

This week in the Oireachtas



In the Dáil next week both the Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2012 and the Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 will be discussed in the final stages. In the Seanad, Professor Christopher Pissarides, Nobel Laureate and School Professor of Economics & Political Science at the London School of Economics, will make an address on youth unemployment entitled: "Dealing with youth unemployment in recession". The Education and Social Protection Committee will meet next week to discuss special needs education with the Special Needs Parents Association. They will also discuss pre-budget audits with Social Justice Ireland and TASC.

Director General of SFI to take on role of Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), will take on the role of Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in addition to his existing role as Director General of Science Foundation Ireland it has been announced. The decision comes following a Government decision to abolish the separate Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA).

Commenting on the appointment, Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation Richard Bruton TD said Professor Ferguson "is

particularly well placed to fulfil the role of Chief Scientific Adviser. This additional role will complement his existing work in Science Foundation Ireland particularly given SFI's ready access to networks of national and international scientists – access which is crucially important for a Chief Scientific Adviser to be able to draw upon. I understand that Professor Ferguson will utilise an independent advisory panel of eminent scientists as the need arises".

The Minister added: "the role of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government is

an important one, particularly given the Government's stated commitment to research, development and innovation and its importance for Ireland's economic recovery. This move marks a consolidation of our resources in this area and complements the range of scientific advice that is also available within Government organisations, including in areas such as veterinary science, agriculture, environment and health."

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht announces details of reform plan

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan TD, has outlined details of reforms now being progressed for each of the 12 organisations that are funded by his Department. These reforms come as part of the programme for public service reform, published on November 17 last year, and will be implemented by the end of 2012 or the end of 2013, depending on the organisation in question.

According to the press release, the newly announced reforms "will provide annual savings of at least €1 million, will eliminate fees for board memberships, will reduce numbers on boards by up to 50 percent, and will introduce new governance and management models to ensure organisations work as efficiently as possible".

The measures being taken include: streamlining of all boards and advisory councils with all members to serve *pro bono*; increased cooperation between institutions; the promotion of greater dependence on the Department of Arts,

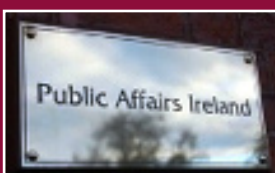
Heritage and the Gaeltacht with regard to its support services, such as HR, IT, legal services and finance, which will allow organisations to concentrate their attention on offering core services to the public; aligning the work of relevant organisations with the Government's agenda of driving investment into Ireland and rebuilding Ireland's reputation overseas; encouraging organisations to proactively attract philanthropy and fundraise both nationally and internationally; and finally, strengthening the programming, curatorial and operational independence of directors.

The 12 organisations to undergo reform are the National Gallery of Ireland (NGI), Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Crawford Art Gallery, National Archives of Ireland (NAI), National Museum of Ireland (NMI), National Library of Ireland (NLI), Irish Manuscripts Commission, Culture Ireland, Chester Beatty Library, the Heritage Council, An Coimisinéir Teanga (Irish Language Commissioner) and An Coimisiún Logainmneacha (Placenames

Commission).

Speaking after the announcement yesterday, Minister Deenihan stated: "These reforms will save money at a time of scarce resources and will also modernise how these institutions cooperate and work with each other". He added: "In progressing these reforms, I will be updating the legislation in the arts and heritage sector to streamline and refocus the work of organisations whilst ensuring the programming, curatorial, and operational independence of all directors".

Finally, the Minister praised the work of the organisations involved following the period of assessment, consultation, and review that had taken place in the last year, saying: "I want to thank the 12 organisations under the remit of my Department for working with us since last November, and engaging on a range of issues which arise in the reform agenda".



Public Affairs
Ireland
25 Mountjoy
Square East
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8198500
Fax: 01 8944733
E: info@publicaffairsireland.com
www.publicaffairsireland.com
twitter.com/publicaffairsir





Ireland's Presidency of the EU 2013

Special Half-Day Seminar, Friday November 9 2012, 9am to 1.30pm

Key policy issues

Liaison and coordination demands internally and externally

The distinction between Ireland as President and Ireland as Member State

Communication requirements nationally and at EU level

Resource requirements, including staffing provision, at a time of national Budget constraints

On January 1 2013, Ireland will undertake the 6-month Presidency of the European Council for the seventh time, coinciding with the 40th Anniversary of Ireland's accession to the EU. Cyprus will assume the Presidency immediately preceding us with Lithuania assuming the Presidency directly after us.

The forthcoming Presidency will be crucial in demonstrating Ireland's ability to manage the agenda of the EU in light of the current difficult times, and in the context of a newly revived debate on the future of Europe. Therefore, it is essential that our term in office is well-designed and effectively executed. But what will the Presidency mean for those working in the various government departments and agencies in addition to non-public-service bodies that have close EU involvement?

Public Affairs Ireland is organising a tailored, focused and practical seminar that will address the main policy, institutional and logistical challenges that will arise. This seminar is taking place less than two months before the start of the Presidency, offering a final opportunity to evaluate the preparations currently in place to meet the expected challenges.

