



## Next week in the Oireachtas

In advance of the Referendum on Thursday the Dáil, Seanad and Oireachtas Committees are not scheduled to sit next week.

## News

### Human Resources Shared Service Centre (HRSSC) for the Civil Service to be created

The Government has agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Human Resources Shared Service Centre (HRSSC) for the Civil Service. This centre will serve to consolidate administrative functions in areas such as finance, IT and Human Resources (HR).

The focus is on consolidating transactional HR activity, such as the processing and recording of all leave options, the recording and management of all employee records, the recording and reporting of sick absences, and pensions administration. It is also intended to automate PMDS to improve compliance and reduce administrative overhead costs in conjunction with the set up of the HR Shared Service in early 2013.

A project team is currently working on the design of the HRSSC and organisations (40 Departments, Offices and Agencies involved in this initiative) will begin to use the new HRSSC on a phased basis. It is anticipated that the first group of organisations will be using the HRSSC from early 2013. The 40 Departments and Offices involved will be transitioned to the new shared service by end 2014.

This project has the potential to save approximately 26 percent in the annual cost of running HR for the Civil Service which

equates to savings of approximately €12.5m per annum when fully operational. It is also estimated that there will be a reduction of approximately 149 staff (or 17 percent in the number of HR staff).

Initial costs to get this project off the ground will amount to around €26m to be spent on project resourcing, technology, facilities and data cleansing.

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD said "The Government is committed to realising the significant benefits that can be achieved using this model and there will be a keen focus on realising these benefits for the taxpayer."

This announcement comes on the back of PAI's recent conference Shared Services and Outsourcing in the Irish Public Sector which saw the various aspects of shared services and outsourcing being discussed from a trade union, legal and professional point of view. The conference featured a keynote address by Brian Hayes TD, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for Public Service Reform and the OPW. To look back at the details of this conference or view PAI's upcoming events, click here.

### May issue of the Public Affairs Ireland Journal published

In the May issue of the PAI monthly Journal, published this week, Sarah Kilduff interviews Professor Philip Nolan, President of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth where he outlines his ambitions for the University during his tenure as President. This issue also includes articles by Dr Charles Larkin, TCD, who reviews Ireland's debt crisis; Laurie Mannix, managing director of MKC Communications and Chairman of the Public Relations Consultants Association, who offers her opinions on the proposed statutory register of lobbyists in Ireland and discusses why regulation must extend beyond a focus on professional lobbyists; and Eoghan Murphy TD who 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 and details of other PAI publications, click here.



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### New Comptroller and Auditor General nominated

Dáil Éireann has nominated Mr Séamus McCarthy as the new Comptroller and Auditor General after the retirement of Mr John Buckley in February of this year. Mr Buckley left the position after a four-year tenure.

Mr McCarthy comes to the job with considerable experience having worked in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General since 1994. He has held the position of Deputy Director of Audit and Director of Audit in his time at the Office and, prior to this, worked in the Department of Finance in the Policy Analysis and Operations Research Unit. He holds a BA in Economics and Political Science from the NUI Galway and MSc in Public Sector Analysis from Trinity College, Dublin

Mr McCarthy was successful over fifteen other candidates who applied for the position, following an open public recruitment process conducted by Public Appointments Service. According

to Minister for Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan TD, who was forced to defend the appointment following criticism of the selection process, Mr McCarthy, is 'highly professional and effective' and had received recommendations for the role 'by eminent independent people ... who have experience at home and abroad'.

Others who welcomed the appointment of Mr McCarthy include Mr John McGuinness, Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts and Sinn Féin deputy leader, Mary Lou McDonald TD, who stated that she had 'absolutely no doubt Mr McCarthy is the best man for the job'.

In his role as C&AG, Mr McCarthy will be responsible for providing independent assurance that public money is properly managed and spent to good effect and will also contribute to improvements in public administration.

### SPECIAL OFFER

Summer has finally arrived, and to celebrate the rare Irish blue sky we are offering a two special deals on selected courses and seminars booked before June Bank Holiday Monday, 4 June 2012. Reductions will be made that the time of booking.

We are offering a group deal: **book one, book another half-price**, on our popular **Cloud Computing in the Public Sector** on May 29.

We are offering a **10% reduction in price** for the below summer seminars.

**Plain English June 12**

**Managing Performance and Interim Reviews June 13**

**IR Negotiation Skills June 19**

Click the titles for more information or call us on 01 819 8500

## Public Affairs Ireland Conference

### A New Era for Data Protection in Ireland

#### Confirmed Speakers

**Billy Hawkes, Irish Data Protection Commissioner**

**Paul Lavery, McCann Fitzgerald**

**Mark Farrell, Arcline**

**Billy Murphy, Drury Communications**

**Annette Hogan, McCann Fitzgerald**

**Wednesday June 13 2012, 9am - 1pm Westin Hotel, Dublin**

Public Affairs Ireland is organising a special conference in Dublin 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.

The conference agenda will address topics including:

- Data Protection and the delivery of public services
- Data sharing and outsourcing
- National regulation with international impacts
- Data Protection and Cloud Computing
- Pending EU reforms on Data Protection
- Dealing with the consequences of a breach in data security

This will be a highly relevant and topical conference that should be attended by representatives of any organisation or agency involved in the collection, storage or processing of personal data in Ireland. The conference will tackle the practical issues that arise for data controllers at present and look forward to reforms that are being advanced by the EU Commission.

[Click here to register online](#)

*For more information please call us on 01 8198500*

## Education and Training Events in Public Affairs Ireland

Public Affairs Ireland provides a range of training courses and CPD seminars on public affairs and regulatory matters. Both our training courses and CPD seminars are taught by leading experts in each relevant discipline, who bring a sharp practical focus to our events. Please click here for a list of upcoming events.