

This week in the Oireachtas



In the Dáil this week, statements will be heard on the Expert Group on the A,B,&C Versus Ireland Judgment. In the Seanad, the Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 will be discussed at report stage. The Report of the editorial review of the Frontline presidential debate will be the topic of discussion at the meeting of the Transport and Communications Committee next week. Mr Noel Curran, Director General of RTE will attend the meeting.

New Chief Procurement Officer appointed

Mr Paul Quinn has been appointed as the Chief Procurement Officer for the Public Service. The appointment was welcomed by both the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, TD and the Minister of State, Brian Hayes, TD.

Mr Quinn holds a BSc in Engineering from Trinity College Dublin, a Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance from the ACCA and an MBA from Dublin City University. Prior to his appointment, he worked in eircom, where he was Director, Group Procurement and Supply Chain Management since 2007.

In a statement following Mr Quinn's appointment Minister Hayes outlined some of the responsibilities of the Chief Procurement Officer, stating: "the Chief Procurement Officer will lead a programme of work to integrate procurement policy, strategy and operations in a new National Procurement Office; strengthen spend analytics

and data management; have much greater aggregation of purchasing across public bodies to achieve better value for money; examine the specifications set out for goods and services; evaluate demand levels to assess how demand can be reduced; and strengthen vendor and category management."

In his new role Mr Quinn will have a budget of €9bn per annum to spend on supplies and services. However, according to the recently published Review of the Central Procurement Function (an external review commissioned by the Department) there is a procurement addressable spend of approximately €7bn. Therefore, it has been reported that if the recommendations of the review are implemented the Government could yield potential annual savings in the range of €249m to €637m over a three-year period.

Shannon Airport to merge with Shannon Development

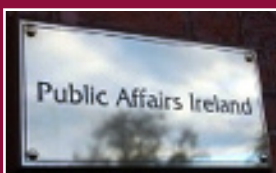
The Government has announced that it will grant Shannon Airport full independence from Dublin Airport Authority in order for it to be merged with a restructured Shannon Development. The airport will be deemed independent as of December 31 2012 and will form a new, publicly-owned, commercial entity in 2013.

This merger follows a decision by the Government last May that Shannon Airport was not viable within the current DAA structure and that it was not fulfilling its potential in contributing to the local economy of the wider Shannon region. The airport has seen passenger numbers falling by 60 percent over the past five years and has been loss-making since 2008.

An implementation strategy, developed by Minister Varadkar and Minister Bruton, has been assessing the feasibility of creating an international aviation services

centre with the airport as its hub as of May 2011. They were assisted by a Steering Group of senior officials from five Government Departments and two Task Forces under the chairmanship of Rose Hynes, Chair of Bord Gáis Éireann, and John Fitzgerald, Chair of the National Transport Authority and An Post.

Minister Varadkar said that "the decision taken today is an historic one and will free the board and management of Shannon airport, together with their employees, to bring a fresh approach to the future development of the airport. A key element of that future will be the development of an International Aviation Services Centre (IASC) in and around the airport, building on a range of aviation-related activities already undertaken in Shannon such as aircraft maintenance and leasing".



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Oireachtas Schedule: Week beginning December 10

December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<p>11am Motion re Shannon Airport (working title) (to conclude at 1.05pm if not previously concluded)</p> <p>SOS</p> <p>2pm Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)</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>Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine)</p> <p>National Pensions Reserve Fund Act 2000 (Suspension of Exchequer Contributions) Order 2012 (Referral to Committee without debate) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Motions re: Double Taxation (referral to committee without debate) (Department</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Pre European Council Statements (to conclude in 65 minutes)</p> <p>Social Welfare Bill 2012 Second and Remaining Stages (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical Issues</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>Pre European Council Statements (to conclude in 65 minutes)</p> <p>Social Welfare Bill 2012 Second and Remaining Stages (Resumed) (Department of Social Protection)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical Issues</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p> <p>Afternoon Business Continued</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>CISA Motion (to conclude in 65 minutes) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Finance (Local Property Tax) Bill 2012 Second Stage (to conclude at 6pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>2pm SOS (30 mins)</p> <p>Morning Business continued</p>