Please click here for more information or call us on 01 819 8500.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS IRELAND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Click on any topic to view more information

Courses

Certificate in Data Protection

1.5 days, commences
6 November

Certificate in Training Delivery and Practice

3 days, commences
14 November

Certificate in Public Procurement

8 days, commences
20 November

Certificate in Public Law

2 days, commences
22 November

Certificate in Public Sector Corporate Governance

2 days, commences
6 December

Seminars

Legal Discovery

1 November

Speed Reading

7 November

Report Writing

8 November

Ireland's EU Presidency 2013

9 November

Writing for the Web

13 November

Managing Performance under PMDS and Conducting Reviews

14 November

Personal Effectiveness and Time Management

14 November

Cloud Computing

15 November

Fixed Term and Agency Contracts

20 November

Quality Customer Service

21 November

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

22 November

Editing Skills

27 November

No Nonsense IT Project Management

27 November

Informal Solutions to Underperformance

27 November

Courtroom Skills Training

28 November

Plain English

4 December

Dealing with Difficult Customers

4 December

7 Habits Model of Personal Effectiveness

5 December

Labour Relations Commission

6 December

Lean 6 Sigma

6 December

Dáil

November 6	November 7	November 8	November 9
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p> <p>3.15pm Leaders Questions</p> <p>3.36pm Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p>4.36pm Order of Business</p> <p>Topical Issues</p> <p>Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (to adjourn at 7pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)</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>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Report and Final Stages (Resumed)(Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)</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>Credit Union Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (to adjourn at 1pm) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 Report and Final Stages (Resumed) (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>5pm Topical Issues</p> <p>5.48pm Questions (Minister for Health)</p>	<p>10.30am Back Bench Bill Day</p>

Seanad

November 7	November 8
<p>2.30pm Order of Business</p> <p>3.45pm Statements on Alcohol Consumption (resumed) [Minister of State for Primary Care]</p> <p>5pm Private Members Business [Independent Senators – Taoiseach's Nominees]</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>1pm “Dealing with youth unemployment in recession” - Address to Seanad Éireann by Professor Christopher Pissarides [School Professor of Economics & Political Science at the London School of Economics and Nobel Laureate]</p> <p>3.30pm Statements and Q&A on Public Expenditure and Reform [Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]</p>

Committee Meetings

November 6	November 7	November 8	November 9
<p>2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: The establishment and future governance of 'Uisce Éireann' [Mr John Mullins, CEO, Bord Gáis Éireann]</p> <p>1.30pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals; COM(2012)8 and COM(2012)124; and (ii) Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation report entitled Blueprint for a New Workplace Relations Service[Ad Hoc Committee of the Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT)]</p> <p>2pm European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Exchange of Views [The Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Union Parliament]</p> <p>3.15pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals (ii) Common Agricultural Policy, Food Harvest 2020 and Common Fisheries Policy [Officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>5pm Working Group of Committee Chairmen Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) The role of the Commission for Energy Regulation in regulating the electricity and natural gas sectors in Ireland and the effects of renewable energy on the cost of electricity to consumers [Commission for Energy Regulation]; and (ii) Developments in sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices, particularly in the area of renewable energy [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)]</p> <p>10am Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) 2012 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services – Vote 37 (Army Pensions) [Minister for Defence]; and (ii) Europol Bill 2012 [Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality]</p> <p>12 noon Members' Interests (Seanad Éireann) Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>1pm Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Special Needs Education [Special Needs Parents Association]; and (ii) Pre-Budget Audits [Social Justice Ireland; and TASC]</p> <p>2pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Department of Finance Statement of Strategy 2011-2014 (2012 Revision) [Secretary General, Department of Finance]</p> <p>4.30pm Public Service Oversight and Petitions Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: An Coimisinéir Teanga's Report relating to the awarding of bonus marks for proficiency in Irish in internal competitions in the Department of Social Protection [Officials from the Department of Social Protection, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, from the Commission for Public Service Appointments and from the Public Appointments Service]</p>	<p>9.30am Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>9.30am Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 - 11 a.m. Pre-ECOFIN Council briefing [Minister for Finance] Session B: 2 - 5.30 p.m. 2013 Pre-Budget Submissions [Representatives from Civil Society/Focus Groups]</p> <p>9.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Pre-Budget Submissions [Irish Heart Foundation; The Carers Association; Disability Federation of Ireland; Older and Bolder; Children's Rights Alliance; Mental Health Reform; and National Federation of Voluntary Bodies]</p> <p>12 noon Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Session A: 12 noon - 13.45 p.m. Postal Strategy of the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) Session B: 2.45 - 4.15pm Transport Policy [Mr. Siim Kallas, EU Commissioner for Transport]</p> <p>1pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) General principles for the preservation of historic buildings [Emeritus Professor Loughlin Kealy, UCD]; and (ii) Preservation of the Historic Buildings in Moore Street, Dublin</p> <p>2pm Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; (ii) 2011 Appropriation Accounts, Vote 40: Health Service Executive – Review of allowances [Mr Tony O'Brien, Deputy CEO/Director General Designate of the Health Service Executive]</p>	<p>10am Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Overview of 2013 Pre-Budget Submissions (resumed) [Representatives from Civil Society/Focus Groups]</p> <p>10am Health (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2012 [Minister for Health]</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.