

Next week in the Oireachtas

In the Dáil next week, the Construction Contracts Bill 2010 (Seanad) will be discussed at Second Stage on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. In the Seanad, the Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 will be discussed at Second Stage. Ms Vanessa Hetherington, Senior Policy Executive, Irish Medical Organisation and Ms Ineke Durville, President, Irish Association of Social Workers will attend the Health and Children Committee this week to discuss the Draft Heads of Children First Bill 2012.



News & Appointments

A new era for data protection in Ireland: Public Affairs Ireland Conference

Public Affairs Ireland hosted a conference on Wednesday last at which the range of speakers including lawyers, ICT professionals and policymakers discussed various issues surrounding data protection in Ireland and the ever-changing data protection landscape

Data protection “is becoming a daily reality” according to the **Data Protection Commissioner, Billy Hawkes**. Commissioner Hawkes said how data protection for public service organisations is more challenging than for commercial organisations as “the objectives of better customer service, greater efficiency and the combating of fraud need to be balanced against the rights of individuals”.

Discussing results from a recent eurbarometer survey, Commissioner Hawkes explained how Irish people are protective of their data protection rights. They are also concerned with one of the key aspects of the new EU framework relating to data protection which is the right to be forgotten.

With regard to social networking, “in Ireland we seem to be very comfortable with the privacy implications of using such sites”. Irish people also believe that “they themselves bear the main responsibility for protecting their personal data when operating social networking sites” as evident from the survey.

Harmonisation of the EU’s data protection laws is also favoured in Ireland while enforcement at a national level would be preferable, as provided for in the new EU package of law.

Speaking about the draft legislation put forward by the EU Commission, the Commissioner said: “The core principles set out in the 1995 data protection directive remain sound yet need to be strengthened and updated in order to better the individual right to data protection and to make clear the obligations companies take on when they gather and process the information of individuals”. The new regulation addresses the uniform application of the law with the EU “not least in order to ensure the free movement of data”. Despite some issues which may arise the Commissioner confirmed there will be benefits for individuals, organisations and the role of data protection authorities will be confirmed.

In his address **Paul Nemitz, Director, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, European Commission**, discussed the proposed changes to the EU data protection laws saying: “What we are proposing is not a revolution but an evolution.”

Having a regulation as opposed to a directive would mean that companies from Ireland who want to provide services in the other member states would not need to study the national law. One law would solely have to

be complied with and be supervised by one authority thereby “reducing entry barriers and reducing entry costs for those who wish to act across the internal market”.

Throughout his address Mr Nemitz, an expert on European Law, also spoke about the importance of trust in the development

of the digital market, a theme reiterated by the speakers throughout the conference. “Trust is the basis for growth, for innovation and for new market entrants to have a chance when they are still completely unknown.” Trust could only be reached in the new digital services “if individual rights are credibly protected”.

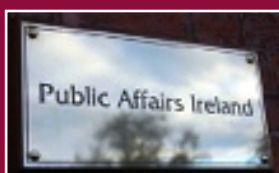
However, Mr Nemitz was keen to underline the difficult task that lies ahead in convincing all the member states to accept the rules. He reminded the audience that if the proposals are to be accepted, “authorities in other member states (...) will have to give up part of their responsibility and lay the protection of the individual rights of their citizens in the hands of the Irish authority”.

Mr Nemitz also commented on the digital economy in Ireland in the context of the EU Presidency next year, stating that he, along with his European colleagues, are very hopeful that the Irish Presidency will succeed in providing “a real digital internal market” and reaching “an agreement on a legal framework which serves citizens all over Europe”.

For a full conference report please see the June issue of the PAI monthly Journal. For more information on conferences hosted by Public Affairs Ireland, click here.



Garrett Fennell, Public Affairs Ireland; Billy Hawkes, Data Protection Commissioner; Mark Farrell, Arcline; Dr. Robert W. Griffin, EMC; Paul Nemitz, Director, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, European Commission; and Paul Lavery, McCann FitzGerald



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New Presidents nominated for the Circuit and District Courts

The Government last week nominated His Hon. Judge Raymond Groarke as President of the Circuit Court, and Judge Rosemary Horgan as President of the District Court.

The vacancies arise as the terms of office of Presidents The Hon Mr. Justice Matthew Deery and Her Hon Judge Miriam Malone expired with effect on

Tuesday June 12.

The Government will take the necessary steps to formally advise President Higgins of the nominations in accordance with Constitutional procedures. Both Presidents will serve a seven year term under the terms of section 4 of the Courts (No 2) Act 1997.

Business Development Managers to be appointed to 37 Community Enterprise Centres across country

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD has announced that Business Development Managers are to be appointed to 37 Community Enterprise Centres across the country as part of a €2m programme. The scheme is aimed at protecting and growing businesses in the community.

€1.6m of funding has been allocated to support the management infrastructure within the national community enterprise centre network, managed by Enterprise Ireland.

The employment of a Business Development Manager is expected to increase to 848 employees by 2014 in the businesses they support.

In 2013, a second call for proposals for a further €400,000 will be published, it was also announced.

