

Next week in the Oireachtas

In the Dáil next week, the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 will be discussed at Second Stage on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the Seanad, statements will be heard regarding the Seanad Report on the Rights of Older Persons. The Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade will meet with President of the Irish Farmers' Association, Mr John Bryan, on Wednesday to discuss trade promotion and the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in economic recovery.



News & Appointments

Government's Intellectual Property Protocol announced

As part of commitments made in the Programme for Government and the Action Plan for Jobs 2012, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, and the Minister for Research and Innovation, Sean Sherlock TD, have published the Government's Intellectual Property Protocol. According to the Ministers, the Protocol will make it easier to create commercial products and services from the results of publicly-funded Research & Development.

Ireland's substantial expertise in the area of scientific research and innovation has earned it an excellent international reputation: Ireland was ranked 20th in the world for quality of scientific research output in 2010. The newly launch IP Protocol aims to improve Ireland's commercial outcomes from this activity, with Minister Bruton maintaining: '[it] will encourage more multinationals and indigenous companies to use the IP generated by Irish R&D to create products and services and ultimately create more jobs'.

The measures rolled out with the Protocol will see the establishment of: a new Central Technology Transfer Office (cTTO), 'a one-stop shop for businesses seeking to use intellectual property deriving from publicly-funded research'; standardised intellectual property terms, to facilitate agreements between

businesses and researchers; generous commercial terms, to encourage businesses to engage with researchers; and finally, improved management of Intellectual Property.

In developing the national IP policy the Government was assisted by the IP Implementation Group, chaired by Dr Jim Mountjoy, Founder of Euristix, Member of Science Foundation Ireland Board, and the IP Policy Group, chaired by Martin Shanagher, Assistant Secretary, DJEI and Chair of Interdepartmental Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation.

According to Minister Bruton the Protocol 'marks a major evolution of the relationship between industry and publicly-funded research [and] will create a world-class new system that will make it easier and faster for entrepreneurs and companies to negotiate a commercial arrangement with researchers'.

This is an ongoing project and 'will continue to evolve to ensure that it delivers on its objectives and is aligned with the objectives of the State in respect of its research funding'.

Members of Shannon restructuring Steering Group announced

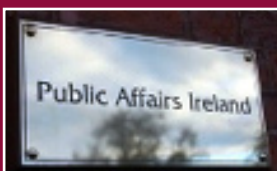
The composition of the Steering Group charged with bringing forward proposals on the restructuring of the State Airports and Shannon Development has been announced by Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar TD, and Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD.

The Group was set up following the Government's decision to 'separate Shannon Airport from the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and bring it together with Shannon Development to form a new entity with a commercial mandate in public ownership'.

The Steering Group will be jointly chaired by Mr Tom O'Mahony and Mr John Murphy, Secretary General at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Secretary General at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, respectively. It will also be comprised of senior officials from the aforementioned Departments as well as the Departments of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Group will oversee the work of two Task Forces: an Aviation Business Development Task Force and a Change Management Task Force. The former is to be chaired by Rose Hynes, current Chair of Bord Gáis Eireann and a former member of the senior management team of Guinness Peat Aviation (GPA) and of the boards of Aer Lingus Teo and Shannon Airport Authority. The latter will be chaired by John Fitzgerald, former Dublin City Manager and current chair of the National Transport Authority, An Post and the Limerick Regeneration Project.

According to the press release, the duties of the Group are to bring forward proposals for: the separation of Shannon Airport from the DAA; the transfer of Shannon Development's functions to Enterprise Ireland (EI) and the IDA; and the transfer of Shannon Development's tourism functions to Fáilte Ireland. It is also charged with reviewing and assessing the DAA plan for the operational and financial readiness of the DAA Group in a post separation scenario, as well as exploring options and preparing proposals for the formation of the new entity of Shannon Airport and Shannon Development.



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NAMA appoints Chief Financial Officer

The National Asset Management Agency has appointed Donal Rooney as Chief Financial Officer.

Mr Rooney is a graduate of University College Dublin and on finishing his degree worked for Arthur Anderson from 1997 until 2002. He then held the role of Director in the Audit and Advisory division at KPMG for over 7 years before joining

the portfolio management and asset recovery divisions at NAMA in May 2010.

Mr Rooney's appointment comes following a review of NAMA by former HSBC banker Michael Geoghegan last year, which recommended that a chief financial officer be appointed to ease the workload of chief executive Brendan McDonagh.

Government nominates High Court judge

The Government has nominated Colm MacEochaidh SC for appointment by the President as a judge of the High Court.

Mr MacEochaidh, who is an expert of planning law, public law and general commercial law, will fill the vacancy on the High Court left by Mr Justice John MacMenamin, who was appointed to the Supreme Court in February of this year.

A UCD and King's Inns graduate, Mr MacEochaidh was first called to the bar in 1987 and became a senior counsel in 2009. He is a council member of the Irish unit of anti-corruption, non-governmental organisation Transparency International and a former member of the council of An Taisce.

The Government has taken the necessary steps to formally advise President Higgins of the nomination in accordance with constitutional procedure.

Revenue Chairwoman's term extended

Chairwoman of the Revenue Commissioners, Josephine Feehily, has had her term of appointment extended by one year. She will now serve a six-year- term, having assumed the role of Chairwoman in March 2008.

According to a Government spokesman, the decision was taken as a result of Ireland's upcoming presidency of the European Union which begins in January of next year. He explained that as the presidency will involve a number of tax matters, the experience of the current Chairwoman is favourable.

Ms Feehily, who joined Revenue in 1993, is a graduate of the National College of Ireland and Trinity College Dublin. She has enjoyed a long career as a public servant, having previously worked in the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Pensions Board. She has also served as a member of the Labour Relations Commission.

