

Next week in the Oireachtas

The Dáil will sit on Friday of next week to discuss the Freedom of Information (Amendment) (no. 2) Bill 2012. The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD will make a statement in the Seanad next week on issues including on mortgage arrears, banking and the economy. The Justice, Defence and Equality Committee will hear submissions in relation to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill next week. Representatives from the Irish Human Rights Commission, Equality Rights Alliance, Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Children's Rights Alliance will be in attendance.



News & Appointments

Manager of new joint Limerick authority appointed

The Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD, has announced the appointment of Mr Conn Murray as manager of the new joint Limerick authority.

Mr Murray, a native of Meath, will be in charge of both Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council until they merge in 2014. He will subsequently become manager of all of Limerick.

Mr Murray has worked at Limerick City Council for seven years during the 1990s and early 2000s, first as assistant town clerk and then as director of services. In addition to this, he is a member of the Private Residential Tenancies Board and the former manager of Waterford City.

Minister O'Sullivan welcomed the appointment of Mr Murray and said it gives "an additional impetus to the vital work" involved in delivering

regeneration in Limerick.

In June of last year, the Government approved a new local government structure for Limerick according to recommendations of the Limerick Local Government Committee, chaired by Mr Denis Brosnan and published in September 2010. The new authority will replace Limerick City and County Councils.

A number of benefits are expected by this move "to address the social, economic and administrative issues affecting Limerick" including savings of over €15m over time according to Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, speaking last year. The new unitary authority will come into being following the 2014 local elections.

Details of collaboration between DCU, NUI Maynooth and RCSI announced

The Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, and the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD, this week announced the details of the 3U partnership, a major collaboration between three of Dublin's third level institutions, NUI Maynooth, Dublin City University (DCU) and the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI).

While all three institutions have had various links over the past number of years, this new initiative will formally establish their relationship. A unique identity collaborating expertise, academic staff and research will be created amongst the universities while still retaining their own individual ethos.

The agreement between the institutions, signed by Brian MacCraith, President of DCU, Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth, and Cathal Kelly, Chief Executive of the RCSI, is expected to result in significant developments in terms of academic programmes, research, education and internationalisation.

The group has already announced the decision to establish 3U Biomedical Research, a co-operative to co-ordinate the work of a combined 750 researchers. These researchers will then work with industry in order to bring research solutions for human disease to the market more efficiently.

Comment on this initiative, Professor Brian MacCraith, President of DCU, noted that: "This partnership is a positive development on so many fronts ... it will enhance our ability to solve some of the major research problems facing today's society. For example, our combined expertise and critical mass in biomedical research is certain to lead to major developments in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of major

diseases."

Another key goal of the partnership between the universities is to provide international students with the best possible experience when studying in Ireland. According to the CEO of the RCSI, Professor Cathal Kelly, "international students are demanding to come here". In light of this, the 3U Partnership have begun plans to develop a joint International Foundation and Induction Programme, thereby enhancing the academic, cultural and social experience of international students. "This pays off economically, but just as importantly it pays off academically, giving our own students great experience and bringing new intellectual approaches to the mix."

The partnership will also focus on creating new national and international study programmes, especially at postgraduate level where new programmes are set to be developed in healthcare technology, humanitarian logistics & emergency management and global health. These programmes will see students moving between campuses over the course of their work in order to benefit from the strengths of each institute.

Other new degree programmes are also being developed. As Professor Philip Nolan stated at the launch, "this is just the beginning; there is an impressive pipeline of planned activities which will see the 3U partnership become a national and international model for co-operation in higher education."

To read Sarah Kilduff's recent interview with Professor Philip Nolan in which he discusses the importance of collaborating with other universities, click here.



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Public consultation launched on new draft development contribution guidelines

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, and the Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD have launched a public consultation phase following the publication of draft guidelines for planning authorities on development contributions.

The aim of the draft guidelines is to support planning authorities in preparing and implementing Local Area Plans. These plans will provide for the sustainable development of communities based on realistic

assessments of need for future development informed by wider county and city plans and regional planning guidelines.

The public consultation, which will last for a period of eleven weeks, invites stakeholders and members of the public to submit their views on the draft. Following examination of the submissions received, final guidelines will then be issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2010.

All submissions must be made before Friday September 7, 2012.

Minister for Jobs announces funding of €39m for 30 scientific research projects

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD has today announced funding of €39m for 30 scientific research projects, in key areas such as ICT, health/life sciences and energy.

The funding will support 151 researchers and will be administered via Science Foundation Ireland's (SFI) 'Principal Investigator' (PI) Programme.

The research projects funded will be based on topics such as molecular imaging of cancer, obesity and inflammatory diseases.

Companies including Intel and Analog Devices will also be involved with the research projects.

General Scheme of Credit Union Bill announced

The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, has announced the publication of the General Scheme of the Credit Union Bill 2012.

The Bill includes five key elements: prudential regulation; governance; stabilisation; restructuring; and amendments to the Credit Union Act 1997.

