



YOUR ESSENTIAL WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

Oireachtas Update



This week in Dáil Éireann, the Government will release their Spring Economic Statement for debate in the upper house. This report will supplement the Stability Programme Update (SPU) which they are, under EU law, required to publish. It is expected the Economic Statement will outline possible tax cuts and public expenditure increases, with some sources saying a public sector pay rise of 2% is possible.

In the Seanad on Wednesday, a debate will take place regarding Children's Mental Health Services. Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State with responsibility for disability, older people, equality and mental health is expected to make a statement.

The select sub-committee on Children's Affairs will discuss the Children First Bill 2014 on Thursday. The Bill provides for the further care and protection of children, and for the establishment of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group.

IBRC review called for by TDs

Under Freedom of Information legislation, documents were released to The Irish Times and Independent TD Catherine Murphy which signalled wide mistrust of the IBRC in the Dáil. Last week's Leader's Questions (Thursday 23 April) in the upper house saw a fierce debate about the nature of the Siteserv deal made by the IBRC.

In the documents released under FOI, it is clear that civil servants were unhappy with the prospect of the sale of Siteserv to Denis O'Brien, whose bid was lower than both Anchorage's and Altrad's, according to Micheál Martin TD. However, the sale still went ahead.

TDs are now calling for an independent review of the IBRC. TD Martin commented that "the only competent authority that could deal with this immediately is a commission of investigation established under the Commissions of Investigation Act".

An Tánaiste, Joan Burton, confirmed that she "would like to see an independent inquiry by a competent authority".

Dell creates 100 new jobs

Last week, on Thursday 23 April 2015, technology giant Dell announced 100 new jobs in Research and Development at their Limerick campus. This is further to the sixty Research and Development jobs it created in Dublin after a similar announcement last October. The new R&D team in Limerick will be tasked with creating easy and flexible systems for the end-to-end customer journey.

In statements made at the announcement, both Dell's Chief Information Officer Paul J. Walsh and Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Ged Nash TD stressed the belief Dell had in the highly skilled and talented workforce available in Ireland.

Minister for Finance Michael Noonan TD also said, "This jobs announcement demonstrates Dell's commitment to Ireland and its confidence in the highly skilled workers who apply for these roles".



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New Minister for Drugs appointed

Labour TD Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, who is already Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and Culture has now also been given special responsibility for Drugs Strategy.

On Thursday 23 April 2015, the Tánaiste announced that the Dublin Bay North TD would be appointed to the newly reinstated position, which is concerned with strategies for substance abuse issue in the country.

At the announcement, Mr Ó Ríordáin said, “It is a vital role that needs the attention of a dedicated Minister. My experience as a teacher and principal in Dublin’s North Inner City taught me all about the horrors of drug abuse and the need to tackle the affects that it can have on families and communities.”

PAI to host conference on Innovations in Dispute Resolution

Next Wednesday 6 May, Public Affairs Ireland will host a day-long conference on Innovations in Dispute Resolution.

Special attention will be paid to the roles and functions of the Workplace Relations Commission and expanded Labour Court, and its impact on the HR sector. Speakers will include Kieran Mulvey, Chief Executive of Workplace Relations Commission and Caroline Jenkinson, Deputy Chair of the Labour Court, as well as academics from UCD, Tom O’Driscoll, Head of MISC and Pat Brady of Workplace Solutions.

The conference will take place in The Westin Hotel, Dublin 2. For more information, see publicaffairsireland.com.

PAI BLOG

Spotlight on Workplace Bullying

By PAI

Read [Here](#)

The Need for Good Public Policy Practices

By Tom Ferris

Read [Here](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 28 April

Wednesday 29 April

Thursday 30 April

1.30 p.m.	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
Leaders Questions		Questions (Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
2.00 p.m.	Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)	10.45 a.m.
Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Ministers and Spokespersons)	10.45 a.m.	Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed)
5.15 p.m.	Leaders Questions	Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)
Questions (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	11.06 a.m.	12.00 noon
6.30 p.m.	Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed) (Leaders and others)	Leaders Questions
Private Members Business (3 Hours)		12.21 p.m.
9.30 p.m.	1.36 p.m.	Order of Business
Dáil Adjourns	SOS	Morning Business Continued
	2.36 p.m.	4.42 p.m.
	Morning Business Continued	Topical Issues
	9.00 p.m.	5.30 p.m.
	Dáil Adjourns	Dáil Adjourns

