

Next week in the Oireachtas

The Dáil will sit on Friday of next week to discuss the Personal Insolvency Bill 2012. This Bill will also be discussed on Wednesday and Thursday (July 11 and July 12) of next week. The Microenterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 will be amongst the bills to be discussed in the Seanad next week. The European Union Affairs Committee will meet next week to discuss the Irish Presidency of the European Council from January to June 2013. Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs, Lucinda Creighton TD will attend.



News & Appointments

Policy paper on regulation of lobbying published

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD, has this week published a policy paper on the 'Regulation of Lobbying'. A public seminar on the regulation of lobbying in Ireland is being hosted today.

The policy paper has been developed on the basis of a review of regulatory regimes for lobbying operating in other jurisdictions along with international assessments and research on lobbying regulation. The content of a number of Private Members Bills and draft legislative proposals on lobbying regulation made since 1999 have also been considered in the drafting of the paper.

The document recommends that a regulatory system should have: A definition of lobbying that should encompass any communication, or the planning or organisation of any communication, with designated public officials or officeholders on specific policy, legislative matters or prospective decisions, by remunerated individuals; proportionate and informative disclosure requirements; a web-based, publically available, easy to use and low cost register; the creation of an oversight body to manage and oversee the register; clear, enforceable and proportionate sanctions; a code of conduct that should be developed for registrants by the oversight body; a cooling-off period for public office holders as contained in the Programme for Government and recommended in the Mahon Tribunal Report; and a legislative review no later than 18 months

after the regulation comes into force and every five years thereafter.

Speaking at the seminar today, Minister Howlin stressed the importance of lobbying as it "provides Government with important insights, valuable information, new policy perspectives and crucial debate on different policy options".

Making his case for the regulation of lobbying, the Minister noted the recommendations of the Mahon Tribunal and the significance of "greater openness and transparency on public policy (...) in helping to bridge the "trust deficit". The regulation of lobbying, he added, is important "to make information available to the public on the identity of those seeking to influence public policy decision". The creation of a lobbying register "is intended to allow the public and wider civil society to reach informed, evidence-based judgments about the extent to which different interest groups are able to access, and influence, decision-making".

Following the seminar today, preparation of an Outline Scheme of a Lobbying Bill will commence and the Bill, it is expected, will be published in early 2013.

In the May issue of the Public Affairs Ireland monthly Journal, Laurie Mannix, Managing Director of MKC Communications and Chairman of the Public Relations Consultants Association discussed the proposed register of lobbyists in Ireland and discusses why regulation should extend beyond a focus on professional lobbyists. To view this article, click here.

Dr Arthur Rosenthal appointed Life Sciences Start-up Ambassador for the US by Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland this week announced the appointment of Dr Arthur Rosenthal as its Life Sciences Start-up Ambassador for the US.

Dr Rosenthal is a leading expert in the field of medical technology. He has worked for over 38 years developing medical device technologies as individual contributor, technology executive and serial entrepreneur. His experience will contribute to his

new role highlighting what Ireland has to offer for medical and related technology start-ups.

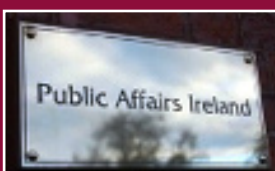
His appointment is part of Enterprise Ireland's strategy to promote Ireland's offering and encourage overseas entrepreneurs to locate start-up businesses in Ireland. This follows on from earlier appointments of Start-Up Ambassadors for key markets in the UK, China and Middle East.

A cashless or less cash society?

A recent article submitted to the Public Affairs Ireland Journal by Pat McLoughlin, Irish Payments Services Organisation questioned whether we are close to cashless society. In the article, he mentioned the "major transformation in the payments industry" yet admitted "the prospect of a cashless society is a long way off". He stressed however the "major societal gains to be had should we move to a less cash society". Indeed the

idea of a cashless society was mentioned during the Oireachtas committee meetings during the week in discussions over Ulster Bank and the significant backlog of unprocessed payments caused by the glitch in its computer systems. This is undoubtedly an area that will be further explored over the coming months.

To view this article, click here.



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Reform of five employment rights bodies continues with submission to Jobs Committee

Prior to bringing legislative proposals to Government to radically reform the State's five industrial relations and employment rights bodies, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has published a detailed reform plan which has been submitted to the Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, for consideration next week. This marks the latest stage in the reform process of the bodies. The document sets out the provisions that the Minister believes should be incorporated into the proposed new legislation.

The Minister has also published responses to the consultation process. There were 67 responses to this consultation and the suggestions that emerged from that process have helped to inform the design and delivery of the reform to date.

Measures contained within the plan to be considered by the Committee include: A single body of first instance, called the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC); a single route for appeal, to an expanded Labour Court; a single time limit for first instance complaints, and a single time limit for

appeals; a three month time-limit from complaint to hearing; a 28-day target from hearing to decision; reasoned, written decisions of all adjudications are to be published; better enforcement of awards, including provision for a determination; order enforceable at civil or criminal law; and rigorous, best practice, performance reporting arrangements between the new body and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Additionally, a series of measures will be put in place to reduce the number of cases which end up at formal hearings including the creation of an Advisory and Information Service in the WRC to provide enhanced information services, better adherence to codes of practice, template workplace dispute procedures and other measures to help encourage resolution of more disputes in the workplace. An Early Resolution Service will also be created.

