

## Next week in the Oireachtas



In the Dáil next week, the Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2012 will be discussed at second stage. Additionally, President of the European Parliament, H.E. Mr Martin Schulz will deliver an address on Thursday of next week. In the Seanad, statements will be delivered on the Consultation Paper “Radical Seanad Reform Through Legislative Change”. The Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee will meet next week to discuss the role and work of the European External Action Service (EEAS). Mr Pierre Vimont, Executive Secretary General, EEAS will attend.

## News and appointments

### Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform delivers keynote address at PAI annual HR conference

Public Affairs Ireland yesterday held a particularly timely conference on HR in the public sector, at which Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD delivered the keynote address.

Speaking on the Croke Park Agreement and controversy surrounding its future, the Minister assured that the Government is committed to it but noted the need to “re-invigorate the process and ensure that over its remaining lifetime, the Agreement continues to deliver the scale of savings and reform that is required”. The real challenge for public service management is “to bring forward ambitious plans for change under this Agreement and to engage pro-actively with staff and their representatives on their implementation. The Agreement is under enormous scrutiny and there can be no let up in momentum”, he added.

Speaking on the role of HR and IR in delivering reforms in the public sector, he stressed that in order to build real and sustainable change across the public service, HR, along with managers and leaders across the public service, must lead with the goal of “delivering a

high performing public service, developing the type of cultural and behavioural change we need, developing the types of skills and capabilities we need, nurturing the talent we have and developing people to be the best they can free from the blockages of slow and bureaucratic systems”.

Additional speeches were given by Barry O’Brien, National Director of HR, Health Service Executive; Patricia Coleman, Director, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; Andrew Ferguson, CEO, Softworks; Kieran Mulvey, CEO, Labour Relations Commission; Mary Redmond, Consultant, Arthur Cox Solicitors; Gavin Marié, Head of Employee Relations, Central Bank of Ireland; Shay Cody, General Secretary, IMPACT; Julie O’Neill, former Secretary General, Department of Transport; and Professor Bill Roche, Michael Smurfit Business School, UCD. Chairing the conference was consultant Dr John O’Dowd

A detailed conference report will feature in the October issue of the Public Affairs Ireland Journal.

### New Chief Executive appointed to DAA

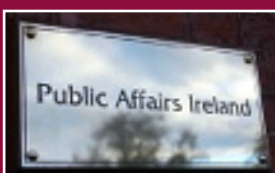
Mr Kevin Toland has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Dublin Airport Authority, it has been announced. Mr Toland will take on the role having served as Chief Executive and President of Glanbia USA & Global Nutritionals, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr Toland joined Glanbia in 1999 as Director of Strategy and Marketing, and was later promoted to Chief Executive of Glanbia’s Consumer Foods Division and subsequently became Group Development Director at the company. Prior to commencing his roles with Glanbia, Mr Toland held a number of senior management positions with Coca-Cola Bottlers in Russia and with Grand Metropolitan in Ireland and Central Europe. He is also a fellow of the

Institute of Chartered Management Accountants.

Mr Toland will take up the position on January 1 2013 from interim Chief Executive Oliver Cussen. His appointment is for a seven-year term.

Toland said he was “delighted to get the opportunity to lead one of Ireland’s iconic companies and to contribute to its continued successful development at home and internationally. DAA has a pivotal role to play in the national economic recovery and I am greatly looking forward to returning home and working closely with the entire DAA team and all stakeholders to fulfil this goal.”



Public Affairs  
Ireland  
25 Mountjoy  
Square East  
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8198500  
Fax: 01 8944733  
E: [info@publicaffairsireland.com](mailto:info@publicaffairsireland.com)  
[www.publicaffairsireland.com](http://www.publicaffairsireland.com)  
[twitter.com/publicaffairsir](https://twitter.com/publicaffairsir)



## Local authorities gain new role in local economic development

Local authorities are to have a new role in local economic development following the launch of the local government enterprise and jobs strategy entitled Supporting Economic Recovery and Jobs – Locally.

The new strategy is part of the Action Programme for Local Government Reform, Putting People First and was launched yesterday, September 27, 2012, by Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD.