The proposed content for the Bill contained in the general scheme will now be sent to the Office of the Attorney

General for formal drafting. The Bill will also be sent to the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and the ECB for consideration in accordance with EU Treaty requirements.

Commenting on the Bill, the Minister said: "[It] will strengthen the regulatory framework for credit unions and provide the basis for a restructuring of the sector over time in a way that is stable and protects credit union members".

Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 published

The Minister for Justice and Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, has published the Personal Insolvency Bill 2012, following its approval by the Government earlier in the week.

The new Bill will see the introduction of the following new non-judicial debt resolution processes: a Debt Relief Notice; a Debt Settlement Arrangement; and a Personal Insolvency Arrangement. The Bill will also see the automatic

discharge from bankruptcy after three years, as opposed to twelve years, which is the case at present.

The Bill, which is highly significant in terms of the development of modern insolvency law, comes after numerous recommendations to reform Ireland's personal insolvency framework over the past number of years.

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Dáil

July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport)</p> <p>3.15pm Leaders Questions</p> <p>3.36pm Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p>4.36pm Order of Business</p> <p>5.06pm Topical Issues Criminal Justice (Search Warrants) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Statements re European Council</p> <p>Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No 3) Bill 2011 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 10pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>Criminal Justice (Search Warrants) Bill 2012 (Seanad) 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>7.30pm Private Members Business</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>European Arrest Warrant (Application to Third Countries and Amendment) and Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2011 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 4pm if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)</p> <p>Qualification and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 (Seanad) Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Education and Skills)</p> <p>5.30pm Topical Issues</p> <p>6.18pm Questions (Minister for Finance)</p>	<p>10.30am Freedom of Information (Amendment) (no. 2) Bill 2012</p>

Seanad

July 3	July 4
<p>12pm Address to Seanad Éireann by Mr Drew Nelson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland</p> <p>3pm Order of Business</p> <p>3.45pm Statements and Q&A on Mortgage Arrears, Banking and the Economy [Minister for Finance]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 – Report and Final Stages [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>1pm Wildlife (Amendment) Bill 2012 – All Stages [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]</p> <p>3pm Gaeltacht Bill 2012 – Committee Stage (Resumed) [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht]</p> <p>5pm Private Members Business [Sinn Féin Senators]</p>
	<p>July 5</p> <p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Gaeltacht Bill 2012 – Committee Stage (Resumed) [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht]</p>

Committee Meetings

July 3	July 4	July 5
<p>2pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2012)150; COM(2012)155; COM(2012)162; COM(2012)172; COM(2012)182; COM(2012)192; COM(2012)211; COM(2012)246; COM(2012)247; COM(2012)248; COM(2012)277; COM(2012)296; and (ii) Survival of the Islands and impact of fishing restrictions [Donegal Islands Fishermen's Committee]</p> <p>2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Building Control Act 2007 and Registration of the title Architect [Mr John Graby, Director, Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland; and Mr Michael Cummins, Honorary Secretary, Architects Alliance of Ireland]</p> <p>2pm European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Roma experiences of racism within the EU and the development of EU-wide Roma integration strategies [Pavee Point]</p> <p>2.30pm Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>5.30pm Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Justice, Defence and Equality 1. Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Engagement with Chairman Designate, Property Services Appeal Board; and (ii) Submissions in relation to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill [Representatives from Irish Human Rights Commission; Equality Rights Alliance; Irish Council for Civil Liberties; and Children's Rights Alliance] 2. Committee Room 2, Leinster House</p> <p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2012)108, COM(2012)109 and COM(2012)187; and (ii) (i) a. Possible changes to legislation in relation to agricultural contractors using public roads [Representatives of the Professional Agricultural Contractors of Ireland]; and b. The Taxi Regulation Review Report [Representatives from Tiománaí Tacsáí na hÉireann]</p> <p>10am Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2011)389; COM(2011)480; COM(2011)608; COM(2011)817; COM(2011)822; COM(2012)160; and COM(2012)204</p> <p>2pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: The safeguards in place to mitigate technical difficulties in the Irish Financial Services Sector [Representatives of the Central Bank of Ireland, Financial Regulation Division]</p> <p>2.30pm AGENDA: Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences Against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012</p> <p>4.30pm Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Submissions in relation to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill (resumed) [Representatives from Equality Authority]</p> <p>9.30am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Microenterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Private Session; (ii) Business of the Committee; and (iii) Special Report No.79 of the Comptroller and Auditor General: National Asset Management Agency – Management of Loans [Mr Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive, NAMA]</p> <p>11.15am Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its implementation under the Good Friday Agreement [Ms Shirley Graham, Hanna's House]; and (ii) Delivery of the PEACE III and INTERREG IV Programmes [Mr John Colgan, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)]</p> <p>11.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Report on How are our Families [Childhood Development Initiative (CDI)]; and (ii) Motion re. the Medical Missionaries of Mary and the North Eastern Health Board</p>