The reform process is expected to be completed by the beginning of next year. Work has commenced on drafting the legislation and it is intended to be enacted in the autumn.

Finance Minister launches public consultation on the tax implications of appointing a receiver

The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD has launched a public consultation on the tax implications of appointing a receiver.

As a result of the increase in the level of personal and corporate receiverships and property repossessions, certain tax implications have emerged which require a review of the existing provisions of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997) and the Value-Added Tax Consolidation Act 2010 (VATCA

2010).

The Minister invites interested parties to make submissions regarding proposals to amend the above legislation. The consultation will focus specifically on the tax issues arising in receiverships and on obtaining the views of interested parties on all of the proposals set out in the consultation document.



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Conference

The Future of HR in the Public Sector
Thursday 27
September 2012

Courses

ILM Certificate in Leadership
Thursday 20
September 2012

Certificate in Public Law
Wednesday 3
October 2012

Certificate in Data Protection
Tuesday 9 October
2012

Certificate in Public Procurement
Tuesday 23 October
2012

Seminars: September

Measuring the Effectiveness of Training
Wednesday 19
September 2012

Practical Writing Skills
Wednesday 19
September 2012

Managing Absence in the Workplace
Tuesday 25
September 2012

Minute Taking
Tuesday 25
September 2012

Effective Administrative and Clerical Support
Wednesday 26
September 2012

Seminars: October

Whistleblowers in the Public Sector
Wednesday 3
October 2012

No Nonsense Project Management
Wednesday 3
October 2012

IR Negotiation Skills
Thursday 4 October
2012

From Outputs to Outcomes: A Training Seminar for Community/Voluntary Organisations and Social Enterprises
Tuesday 9 October
2012

Producing Legal Reports
Wednesday 10
October 2012

Effective Interview Skills for Interviewers
Thursday 11 October
2012

Finance for Non Financial People
Tuesday 16 October
2012

Maternity, paternity and Parental Leave
Tuesday 16 October
2012

Risk Management
Wednesday 17
October 2012

Outsourcing of Services
Thursday 18 October
2012

Green Public Procurement
Thursday 18 October
2012

Training Needs Analysis
Tuesday 23 October
2012

Dealing With Difficult Customers
Wednesday 24
October 2012

Legal Discovery
Wednesday 31
October 2012

For more information and for a full schedule of upcoming events please visit: [www. public Affairs Ireland.com](http://www.publicAffairsIreland.com)

Dáil

July 10	July 11	July 13
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs)</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</p> <p>Constitutional Convention Resolution (to conclude within 2 hours)</p> <p>Microenterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 10pm if not previously concluded) (Departments of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</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>Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Bill 2011 (Amendments from the Seanad) (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p> <p>Credit Guarantee Bill 2012 (Amendment from Seanad) (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to conclude at 6pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)</p> <p>Electoral Amendment (No.2) Bill All Stages (to conclude at 7.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment Community and Local Government)</p> <p>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Second Stage Resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p>	<p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)</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>July 12</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) Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Second Stage Resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)</p>

Seanad

July 10	July 12
<p>2.30pm Order of Business</p> <p>3.45pm Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2012 – Second Stage [Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>5.45pm European Arrest Warrant (Application to Third Countries and Amendment) and Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2012 - Second Stage [Minister for Justice Equality and Defence]</p> <p>July 11</p> <p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Bill 2011 – Report Stage (Amendments from Dail Éireann) [Department of Education]</p> <p>12:30pm Gaeltacht Bill 2012 – Report and Final Stages [Minister of State for the Gaeltacht]</p> <p>4pm Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 – Committee Stage (Resumed) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>5pm Private Members Business – Access to Cancer Treatment Bill 2012 [Senators Marc McSharry, John Crown, Darragh O'Brien]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11:45pm Resolution to Establish the Constitutional Convention [Department of the Taoiseach and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade]</p> <p>12.45pm Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2012 – Committee Stage</p> <p>2.45pm Microenterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012 - Second Stage [Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>4.45pm Electoral (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2012 - All Stages [Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government] Spokesperson Senator Cait Keane</p> <p>July 13</p> <p>10am Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Bill 2011 – Second Stage [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform] Spokespersons Senators Michael D'Arcy/T. Sheahan</p>

Committee Meetings

July 10	July 12
<p>2pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Redevelopment of the Irish sugar beet industry: [Session 1. Sugar Beet Ireland; and Session 2. Sugar Beat Bio Refinery Group]</p> <p>5.15pm Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>11am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation 2. Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 34 (Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>11.30am Environment, Community and Local Government (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Bill 2011 [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]</p> <p>2pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>4pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Middle East peace process and related matters [Dr Hikmat Ajjuri, Ambassador, Palestinian Mission to Ireland]</p> <p>2.30pm Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>5pm Procedure and Privileges (Dáil Éireann) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>5pm Working Group of Committee Chairmen Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>
<p>July 11</p> <p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COMS(2012) 201 and COM(2012)238; and (ii) The strategic initiatives for the development of the Bord Gáis network [Representatives from Bord Gáis]</p> <p>9.30am Penal Reform (Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>9.30 am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Legislating for a world class workplace relations service [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]</p> <p>10am Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Update on children and youth issues [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]</p> <p>10am European Union Affairs Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: The Irish Presidency of the European Council from January to June 2013 [Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Business of the Committee Click on the links provided to access documents or obtain information on specific Committees</p> <p>2pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>