At the launch, the Minister stated that: “This strategy is an important framework for local authorities in their development of their local strategies for economic development and enterprise support to drive the Action Plan for Jobs.”

Local authorities already play an instrumental role in the success of new and existing businesses across Ireland through the provision of essential services. The Minister hopes this new strategy will further assist businesses “in the very challenging trading environment that they face.”

He cited a number of best practice examples of areas where local

authorities are already promoting and supporting “the commercial, cultural and tourist sectors”. They included Dublin City Council, who recently established a “smart city” solutions centre in Dublin in partnership with IBM, and Cavan County Council, who are working with cross-border partners to develop the world’s first UNESCO Geopark.

The newly-launched strategy, which complements the recent publication of the best practice report on Local Authority Support to Enterprise and Business – Analysis of Economic Templates by the County and City Managers’ Association, will see local enterprise support services being integrated with local authorities. It will also see the establishment of Local Enterprise Offices – or LEOs.

According to the press release: “The LEOs will take on the role of County Enterprise Boards and will provide a “one-stop-shop” for the Micro-Enterprise and Small Business Sector, delivering direct enterprise support and coordinating access to other services for business.”

## Former Managing Director of Swansea Cork Ferries Ltd to head InterTradeIreland

Thomas Hunter McGowan is to head InterTrade Ireland, the body with responsibility to boost North/South economic co-operation to the mutual benefit of Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Mr McGowan is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. A graduate of UCD and UCC, he was previously

Director of Finance at Kildare County Council and spent 18 years at Swansea Cork Ferries Ltd as Managing Director. He was a board member of the Cork Chamber of Commerce and served for two terms on the board of Chambers Ireland.

Mr McGowan took up his post at the end of July and is based at the InterTradeIreland offices in Newry.

## Reform of Freedom of Information legislation – Catherine Allen, Mason, Hayes & Curran outlines what we might expect

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD recently announced the Government’s plans to reform and extend Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation. The draft general scheme has also been published and we expect the Bill to be published later this year.

FOI legislation has not been amended in any significant way since 2007, although there have been many minor amendments in the meantime. The Government has indicated that the new legislation will implement a number of substantial changes. These include extending the remit of FOI to a number of high-profile public bodies previously entirely outside of the legislation, including An Garda Síochána for its administrative records, subject to security exemptions (notably, the Information Commissioner has continuously pressed for An Garda Síochána to come under the remit of FOI, similar to the police force in the UK which already comes under FOI legislation for example), public financial bodies including NAMA and others, subject to the maintenance of strict confidentiality of their engagement with commercial counterparties, and several important public bodies with regulatory, quasi-judicial and investigative functions, including the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Refugee Applications Tribunal.

What is of even greater interest to many, however, is the proposal

to extend FOI to non-public bodies benefitting from significant Exchequer funding, under criteria which will balance the public interest with appropriate proportionality. Such bodies will be declared by order of the Minister, so it will be very clear whether a non-public body in fact falls under the legislation. For example, it appears that the Vocational Education Committees will be subject to the FOI Acts but with a restriction to prevent access to records which would enable school league tables to be compiled.

The Information Commissioner has welcomed the reform proposals but has warned in press articles that “the devil would be in the detail of the new legislation”. We therefore await with anticipation the publication of the draft Bill in the near future.

--- Catherine Allen is a partner in the Administrative and Public Law Unit of Mason Hayes & Curran and is one of the main contributors to PAI, Mason, Hayes & Curran 2011 edition of the Freedom of Information Sourcebook. For more information on the Sourcebook, please click here.

## Dáil

October 2	October 3	October 4
<p><b>2pm</b> Questions (Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p><b>3.15pm</b> Leaders Questions</p> <p><b>3.36pm</b> Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p><b>4.36pm</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>5.06pm</b> Topical Issues</p> <p>Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Health)</p> <p><b>7.30pm</b> Private Members Business</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Leaders Questions</p> <p><b>10.51am</b> Order of Business</p> <p>Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Health)</p> <p>Statements re Philanthropy and the Arts (to conclude at 7.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)</p> <p><b>1.30pm</b> SOS</p> <p><b>2.30pm</b> Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)</p> <p><b>3.45pm</b> Topical issues</p> <p><b>4.33pm</b> Morning Business Continued</p> <p><b>7.30pm</b> Private Members Business</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Address by H.E. Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament SOS (30 minutes) Leaders Questions</p> <p>Order of Business</p> <p>Europoll Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p><b>3.42pm</b> Topical Issues</p> <p><b>4.30pm</b> Questions (Minister for Finance)</p>
		<p><b>October 5</b></p> <p><b>10.30am</b> Assaults on Emergency Workers Bill 2012 (Back Bench Bill)</p>

