

News & Appointments

Dáil committee meetings next week

This week in the Dáil, the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 will be discussed at second stage. Meanwhile, the Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee will meet on Tuesday to discuss unemployment and youth unemployment. This meeting, which takes place over two sessions, will be attended by representatives from European Commission, SIPTU and Forfás in the first session and representatives from Ernst and Young, Griffin Group and Discovery Zone in the second. The Seanad has been adjourned *sine die*.

Minister appoints military judge for the Defence Forces

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has appointed Colonel Michael Campion as military judge for the Defence Forces.

Colonel Campion, who was sworn in yesterday September 12 by Judge Advocate-General Ms Oonagh McCrann SC, was selected following an open competition run by the Public Appointments Service.

He is the second full-time military judge and the first to be appointed by open competition from outside the Permanent Defence Force; prior to 2011 the post was only open to qualified officers within the Permanent Defence Force.

Colonel Campion was educated at St Benildus College Dublin, UCD and the Law Society of Ireland, and is a solicitor by trade. He holds a postgraduate diploma in European Law and is a previous member of the Criminal Legal Aid Panel. He has acted as Chairperson of the Mental Health Tribunal since 2006.

Speaking at the ceremony yesterday, Minister Shatter commended Colonel Campion on his military service to-date and said he had “no doubt [his] knowledge of the cut and thrust of civilian practice, together with his military experience, will see him serve with distinction in his new role as military judge.”

Chair of the Credit Union Restructuring Board (ReBo) appointed

Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, has today announced the appointment of Mr Bobby McVeigh as Chair of the Credit Union Restructuring Board (ReBo).

Mr McVeigh is the former Chair of the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and has over 40 years experience in the international credit union system. He has served on more than 20 Boards in the public, private and non-profit sectors and overseen the restructuring of the credit union sector in Canada.

Also appointed to the Board were:
Mr Eoin McGettigan; Mr Tom Kavanagh;

Mr Brendan Burke; Ms Kathleen Prendergast; Mr Stephen O'Donovan; Mr Joe O'Toole; Mr Pat Fay; Mr Jimmy Johnstone; Mr Tim Molan; Mr Kevin Johnson; Mr Neil Ryan; and Ms Elaine Byrne.

The ReBo was established following the Report of the Commission on Credit Unions published in April of this year and aims to facilitate and support the restructuring of Credit Unions. The Board will be in place until December 31, 2015 and is being set up on an administrative basis pending the enactment of the Credit Union Bill 2012, after which time it will become a statutory body.



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Proposed appointment of independent planning expert

The proposed appointment of Mr Hendrik van der Kamp as independent planning expert was announced by Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD, this week.

The announcement comes as part of the Minister's commitment to have the Planning Review Report evaluated by an independent planning expert. The Planning Review Report, published on June 12, 2012, is a review of planning legislation, policy and guidance in Ireland and sets out 12 actions that will address current deficiencies in the planning system.

Mr van der Kamp is current Head of the School of Planning in Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street. He has operated in the Irish planning system since 1982 and as a result has detailed knowledge and experience of the Irish planning system.

In a statement on the proposed appointment, Minister O'Sullivan said, "I am delighted to be appointing someone of the calibre of Mr van der Kamp [...] With this appointment there can be no doubt about the independence

of the review process which will now be undertaken and I am in no doubt that the final output by Mr van der Kamp will be one that all stakeholders can have full confidence in."

As the independent planning expert, Mr van der Kamp will be charged with examining the following themes:

- The communication of planning policy;
- Pre-planning application records;
- The submission of draft Local Area Plans by individuals or groups;
- The role of structured dialogue between planning authorities and An Board Pleanala;
- The means by which socio-economic considerations relevant to a proposed development can be central to the decision-making process; and
- Any remaining gaps or inconsistencies in the existing package of statutory guidelines.

Mr van der Kamp will have three months from the date of his appointment to furnish the Minister with his review.

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Day Two: Wednesday 10th October 2012

Day Three: Tuesday 23rd October 2012

Day Four: Wednesday 24th October 2012

Day Five: Tuesday 6th November 2012

Day Six: Wednesday 7th November 2012

Day Seven: Tuesday 20th November 2012

Day Eight: Wednesday 21st November 2012

With the public sector in a constant state of flux, it is more critical than ever to ensure successful implementation of projects. Success requires careful planning, execution and monitoring of projects, all the while managing the competing forces, often both internal and external, that can arise. With belt tightened, cost overruns and missed deadlines can have serious implications, adding extra pressure.

Against this background, Public Affairs Ireland, in conjunction with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Matheson Ormsby Prentice, are pleased to announce the Certificate in Project Management for Public Sector Organisations. This condensed programme is designed to address as aspects of the project management cycle and offers guidelines and best practice solutions to ensure projects are implemented successfully, on time and in budget.

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Dáil

September 18	September 19	September 20
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government)</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>PQ Rota Change (Departments of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation and Communications Energy and Natural Resources)</p> <p>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and 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>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical issues</p> <p>4.33pm Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (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>Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Resumed to adjourn at 1.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine)</p> <p>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)</p>

Committee Meetings

September 18	September 19	September 20
<p>1.30 pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Unemployment / Youth Unemployment: (i) Session 1 (1.30 p.m.) [Representatives from European Commission, SIPTU; and Forfás]; and (ii) Session 2 (3 p.m. approx) [Representatives from Ernst and Young; Griffin Group; and Discovery Zone]</p> <p>2 pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Farm IT - getting the public / private balance right [Representatives from Irish Farm Computers / AgriNet and Kingswood Computing Ltd]</p>	<p>9.30 am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Penalty points system for driving offences [Mr. Conor Faughnan, Director of Consumer Affairs, Automobile Association; Mr. Noel Brett, Chief Executive Officer, Road Safety Authority; and Mr. Niall Doyle, Corporate Affairs Manager, Irish Insurance Federation]</p> <p>9.47 am Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>10 am Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Pre-budget briefing [Minister for Education and Skills]</p> <p>2.30 pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Situation in Palestine and Israel [The Ecumenical Accompaniment</p>	<p>9.30 am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Department of Health Statement of Strategy 2011 - 2014 [Secretary General, Department of Health]</p> <p>10 am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>10 am Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Actuarial Review of the Social Insurance Fund [Officials from the Department of Social Protection]</p> <p>10 am Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Public consultation on the Draft General Scheme of the Credit Union Bill 2012 [Stakeholder engagement]</p> <p>1.45 pm Transport and Communications Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Engagement with Mr John Horgan, Chairperson Designate, Bord na Móna; and (ii) EU Energy Policy [Mr Günther H. Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Energy]</p>

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