

Next week in the Oireachtas: Summary



In the Dáil next week, statements will be made prior to the European Council Summit taking place next Wednesday and Thursday (June 28 and 29) in Brussels. In the Seanad, the European Communities (Amendment) Bill 2012 will be discussed at committee and remaining stages. The Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee will next week discuss the Implementation of Water Services Amendment Act 2012 including the registration of domestic waste water treatment systems and associated performance standards.

News & Appointments

Changes to Oireachtas Committee system

A number of changes were made this week to the Oireachtas committee system as part of the Government's 12 month review. It is hoped the changes will help to better distribute the committee workloads.

Firstly, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Social Protection and Education has been divided into and the Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection Committee and the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Deputy Damien English will Chair the latter while Joanna Tuffy TD will begin work as Chairperson of the new Education and Social Protection Committee following her appointment at its meeting this week. Deputy Tuffy previously served as Chair of the Joint Committee on the Good Friday Agreement.

Upon her election, Deputy Tuffy noted: "Ireland's resilience in previous recessions has in past decades been attributed to our education system. Amid current difficulties, the committee will have a role in ensuring our education system benefits all of society and helps everyone reach their best potential. With the budgets of all departments coming under increasing pressure, it is imperative too that we safeguard a strong and equitable social welfare system, which protects our most vulnerable citizens".

Deputy Joe McHugh was appointed chair of the Joint Committee on the Good Friday Agreement to replace the position vacated by Deputy Tuffy. Following his appointment, Deputy McHugh said his work as chairperson will centre on driving the committee to "continue to inform debate on key areas of mutual interest". He added: "I foresee our committee continuing to explore practical ways towards reconciliation, enhanced cooperation and full implementation of the agreements in its discussions, both in Committee and

in its meetings at grass roots levels in Northern Ireland and the border region."

Furthermore, the remit of transport will now come under new Joint Committee on Transport and Communications. Tom Hayes TD was this week appointed chair of the new committee. Speaking following his election, Deputy Hayes noted the "very broad remit" of the new committee. He intends to invite a broad range of key players in Irish life to meetings of the committee to express their views on many issues. In particular, Deputy Hayes wishes to invite key figures from the broadcasting industry or those "key opinion-formers in Irish society having daily access to hundreds of thousands of listeners" including Pat Kenny, Joe Duffy and Marian Finucane.

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment, Community and the Gaeltacht will retain Ciaran Lynch TD as chairman while Andrew Doyle TD will be chairman of the new Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

This time last year, the Government announced that there would be a reduction in the number of committees from 26 to 16; there would be no payment to committee vice-chairs or conveners as existed under the previous Government; Government TDs will be on only one Oireachtas Committee giving them time to focus on the work of that committee; the new committees will be properly resourced, stronger and will bring real focus to the areas they cover. The reforms also saw the establishment of an Investigations, Oversight and Petitions Committee.



Joanna Tuffy TD is to Chair the new Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection



Tom Hayes TD will Chair the new Joint Committee on Transport and Communications

Culture Ireland appoint acting CEO

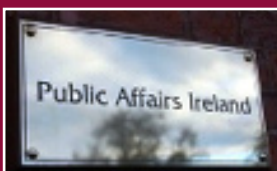
The Board of Culture Ireland have announced the appointment of Ms Christine Sisk as Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Ms Sisk has worked with Culture Ireland since its establishment in 2005. She is currently director of grant programmes. Christine is an arts graduate of UCD, and also holds a diploma in art history from Trinity College Dublin. Ms Sisk takes the role following the expiration of the contract of Mr Eugene Downes.

Jimmy Deenihan, TD Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht welcomed the appointment of Ms Sisk who he said has been "a key part of the Culture Ireland success story in recent years".

Culture Ireland is the national body for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide. Their works centres around creating and supporting opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote their work at international festivals and venues and through the development of platforms to present outstanding Irish creative work to international audiences through showcases at key global arts events.

According to its website, Culture Ireland are planning a cultural programme to mark Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first six months of 2013.



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Scheme to provide €90m in additional lending to 5,500 micro-enterprises launched

Over €90m in additional lending to 5,500 micro-enterprises will be made available under a Government scheme in the initial five-year phase. The lending forms part of a suite of finance schemes provided through the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to businesses of varying sizes, from all sectors and employing not more than ten staff.

The fund will be operated by Microfinance Ireland, a subsidiary company of Social Finance Foundation. For businesses to qualify for funding, a request for credit must first have been declined by the banks. The scheme will provide loans for commercially viable proposals that do not meet the conventional risk criteria applied by the banks for various reasons, including the absence of collateral.

During the initial phase, to commence in early autumn, more than 2700 microenterprises are expected to benefit from the scheme which should, in turn, create 3,800 jobs with approximately 7,700 jobs expected to be created over ten years. Loans of up to €25,000 will be provided.

The announcement represents a key step towards the delivery of a commitment contained within the Programme for Government and the Action Plan for Jobs 2012. It was also one of the big ticket items in the Report of the Advisory Group for Small Business launched in November 2011 which found that access to credit is the single biggest issue facing small firms today.