## Seanad

October 1	October 2	October 3
<p><b>2.30pm</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>3.45pm</b> 31st Amendment of the Constitution Bill (Children) 2012 – Second Stage [Minister for Children]</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>11.45am</b> 31st Amendment of the Constitution Bill (Children) 2012 – Committee Stage [Minister for Children]</p> <p><b>13.30pm</b> Statements on the Consultation Paper – “Radical Seanad Reform Through Legislative Change” [Seanad Members]</p> <p><b>5.30pm</b> 31st Amendment of the Constitution Bill (Children) 2012 – Report Stage -</p> <p>Motion concerning a statement for the information of voters in connection with the 31st Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012 (without debate) [Minister for Children]</p>	<p><b>10.30am</b> Order of Business</p> <p><b>11.45am</b> Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2008 – Committee Stage [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]</p> <p><b>1.15pm</b> Private Members Business - Text Below: Motion re CAP Reform. [Fine Gael Senators]</p>

## Committee Meetings

October 1	October 2	October 3
<p><b>1.30pm</b> <b>Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) The forthcoming EU COMPET Council meeting [Minister of State for Research and Innovation]; and (ii) (ii) (a) Employment and youth unemployment issues; and (b) Pre-Budget submissions [Irish Business and Economic Confederation (IBEC); and Small Firms Association (SFA)]</p> <p><b>2pm</b> <b>Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b> Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2012)357; COM(2012)256; COM(2012)260; COM(2012)262; COM(2012)293; COM(2012)298; COM(2012)332; COM(2012)345; COM(2012)346; and COM(2012)355; and (ii) Coillte Annual Report 2011 and the future direction of the forestry industry [Mr David Gunning, Chief Executive and Mr Gerry Egan, Group Director, Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Coillte]</p> <p><b>2.15pm</b> <b>Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht</b> Committee Room 4, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> The functions and responsibilities of the Housing Finance Agency [Dr Michelle Norris, Chairman Housing Finance Agency]</p>	<p><b>10am</b> <b>Education and Social Protection</b> Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Policy to minimise unemployment (i) Measures to integrate those with disabilities into the workforce [Officials from the Department of Social Protection]; and (ii) Entitlements for the self-employed [Officials from the Department of Social Protection; and Dundalk Self Employed Alliance]</p> <p><b>10am</b> <b>Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>Agenda:</b> Private Meeting</p> <p><b>2.30pm</b> <b>Foreign Affairs and Trade</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Role and work of the European External Action Service (EEAS) [Mr Pierre Vimont, Executive Secretary General, EEAS]</p> <p><b>2.30pm</b> <b>Justice, Defence and Equality</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Private Meeting</p> <p><b>4.30pm</b> Public Service Oversight and Petitions Committee Room 3, Leinster House <b>Agenda:</b> Public Petitions received</p>	<p><b>9.30am</b> <b>Health and Children</b> Committee Room 2, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> Tackling childhood obesity [Food and Drink Industry Ireland (FDDI / IBEC); Safefood; Ferrero; and Virginias]</p> <p><b>10am</b> <b>Public Accounts</b> Committee Room 1, Leinster House <b>AGENDA:</b> (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) (a) Special Report No. 78 of the Comptroller and Auditor General: Matters Arising out of Education Audits (resumed); and (b) Higher Education Authority – Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011 [Mr Tom Boland, Chief Executive Officer, Higher Education Authority; and Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills] Gíogáil</p>

## Education & Training

Public Affairs Ireland provides a range of training courses and seminars on public affairs and regulatory matters. Both our training courses and seminars are taught by leading experts in each relevant discipline, who bring a sharp practical focus to our events.

**Please click here for a schedule of our Autumn/Winter 2012 events, or call us on 01 819 8500 for more information.**