Public Affairs Ireland Conference

A New Era for Data Protection in Ireland

Speakers

Billy Hawkes, Irish Data Protection Commissioner

Paul Nemitz, European Commission

Dr. Robert Griffin, EMC

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 [click here](#) or 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.

Dáil

June 12	June 13	June 14
<p>2.00pm Questions (Minister for Social Protection)</p> <p>3.15pm Leaders Questions</p> <p>3.36pm Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p>4.36pm Order of Business</p> <p>Topical Issues</p> <p>PQRota Changes (Departments of Children and Youth Affairs and Education and Skills) (without Debate)</p> <p>PQRota Changes (Departments of the Environment Community and Local Government and Health) (without Debate)</p> <p>Motion re Changes in Standing Orders (without Debate)</p> <p>Revised Estimates (back from Committee) (without Debate)</p> <p>Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Bill 2011 (1 Amendment from the Seanad)</p> <p>Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Motion re Renewal of Certain Provisions of the Offences against the State Act (to conclude within 45 minutes) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Motion re Criminal Justice Amendment Act 2009 (to conclude within 45 minutes) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Education and Skills)</p> <p>European Arrest Warrant (Application to Third Countries and Amendment) and Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2011 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical issues</p>	<p>4.33pm Morning business continued</p> <p>6.25pm Statements re Common Fisheries Policy Reform (to conclude within 65 minutes) (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p> <p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Motion re Proposal for a Directive on the freezing and confiscating of proceeds of Crime in the European Union (back from Committee) (without debate) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Motion re Aarhus Convention (back from Committee) (without Debate) (Department of the Environment Community and Local Government)</p> <p>European Arrest Warrant (Application to Third Countries and Amendment) and Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2011 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Education and Skills)</p> <p>Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Second Stage resumed (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)</p> <p>Construction Contracts Bill 2010 (Seanad) Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p>

Seanad

June 12	June 13
<p>2.30pm Order of Business Motions regarding (i) Restructuring of Sectoral Committees and transfer of papers to new Committees and (ii) Joint Administration Committee – without debate Motion regarding the establishment of a Joint Committee on Standing Orders (Private Business) – without debate</p> <p>3.45pm Criminal Justice (Withholding Information Against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 - Committee Stage [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business 11.45am - 1.30pm</p> <p>Statements on the Seanad Report on the Rights of Older Persons [Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health]</p> <p>3pm – 5pm Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012 – Second Stage [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]</p> <p>5pm - 7pm Private Members Business Business Undertakings (Disclosure of Overpayments) Bill 2012 – Second Stage</p>
June 14	
<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am – 1pm Competition (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Report and Final Stages [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>1pm - 2.30pm Statements on the Euroscience Open Forum 2012 [Minister of State for Research and Innovation]</p>	<p>2.30pm Statements on the outcome of the Referendum on the proposal for the amendment of the Constitution contained in the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Bill 2012 [Seanad Members]</p>

Committee Meetings

June 12	June 13	June 14
<p>2 pm Committee Room 3, Leinster House Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>2 pm Committee Room 2, Leinster House Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform AGENDA: Draft Heads of the General Scheme of Protected Disclosures in the Public Interest Bill 2012 (resumed) [Mr Kenan Furlong, Partner, A&L Goodbody; and Mr Eugene McErlean, former AIB internal auditor]</p> <p>2.15 pm Committee Room 4, Leinster House Environment, Community and Local Government (Sub-Committee) AGENDA: (i) Motion regarding Ratification of the Aarhus Convention, the Amendment to the Aarhus Convention on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and the Protocol to the Aarhus Convention on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs); (ii) Dormant Accounts</p>	<p>(Amendment) Bill 2011 [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]</p> <p>2.30 pm Committee Room 1, Leinster House Health and Children AGENDA: Draft Heads of Children First Bill 2012 (resumed) [Ms Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children]</p> <p>9.30 am Committee Room 3, Leinster House Jobs, Social Protection and Education AGENDA: (i) The forthcoming Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]; (ii) Unemployment and Youth Unemployment (resumed) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>2 pm Committee Room 4, Leinster House Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>2 pm Committee Room 2, Leinster House Justice, Defence and Equality AGENDA: Survivors of Symphysiotomy</p> <p>2.30 pm Committee Room 1, Leinster House Foreign Affairs and Trade AGENDA: Trade promotion and the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in economic recovery</p>	<p>[Officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Mr John Bryan, President of the Irish Farmers' Association]</p> <p>4 pm Committee Room 4, Leinster House Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform AGENDA: Draft Heads of the General Scheme of Protected Disclosures in the Public Interest Bill 2012 (resumed) [Mr Brendan Butler, IBEC; and Mr. John Devitt Transparency International Ireland]</p> <p>10 am Committee Room 1, Leinster House Public Accounts AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) Special Report No.77 of the Comptroller and Auditor General: Dublin Docklands Development Authority; and (iii) Dublin Docklands Development Authority: 2011 Annual Report & Financial Statements [Ms Loretta Lambkin, Chief Executive, Dublin Docklands Development Authority]</p> <p>11 am Committee Room 4, Leinster House Finance (Sub-Committee) AGENDA: European Stability Mechanism Bill 2012 [Minister for Finance]</p> <p>11.30 am Committee Room 3, Leinster House European Union Affairs AGENDA: European Communities (Amendment) Bill 2012 [Minister of State with responsibility for European</p> <p>Affairs]</p> <p>11.30 am Committee Room 2, Leinster House Health and Children AGENDA: Update on Health Issues [Minister for Health; Minister of State with special responsibility for Primary Care; Minister of State, Department of Health and Department of Justice, Equality and Defence with responsibility for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People; and Mr Cathal Magee, Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive]</p>