Minister Shatter announces appointment of three Prison Service Campus Governors

Edward Whelan, Colm Barclay and Martin Mullen have been appointed as Prison Service Campus Governors. Their role will centre upon the implementation of the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 on their respective campuses.

Edward Whelan will serve as Mountjoy Campus Governor with effect from March 1 2012. He was appointed as a Prison Officer in the early 1970's to Mountjoy Prison. He has previously served in Mountjoy, Cork, Portlaoise, Shanganagh Castle, Shelton Abbey, Fort Mitchell and Wheatfield Prisons; as Assistant Chief Officer, Chief Officer, Assistant Governor and Deputy Governor and Governor 2; as Governor 1 to Wheatfield Prison in 2000 followed by Portlaoise Prison until 2010 when he took charge of Mountjoy Prison.

Colm Barclay will take up his position as Campus Governor in the West Dublin Campus on July 30 2012. He was appointed as Prison Officer in 1984 in St Patrick's Institution. He has served in St Patrick's Institution, Wheatfield, Cloverhill, Mountjoy, Dóchas and Midlands and in the Prison Service Training Centre in Portlaoise. He also served as Assistant Chief Officer, Chief Officer and Governor 2. He was appointed Governor 1 in charge of Midlands Prison on September 11 2010 and also became Governor in charge of Portlaoise Prison in February 2012.

Martin Mullen will take up his position as Campus Governor of the Portlaoise Campus on July 30 2012. He was appointed Prison Officer on November 17 1986 serving in Arbour Hill Prison. He has also worked in Mountjoy and Cloverhill prisons and has served as Assistant Chief Officer, Chief Officer, Assistant Governor, Deputy Governor and Governor 3. In 2007 he was appointed as Governor 2, based in Irish Prison Service Headquarters in Longford, where he served as Deputy Director of

Operations. In 2009 he was appointed Governor 1 based in Irish Prison Service Headquarters assigned to the Human Resources Directorate.

The Prison Service Campus Governor will be required to: deliver on the mission of the Irish Prison Service to provide safe, secure and humane custody for people who are sent to prison; lead the management team; ensure the efficient and effective use of resources; drive the implementation of IPS policies; maintain efficient and effective management systems and practices; provide leadership, guidance and support to all staff; implement strategies for change; and ensure that the Irish Prison Service achieves the transformation targets set out in the Public Service Agreement.

These appointments, according to Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter TD, "will facilitate the development of the agreed new campus structures in the prisons, whereby eight separate prison management structures will be combined into three consolidated Campus management structures. The implementation of new campus governance management structures, in addition to generating substantial savings at senior management levels, will also greatly facilitate the further development of shared services on each Campus."

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Dáil

June 26	June 27	June 28
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)</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</p> <p>Topical Issues</p> <p>Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business Afternoon Business Continued</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed to adjourn at 5.30pm (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Micro Enterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)</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>Companies (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>Micro Enterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed (to conclude at 3.42pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government)</p>

Seanad

June 26	June 27	June 28
<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 Second Stage [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>1.45pm Criminal Justice (Search Warrants) Bill 2012 Committee Stage [Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence]</p> <p>4pm AnBilleGaeilteachta – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am European Stability Mechanism Bill 2012– Committee and Remaining Stages [Department of Finance] Spokespersons Senator Michael D’Arcy/Tom Sheahan</p> <p>2.30pm Statements on Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration - Report of the Joint Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture [Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources] Spokesperson Senator Tony Mulcahy</p> <p>4.30pm European Communities (Amendment) Bill 2012 Committee and Remaining Stages [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade] Spokesperson Senator Michael Mullins</p> <p>6pm Private Members Business [Independent Senators Taoiseach’s Nominees] Spokesperson Senator Catherine Noone</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 Committee Stage Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Spokesperson Senator Deirdre Clune</p> <p>2pm Gaeilteachta Bill 2012 – Report and Final Stages [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht] Spokesperson Senator Catherine Noone</p>

Committee Meetings

June 26	June 27	June 28
<p>2pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: The future of aquaculture in the marine environment [Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers]</p> <p>2pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Implementation of Water Services Amendment Act 2012 including the registration of domestic waste water treatment systems and associated performance standards [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]</p> <p>2.30pm Education and Skills (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 [Minister for Education and Skills]</p> <p>2.30pm Health and Children Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Draft Heads of Children First Bill 2012 (resumed) [Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland (ASTI); Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO); Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI); and Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN)]</p> <p>5.30pm Public Accounts Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>9.30am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Unemployment and Youth Unemployment [resumed] [TASC]</p> <p>11am European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 - 2020 [Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]</p> <p>2.30pm Public Expenditure and Reform (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011 (resumed) [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]</p> <p>2.30pm Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: European Arrest Warrant (Application to Third Countries and Amendment) and Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2011</p> <p>4.30pm Members’ Interests of Dáil Éireann Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>6pm Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>10am Education and Skills (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012 [Minister for Education and Skills]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) a. 2010 Appropriation Accounts: Vote 40: Health Service Executive; and b. 2010 Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General Chapter 42: Procurement in the Health Service Executive; Chapter 45: Consultancy and External Support; Chapter 47: Management of the Health Service Executive vote. [Mr Cathal Magee, Chief Executive, Health Service Executive]</p> <p>11.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>

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