SEANAD

Tuesday 28 April

Wednesday 29 April

Thursday 30 April

2.30 p.m.	10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters
3.30 p.m.	11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
Order of Business	Order of Business	Order of Business
4.45 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.
Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Report Stage (Department of Social Protection)	Statements on Ash Dieback (Department of Agriculture)	Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014 – Amendments from Dáil Éireann (Department of Transport)
6.45 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	Roads Bill 2014 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Transport)
Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014 – Amendments from Dáil Éireann (Department of Education and Skills)	Sport Ireland Bill 2014 –Committee and Remaining Stages (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)	
7.45 p.m.	4.00 p.m.	
Seanad Adjourns	Statements on Children’s Mental Health Services (Department of Health)	
	5.30 p.m.	
	Private Members Business – Fine Gael	
	7.30 p.m.	
	Seanad Adjourns	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 28 April

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 11.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: The North South Interconnector (resumed)
[Representatives from Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee]

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)(M)
AGENDA: The potential for job creation, innovation and balanced economic development in the creative economy (resumed)
Session A: 1.45p.m.

[Representatives from Dogpatch Labs; Ballyfermot College; Arts Council of Ireland; Harnessing Creativity; Dublin Business Innovation Centre and Animation Ireland]
Session B: 3 p.m.
[Representatives from RTÉ; Hot Press; Trinity College Dublin; Ashford Studios and Irish Film Board]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals:
Schedule A: COM(2015)141; and
(ii) Uncertainty faced by farmers regarding eligibility of marginal land under the Basic Payment Scheme and issues concerning GLAS [Officials from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine]

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 3.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Finance (Select sub) CR4, LH 2000 5 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Customs Bill 2014 [Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade] 9.30 a.m.

Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)

10.45 a.m.

Leaders Questions

11.06 a.m.

Spring Economic Statement April 2015 (Resumed) (Leaders and others)

1.36 p.m.

SOS

2.36 p.m.

Morning Business Continued

9.00 p.m.

Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 29 April

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry
Session A: 9.30 a.m.

[Mr. Michael Buckley, former Group Chief Executive, AIB and Mr. Eugene Sheehy, former Group Chief Executive, AIB/EBS]; and
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. David Duffy, Chief Executive Officer, AIB]

Human Rights relative to Justice and Equality Matters (Joint sub) CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 10.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Trade between Ireland and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
[Members of the Irish Exporters Association]

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Road Traffic Bill 2015 (resumed) [Representatives from the Irish Road Haulage Association; Dublin Bus; and Bus Éireann]

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 12.15 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: European Migration Policy: Briefing on Crisis Situation in the Mediterranean Sea [H.E. Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi Chiassi, Italian Ambassador, Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Migration and International Development and Mr. Brian Killoran, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland]

Education and Social Protection (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Difficulties faced by persons seeking to establish that they meet medical eligibility criteria when they apply for illness or disability related social protection payments [Disability Federation of Ireland; Irish Medical Organisation; The Carers Association; and Department of Social Protection]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Overview of the Banking Sector in Ireland (resumed)
Session A: 2 p.m.
[Mr. Jim Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Ulster Bank]; and
Session B: 4.15 p.m.
[Mr. Richie Boucher, Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Ireland]

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR3, LH 2000
(a) 4 p.m. (P)
(b) 4.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA:
(a) Private; and
(b) Public Petitions received

Thursday 30 April

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Witness before the Banking Inquiry
[Mr. Brian Goggin, former Group Chief Executive, Bank of Ireland]

Health and Children (Select) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Change of Membership of Select sub-Committee on Children and Youth Affairs

Children and Youth Affairs (Select sub) CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Children First Bill 2014
[Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

Public Accounts CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and
(ii) The Committee's Draft Report on the Fishery Harbour Centres; and
(iii) The Committee's Draft Report on Wards of Court

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: European Semester: Engagement on the National Reform Programme (resumed) [Dr. Alan Barrett and Dr. Edgar Morgenroth, ERSI]



Public Affairs Ireland

Industrial Relations Conference 2015

*Innovations in Workplace Dispute Resolution
In Ireland*

Wednesday, 6th May 2015

The Westin Hotel

Dublin 2

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#disputeres15