Schedule continued on the next page

Seanad

December 11	December 12	December 13
<p>12pm Order of Business</p> <p>1.15pm Statements to mark the 90th Anniversary of Seanad Éireann</p> <p>1.45pm Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Second Stage [Department of Health] Spokesperson Senator Colm Burke</p> <p>3pm Credit Union Bill 2012 - Committee Stage [Department of Finance] Spokesperson Senator Michael D'Arcy</p> <p>5.30pm Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 - Report Stage [Department of Justice and Equality] Spokesperson Senator Paul Bradford</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 – Committee and Remaining Stages [Department of Justice and Equality] Spokesperson Senator Paul Bradford</p> <p>2.30pm Motion regarding the State Airports Act 2004 (Shannon Appointed Day) Order 2012 [Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport] Spokesperson Senator Pat O'Neill</p> <p>3.30pm Credit Union Bill 2012 – Report Stage [Department of Finance] Spokesperson Senator Michael D'Arcy</p> <p>5.30pm Private Members Business [Taoiseach's Nominees] Spokesperson Senator Imelda Henry</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2012 – All Stages [Minister for Health] Spokesperson Senator Colm Burke</p> <p>1.45pm Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Bill (Amendment) 2012 – All Stages [Department of Public Expenditure and Reform] Spokesperson Senator Tom Sheahan</p>

Committee Meetings

December 11	December 12	December 13
<p>2.30pm Agriculture, Food and the Marine Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Animal Health and Welfare Bill 2012 (resumed on Amendment 44) [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>2.15pm Environment, Community and Local Government (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 25 (Environment, Community and Local Government) [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]</p> <p>2pm European Union Affairs Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Accountability Report 2011; European Year of the Citizen 2013; and Irish Presidency of the EU 2013 [European Movement Ireland]</p> <p>6pm Health (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: 2012 Supplementary Estimates for Public Services - Vote 39 (Health Service Executive) [Minister for Health]</p> <p>1.30pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Eligibility of small firms in tendering for capital projects [Officials from Office of Public Works]</p> <p>5.30pm Procedure and Privileges (Dáil Éireann) Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Report of the Editorial Review of the Frontline - Presidential Debate [Mr Noel Curran, Director General, Raidió Teilifís Éireann]</p> <p>9.30am Fisheries (Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine) Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>12 noon Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Civil Defence Bill 2012 [Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and Defence]</p> <p>1pm Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Reform of Third Level Education [Irish Universities Association; Professor Paul D Ryan; Institutes of Technology; and Migrant Rights Centre]</p> <p>1.45pm Finance (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Motion re [3] Double Taxation Relief Agreements with the Republic of Uzbekistan, the State of Qatar and the Arab Republic of Egypt; and [1] Tax Information Exchange Agreement with San Marino Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters Order 2012; and (ii) Motion re National Pensions Reserve Fund Act 2000 (Suspension of Exchequer Contributions) Order 2012 [Minister of State with special responsibility for Public Service Reform and Office of Public Works]</p> <p>2pm Justice, Defence and Equality AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposal: COM(2012)614; and (ii) Hearings on submissions received in relation to the review of legislation on prostitution in Ireland [Dr Wylie and Dr Ward; Representatives from: Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT); Barnardos; Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI); Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO); Irish Medical Organisation (IMO); Irish Immigrant Support Centre (NASC); National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC); One in Four; and Ruhama]</p> <p>3pm Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Current practices in relation to the Cystic Fibrosis Unit at St Vincent's Hospital [Mr Nicholas Jermyn, CEO, St Vincent's University Hospital Group; Dr Charles Gallagher, Director, National Referral Centre for Adult Cystic Fibrosis; and Dr Barry White, National Director, Clinical Strategy and Programmes, Health Service Executive]</p> <p>10am Agriculture, Food and the Marine <i>Committee Room 4, Leinster House</i> AGENDA: Motion re: Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2012 - subject to referral by Dáil and Seanad Éireann [Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) (a) 2010 Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General: Chapter 6 - Financial Commitments under Public Private Partnerships; (b) 2011 Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General: Chapter 6 - Financial Commitments under Public Private Partnerships</p> <p>12 noon Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Session A: 12 noon The work of Youth Work Ireland and Youth Action Northern Ireland in supporting young people. Session B: 1pm Findings of report published by the Centre for Cross Border Studies: Delivering a Prosperity Process: Opportunities in North/South Public Service Provision [Mr Michael D'Arcy, Author]</p> <p>2pm Members' Interests of Dáil Éireann Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Ireland's Presidency of the European Union and the forthcoming Environment Council of Ministers' meeting [Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government]</p> <p>2.30pm Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Humanitarian work in Syria [Dr Paul McMaster, Chair, Médecins Sans Frontières, United Kingdom, and Ms Jane-Ann McKenna, Head of Office, Médecins Sans Frontières, Ireland]; and (ii) Motion regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo [Senator David Norris]</p>