

This week in the Oireachtas



In the Dáil this week, the Credit Union Bill 2012 will be discussed at second stage on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Seanad will hear statements on the new children's hospital and the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform will meet to discuss progress on the implementation of the Government's Public Service Reform Plan.

Minister for Education to create an amalgamated qualifications and quality assurance authority

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn TD, has announced the formal establishment of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), the qualifications and quality assurance authority which replaces the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI), the Further

Education and Training Awards Council of Ireland (FETAC), and the Higher Education Training and Awards Council (HETAC). It will also take over functions of the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB).

Additionally, the Minister announced that the Chairperson of QQI will be Mr

Gordon Clark. Mr Clark was previously the Head of Unit in the European Commission with responsibility for the development of the EU's lifelong learning policy. He is a trained accountant and has also previously worked in the EU Court of Auditors.

Minister for Justice to launch consultation on Charities Act

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, has announced that a consultation will be held before the end of the year on bringing the Charities Act into force.

The announcement was made following the annual conference of the Irish Charities Tax Research (ICTR) which took place in Dublin on Thursday November 8, 2012. The ICTR is a charity umbrella organisation that works on behalf of charities to ensure new legislation and policy meets the needs of the sector.

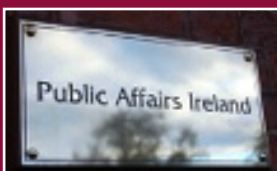
Speaking on the proposed consultation, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, Kathleen Lynch TD stated: "The consultation will invite views from charities, other interested

stakeholders, and members of the public on issues connected with the implementation of the Charities Act. These will include the setting up of a Charities Regulatory Authority; the statutory registration of charities and granting of charitable status; and the types of information that a Charities Regulatory Authority might require from registered charities each year".

Minister Lynch also took the opportunity to urge all charities to sign up to the Guiding Principles for Charitable Fundraising, an initiative developed by the charities sector and Government in the context of the publication of The Charities Bill 2007. To date just 56 fundraising charities have signed up to the initiative, which is supported by funding from the Department of Justice, a figure that

the Minister deemed "disappointing".

The Charities Act was enacted in 2009 in order to strengthen the regulation of charities and increase their transparency and accountability to those that fund them. The provisions of the Act have not yet been commenced due to the preventative cost of setting up of the aforementioned Charities Regulatory Authority.



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Dáil

Seanad

November 13	November 14	November 15	November 13	November 14	November 15
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for Social Protection)</p> <p>3pm Leaders Questions</p> <p>3pm Questions (Taoiseach)</p> <p>4pm Order of Business</p> <p>5pm Topical Issues</p> <p>Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2012 Report Stage (Resumed to conclude at 7.00pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Credit Union Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>7.30 pm Private Members Business Afternoon Business Continued</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Credit Union Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed, to conclude at 1.30pm) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Health)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.33pm Questions (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)</p> <p>5.47pm Morning Business Continued</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p> <p>9pm Afternoon Business Continued</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Resumed to conclude at 3.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Health)</p> <p>Residential Tenancies (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2012 Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Finance)</p>	<p>2.30pm Order of Business</p> <p>3.45pm Statements on the New Children's Hospital (Minister for Health)</p> <p>4.30pm Statements on the Economy (Minister of State for Public Sector Reform and the OPW)</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2012 – Second Stage (Minister for Finance)</p> <p>2.30pm Civil Defence Bill – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Minister of State at the Department of Defence)</p> <p>4.30pm Private Members Business (Fine Gael Senators)</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>12.30pm Statements on the discovery of Chalarafrauxinea (Ash dieback disease) in the context of the importance of the forestry and forestry products industry (Minister of State for Food Safety, Forestry and Horticulture)</p>

Committee Meetings

November 13	November 14	November 15
<p>11.30am Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: The Student Grant Application System [Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), City of Dublin VEC Unit]</p> <p>11.30am Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Misappropriation of Irish Aid funds in Uganda [Mr Brendan Rogers, Director General, Irish Aid]</p> <p>1.30pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Session A: 1.30pm Lending to Small Business [The Credit Review Office; and Irish Banking Federation]; Session B: 3pm Creating the best environment for job creation and sustainability [Chambers Ireland]</p> <p>2pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2012)458; COM(2012)471; COM(2012)498; COM(2012)505; COM(2012)506; COM(2012)519; (ii) (a) 2013 Pre-Budget Submission; and (b) The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) [Representatives from the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)]</p> <p>2.15 pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) (a) 2013 Pre-Budget Submissions; (b) Report of the Pyrite Panel [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]; and (iii) 2013 Pre-Budget Submissions [Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht]</p> <p>3.30pm European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>6pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>1pm Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Forthcoming EU Council of Ministers meeting [Minister for Education and Skills] (ii) The work of Comhairle na nÓg with relevance to Social, Personal and Health Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education [Comhairle na nÓg National Executive]</p> <p>2pm European Scrutiny - Finance and Public Expenditure (Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>3pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2011)819; and COM(2011)821; COM(2011)594; and COM(2011)121/4 [Officials from the Department of Finance]</p> <p>4pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Trade promotion and the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in economic recovery [(i) Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC); and (ii) The Irish Exporters Association (IEA)]</p> <p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Strategic developments in maintaining and developing the roads network, including cross-Border links [Officials from the National Roads Authority]</p>	<p>9.30am Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: 2013 Pre-Budget Submissions [Representatives from the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association (ICSA) and Irish Farmers' Association (IFA)]</p> <p>9.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Motion to prohibit smoking on the Leinster House campus [Senator John Crown]; and (ii) Childhood Obesity [Nutrition and Health Foundation, Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM) and Mr Trevor White]</p> <p>10am Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Tackling the Black Market and Retail Crime Report [Retail Ireland]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>2.30pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Progress on the Implementation of the Government's Public Service Reform Plan [Mr. Brendan Howlin T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform]</p> <p>3pm Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary [An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade]</p>

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