]</p> <p>12noon Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Session 1 A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland [Human Rights Consortium] Session 2 (12.45 pm) The work of the North South Bodies, [Ms Fiona Gilligan, Safefood Ireland].</p> <p>2.15 pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Africa Day</p> <p>2.30 pm Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 29 (Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) [Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]</p>