Those appointed to these positions will be responsible for managing Community Enterprise Centres, building business links and driving entrepreneurship locally. They will also be required to: facilitate and

provide business development programmes and training courses; facilitate companies to graduate from the centre once their employment levels rise; manage cooperation with other business development stakeholders locally such as local entrepreneurs, third level institutions, CEBs, Local Authorities, Chambers of Commerce; and collaborate and network with other Community Enterprise Centres in the area.

Minister Bruton said: "A key part of the Government's plan for sustainable jobs and growth is a drive to support enterprise in the community. In many cases communities by coming together to focus on job creation can have a much greater impact on their local economy than Government ever could, and initiatives such as "Local Heroes" and "Fiver Friday" have shown what can be achieved."

The 37 Centres were selected from applications received from Community Enterprise Centres following a call for proposals made by Enterprise Ireland in March 2012.

Minister launches public consultation on national rare disease plan

The Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly TD has launched a public consultation process on a national rare disease plan for Ireland.

The launch of this public consultation follows the Minister's decision to establish a national rare diseases steering group in April 2011 charged with developing a policy framework for the prevention, detection and treatment

of rare diseases.

The steering group, set to operate over a five-year period, is chaired by the Department of Health and includes members with a remit or interest in relation to rare diseases.

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Our goal is to facilitate a culture of both personal and professional development and learning in the Irish public sector.

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Publications

PAI also publishes:

- a weekly newsletter summarising the week in public affairs
- a monthly journal featuring analysis and commentary on contemporary Irish social topics
- a Directory of State bodies

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Dáil

June 19	June 20	June 21
2pm Questions (Minister for Health)	10.30am Leaders Questions	10.30am Leaders Questions
3.15pm Leaders Questions	10.51am Order of Business	10.51am Order of Business
3.36pm Questions (Taoiseach)	European Stability Mechanism Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 5.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)	Statute Law Revisions Bill 2012 (Seanad) All Stages (to conclude at 1.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
4.36pm Order of Business		Construction Contracts Bill 2010 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
5.06pm Topical Issues	Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 10.00pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)	1.30pm Statements re Nuclear Proliferation (to conclude at 3.42pm) (Department of Foreign Affairs)
European Communities (Amendment) Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stage (Department of Foreign Affairs)	Construction Contracts Bill 2010 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)	3.42pm Topical Issues
Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)	1.30pm SOS	4.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)
Construction Contracts Bill 2010 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)	2.30pm Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)	
7.30pm Private Members Business	3.45pm Topical issues	
	4.33pm Morning business continued	
	7.30pm Private Members Business	

Seanad

June 19	June 20	June 21
11am Seanad Public Consultation Committee Hearings -How lifestyle Changes can curb cancer rates	10.30am Order of Business	10.30am Order of Business
4.45pm Criminal Justice (Search Warrants) Bill 2012 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]	11.45am Motion re Renewal of Certain Provisions of the Offences against the State Act (to conclude within 45 minutes)	11.45am Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 - Second Stage [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]
	Motion re Criminal Justice Amendment Act 2009 (to conclude within 45 minutes)	1.45pm Criminal Justice (Search Warrants) Bill 2012 – Committee Stage [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]
	1.15pm Criminal Justice (Withholding Information against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 - Report and Final Stages [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]	4pm AnBilleGaeiltachta – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht]
	3.15pm Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 – Committee Stage (Resumed) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]	

Committee Meetings

June 19	June 20	June 21
11.30am Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Work of the Executive Director for Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean at the World Bank [Ms. Marie-Lucie Morin, Executive Director, World Bank]; and (ii) Impact of debt and the policies of the World Bank and the IMF [Representatives of the Debt and Development Coalition Ireland]	Transport and Communications 1. 10am Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Election of Chairperson 2. 10.45am Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting	9.30am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]
12 noon European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting	10am Education and Social Protection 1. Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Election of Chairperson 2. Committee Room 4, Leinster House 10.30am AGENDA: Private Meeting	10am Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting
12.45pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation 1. Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Election of Chairperson 2. 1.30pm Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2011 [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]	10am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals; and (ii) a. Cross border employment; b. Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs); and c. Role of Enterprise Ireland. [Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust (NIABT)]	10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) Appropriation Accounts; Vote 38: Social Protection; and (iii) Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General 2010:
2pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Election of Chairperson	2pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Trade promotion and the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in economic recovery [IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Forfás]	11.30am European Union Affairs Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Forthcoming General Affairs Council Meeting [Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]
2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht 1. Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Election of Chairperson 2. Committee Room 4, Leinster House 3.15pm AGENDA: Private Meeting		11.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Update on Children and Youth Issues [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]
3.30pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Pre ECOFIN Council briefing [Minister for Finance]		12 noon Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: North-South Co-Operation across Sectoral Areas and Funding Programme [Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust (NIABT)]
2.30pm Health and Children Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Draft Heads of Children First Bill 2012 (resumed) [Ms Vanessa Hetherington, Senior Policy Executive, Irish Medical Organisation; and Ms Ineke Durville, President, Irish Association of Social Workers]		3.30pm Public Expenditure and Reform (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011
5.30pm Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting	2.30pm Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House	