

This week in the Oireachtas



In the Dail this week, the Finance Bill 2013 will be discussed at report and final stages. In the Seanad, the Water Services Bill 2013, which contains the amendments proposed by Dáil Éireann, will be discussed at report stage. The Health and Children Committee will meet this week to discuss a range of issues including challenges pertaining to epilepsy in Ireland and tackling childhood poverty.

News and public sector appointments

Expressions of interest sought for appointments to Board of Medical Council

The Minister for Health, James Reilly TD, has called for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in being appointed to the Board of the Medical Council of Ireland.

There will be five vacancies on the Board as of May 31 2013 at which date the term of office of the current Board is due to expire. Board members will be appointed in a non-executive capacity.

The Council consists of 25 members in total and, in accordance with the provisions of section 17(1)(n) of the Medical Practitioners

Act 2007, the Minister for Health is responsible for appointing five of these positions.

The successful candidate should possess the following skills and capabilities: patient safety and advocacy; ethics; corporate governance; finance; risk management; human resource management; regulatory procedures; and law and expertise in the public interest.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm, Thursday, March 28.

Minister Burton invites expressions of interest for appointment to the Citizens Information Board

The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD, has invited expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons for two positions on the Board of the Citizens Information Board.

The appointment will be for a period not exceeding five years. Interested parties should submit an application via www.publicjobs.ie together with a Curriculum Vitae and cover letter by March 22 2013.

The Citizens Information Board operates under the aegis of the

Department of Social Protection and is responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a wide range of social services and for the Money Advice and Budgeting Service.

The Board of the Citizens Information Board is charged with providing the Minister for Social Protection with advice, information and assistance in relation to the development of social policy, as well as to develop and implement services to address needs identified by the Minister.

Local Government structures set for first change since 19th century

Local Government structures have not been updated since the 19th century which is why Putting People First, the government action programme for effective Local Government, is "the most fundamental set of changes in Local Government in the history of the State".

Published in October 2012, Putting People First contains a number of key proposals on changes to Local Government structures that will soon be implemented across the country.

To address these changes PAI are holding a half-day conference, "A New Era for Local Government in Ireland", in The Westin Hotel, Dublin on Wednesday March 13 from 9am to 1pm.

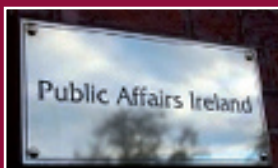
Keynote speaker on the day will be the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD who will be joined by numerous other experts including, economist Jim Power

and chair of the Local Government Efficiency Implementation Group, Pat McLoughlin.

The conference will address questions such as:

- What are the Government's priorities for the reform of Local Government?
- Will reforms strengthen the role and function of councillors?
- Are there new models for service delivery at local level?
- Has the Croke Park Agreement facilitated change in HR practices at local level?
- How can Local Authorities be central to local economic development?

For more details, including the full schedule and list of speakers, or to secure your place on the conference, [click here](#).



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



Minister for Environment signs new Household Food Waste Regulations

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, has signed the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio -Waste) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 71 of 2013).

The new regulations impose obligations on the householders to segregate their food waste, and make it available for separate collection. In this way, it is hoped that the new regulations will increase the amount of food waste that is recovered through the production of energy, compost and digestate, thereby creating opportunities for added jobs and value.

The regulations will also facilitate the achievement of the targets set out in Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill sites. They impose obligations on a number of parties including waste collectors, who must provide a separate collection service for household food waste, and households, who must segregate such waste and have it separately collected by an authorised waste collector. Households can also choose to compost the food waste at home, or bring it to an

authorised treatment centre or for incineration.

Under the new regulations households are not allowed to macerate waste and dispose of it in a drain or sewer, or dispose of food waste in the residual waste collection (the black bin).

In order to assist householders in fulfilling these new obligations, brown-bins will be rolled out to most towns and cities between July 1 2013 and July 1 2016. Currently, only 35 percent of households with a collection service have a three-bin service, that is a residual "black bin", a dry recyclables "green bin" and an organics "brown bin").

To read Aoife King's article, *Waste policy: Developing a sustainable waste future*, which discusses the Government's waste policy and its shortcomings, as highlighted by the EU Commission, click here. This article was first published in the October issue of the Public Affairs Ireland monthly Journal.

Minister for Social Protection announces departmental savings for 2012

Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD, has published details of the savings made by her Department as a result of its Fraud Initiative 2011-2013.

According to the report, savings of €669m were achieved in 2012 through a broad range of control measures across Department of Social Protection schemes. The saving exceeded the original target set for the year of €645m. As part of the control measures, the Department reviewed more than 1 million individual social welfare claims, again exceeding the target, which had been set at 985,000.

The Minister said: "These figures demonstrate once again my

Department's commitment to stamping out welfare fraud and abuse...this year, the Department's total budget amounts to almost €20.3bn and the public must have confidence that this money is being spent appropriately".

She added: "Social welfare fraud undermines confidence in the entire system and is unfair to genuine claimants and the taxpayers who fund the system in the knowledge that it is there for them when they need it."

As a result of the Department's success in 2012, the Minister has now set a target for €710m in control savings to be achieved this year.

Oireachtas Schedule: Week beginning March 11

Dáil

March 12	March 13	March 14
<p>2pm Questions (Minister for the Environment, Community & 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>Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage Resumed (Department of Justice and Equality)</p> <p>Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Finance Bill 2013 Report and Final Stages Resumed (to conclude at 7.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>1.30pm SOS</p> <p>2.30pm Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)</p> <p>3.45pm Topical Issues</p> <p>7.30pm Private Members Business</p>	<p>10.30am Leaders Questions</p> <p>10.51am Order of Business</p> <p>Motion re Deferred Surrender to the Central Fund (Back from Committee) (without debate) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Finance Bill 2013 , Report and Final Stages (Resumed to conclude at 1.30pm if not previously concluded) (Department of Finance)</p> <p>Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012 (Seanad) Second Stage (Department of Justice)</p> <p>Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Bill 2012 Second Stage (Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation)</p> <p>3.42pm Topical Issues</p> <p>4.30pm Questions (Minister for Defence)</p>

Seanad

March 12	March 13	March 14
<p>2.30 Order of Business</p> <p>3.45 Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Bill 2012 – Committee and Remaining Stages [Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government] Spokesperson Senator Cait Keane</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am Water Services Bill 2013 - Report Stage (Amendments from Dáil Éireann) [Minister of State for the NewEra Project] Spokesperson Senator Cait Keane</p> <p>3pm Private Members Business – Employment Equality (Amendment) Bill 2013 [Labour Senators] Spokesperson Senator Deirdre Clune</p>	<p>10.30am Order of Business</p> <p>11.45am An Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030 [Aire Stáit le freagracht as an nGaeltacht agus na hOileáin] Spokesperson Senator Catherine Noone</p>

Committee Meetings

March 12	March 13	March 14
<p>1.30pm Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Report by RGDATA titled Nightmare on Every Street: Town Centres, Car Parking and Smart Travel; the overall retail strategy; and the black economy. [Ms Tara Buckley, Director General, RGDATA].</p> <p>2.15pm Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: COM(2011)690; Com(2011)789; COM(2012)118; COM(2012)120; COM(2012)236; COM(2012)697; and (ii) The difficulties in obtaining home insurance for properties in areas that have experienced extreme weather events (resumed). [Representatives of the Irish National Flood Forum]</p> <p>5pm Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Tackling childhood poverty [Mr Toby Wolfe, Acting Director, Startstrong; Ms June Tinsley, Policy Officer, Barnardos and Mr Stuart Duffin, Director of Policy and Programmes, One Family]</p> <p>5.15pm Working Group of Committee Chairmen Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p>	<p>9.30am Transport and Communications Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Challenges facing individuals, families and communities through the irresponsible use of social media channels (resumed) [Representatives from the National Anti-Bullying Coalition]; and (ii) Forthcoming EUFORES Interparliamentary Conference [Dr Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES]</p> <p>12 noon Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>1pm Education and Social Protection Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) E-Learning - Delivering Third Level Education online [Hibernia College]; and (ii) Use of technology for school organisation and communicating with parents. [Schoolbag.ie]</p> <p>2pm European Scrutiny - Finance and Public Expenditure (Joint sub-Committee) Committee Room 4, Leinster House AGENDA: Private Meeting</p> <p>2pm Justice, Defence and Equality Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: The black market in Ireland and proposed solutions [Representatives from the National Federation of Retail Newsagents]</p>	<p>9.30am Health and Children Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 - 10.30am Challenges pertaining to epilepsy in Ireland [Mr Mike Glynn, Chief Executive Officer, Epilepsy Ireland]; and Session B: 10.45 a.m. - 12.45pm Tackling childhood poverty (resumed) [Ms Eleanor McClory, Chief Executive, Young Ballymun; Young Darndale and Ms Marian Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, Childhood Development Initiative]</p> <p>10am Public Accounts Committee Room 1, Leinster House AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and (ii) 2011 Appropriation Accounts and Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General: a. Vote 38: Social Protection; b. Chapter 21: Expenditure on Welfare and Employment Schemes; c. Chapter 22: Welfare Overpayment Debts; d. Chapter 23: Regularity of Social Welfare Payments. e. Social Insurance Fund- Annual Accounts 2011 [Secretary General, Department of Social Protection]</p> <p>10am Transport and Communications Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Eircom's proposals re. reducing its wholesale line rental charges. [Officials from the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)]; and EU Scrutiny of COM(2013)18; COM(2013)26; COM(2013)27; COM(2013)28; COM(2013)29; COM(2013)30; COM(2013)31; COM(2013)40; and COM(2013)48</p> <p>2pm Environment, Community and Local Government (Sub-Committee) Committee Room 3, Leinster House AGENDA: Motor Vehicle (Duties and Licences) Bill 2013 [Minister of State with responsibility for the NewERA Project]</p> <p>2pm European Union Affairs Committee Room 2, Leinster House AGENDA: Ireland and the future of the EU (resumed): (i) Financial, budgetary and economic policy integration in the EU; and (ii) Democratic accountability and legitimacy, and political union; (iii) The UK and the EU - implications for Ireland [Mr Gavin Barrett, UCD and Ms Brigid Laffan, UCD]</p>