

## Oireachtas Update



This Wednesday and Thursday, Dáil Éireann will be discussing the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2015. This Act aims to ratify key EU Directives such as bringing up the EU standards confiscation orders and financial penalties, and the establishing Eurojust with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious crime. On Friday, they will discuss the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2015 (First Stage), which aims to provide for special provisions for independent voting by visually impaired, incapacitated and illiterate voters.

In Seanad Éireann this Tuesday, the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 will reach the Report and Final stages. This Bill aims to amend the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and further establish a Policing Authority.

On Thursday, a Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. They are scheduled to discuss two things: the reintegration of political prisoners, and the impact that the UK Government's proposal to repeal the UK Human Rights Act 1998 will have of the Good Friday Agreement.

## Garda now have the power to arrest those caught driving under disqualification

As of today, Monday June 22, An Garda Síochána will have the power to arrest those who are driving while disqualified. The Order commences s.6(b) and (c) of the Road Traffic Act 2014. Although driving while disqualified has always been an offence, Gardaí who discovered a disqualified driver behind the wheel could only start court proceedings with the offender. Now, however, they can be apprehended and be brought to court as quickly as the next day.

On Friday, Paschal Donohue TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport said: "People who continue to drive after they have been disqualified commit a serious and unacceptable offence ... and should be dealt with severely". He continued, "I expect that this will have a very significant deterrent effect for persons who drive while disqualified and ultimately enhance safety on our roads".

He also said that 10% of drivers who had been disqualified will be subject to prosecution for driving while still under disqualification. In both 2013 and 2014, nearly 13,000 people were disqualified. So far in 2015, nearly 6,000 have been banned. Numbers for driving while disqualified were 1,286, 1,392, and 592, respectively.

## NAGP drop case against under-sixes Free GP Scheme

The National Association of General Practitioners (NAGP) have withdrawn their case against the Government's under-sixes Free GP care scheme. The case, first lodged by Dr Yvonne Williams and subsequently backed by the NAGP, has been described as "not winnable".

The group believe that the scheme is not in the best interest of either the patient or the provider. Some doctors, according to the NAGP, have signed up "under protest" and encourages those who do so to include a letter stating their discontent with the "morally wrong" scheme.

Thus far, about 68% of GPs have signed up to the scheme, with just over thirty thousand children registered.

The scheme is part of the Government's plan that aims to abolish the two-tier system and review and implementation of a universal healthcare plan.

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## Home First campaign proposes the Government allocates additional funding to In-home care

ALONE, a charity that “provides services for older people who are homeless, socially isolated, living in deprivation or in crisis”, have launched their ‘Home First’ campaign.

In a press release issued today, June 22, ALONE stated that they are “proposing that the Government construct a plan to re-allocate a portion of funding from the Fair Deal Scheme to provide support older people who are able to live independently with some level of supports of home care”.

This come with research that says that more than one-third of those in nursing home beds, long-term, have low to medium dependency needs. Further, the amount of people in nursing homes is currently 35% greater than the EU average. While ALONE “acknowledge that nursing homes provide a vital service”, they believe that it is not always strictly necessary that the elderly and retired should be placed under nursing home care.

They propose that the government allocate more money to providing adequate in-home care to those with low to medium dependency needs. According to the press release, this suggestion is supported by the “Programme for Government, the HSE service Plan and the National Positive Ageing Strategy”.

## New head of HR in the Civil Service appointment announced

Current Director of HR at DIT, David Cagney, has been appointed to the position of Chief Human Resources Officer for the Civil Service. The position was advertised publicly early in the year. Mr Cagney will commence his job in autumn.

He has previously worked in multiple HR capacities with An Post, and Ibec, as well as DIT.

The new post comes with the Civil Service Renewal Plan, which the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Taoiseach launched in October 2014. In a statement by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, they said they were looking for an “exceptional individual” that could lead the transformation and modernisation of the HR function throughout the Civil Service.

## PAI BLOG

### Ireland’s ageing population

read Nicola Donnelly’s article [here](#)

### Interventionism versus judicial restraint: which model is the most beneficial?

read Michael Williams’ article [here](#)

### Opinion piece from Jan O’Sullivan TD, on junior cycle reform

read the Minister’s article [here](#)

### “Gender balance is not a problem, it is a solution”

read PAI’s conference report [here](#)

### Have your say on Corporate Governance in Government Departments

read Tom Ferris’ article [here](#)

### Assisted Human Reproduction legislation and regulation eagerly awaited

read Fiona Duffy’s Article [here](#)

## Bríd Munnelly

Partner | Regulatory and Investigations Group

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## DAIL

## Tuesday 23 June

## Wednesday 24 June

## Thursday 25 June

2.00 p.m.	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Finance)	Questions (Minister for Social Protection)	Questions (Minister for Defence)
3.15 p.m.	10.45 a.m.	10.45 a.m.
Leaders Questions	Communications Regulation (Postal Service) (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
3.36 p.m.	National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)	Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) (Department of Justice and Equality)
Questions (Taoiseach)	Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Seanad) (Department of Justice and Equality)	Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage Resumed (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)
4.36 p.m.	Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage Resumed (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)	National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
Order of Business	12.00 noon	12.00 noon
Motion Re Establishment of Educational Research Centre (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Education and Skills)	Leaders Questions	Leaders Questions
5.06 p.m.	12.21 p.m.	12.21 p.m.
Pre European Council Statements (to conclude within 65 minutes)	Order of Business	Order of Business
6.11 p.m.	12.51 p.m.	Morning Business Continued
Topical Issues	SOS (1 hour)	4.42 p.m.
National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Bill 2015 (Seanad) - Second Stage (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)	1.51 p.m.	Topical Issues
7.30 p.m.	Topical Issues	5.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - Motion re Credit Unions (Fianna Fáil)	2.39 p.m.	
9.00 p.m.	Morning Business Continued	
Dáil Adjourns	7.30 p.m.	
	Private Members Business - Motion re Credit Unions (Fianna Fáil)	
	9.00 p.m.	
	Dáil Adjourns	

## Friday 26 June

10.00 a.m.
Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2015
12.00 noon
Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2014
2.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

## SEANAD

## Tuesday 23 June

## Wednesday 24 June

## Thursday 25 June

12.30 p.m.	10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters	Commencement Matters
1.30 p.m.	11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
Order of Business	Order of Business	Order of Business
3.30 p.m.	12.45 p.m.	12.45 a.m.
Address by Mr. Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development	Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 – Second Stage (Department of Finance)	Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Second Stage (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)
5.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	Seanad Adjourns
Teaching Council (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Second Stage (Department of Education and Skills)	Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	
7.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	
Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Justice and Equality)	Private Members Business	
9.00 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	
Seanad Adjourns	Seanad Adjourns	

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## Tuesday 23 June

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: 1.30 p.m.

Joint meeting with the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs and the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; and 5 p.m. in Committee Room 2

Overview of Developments in the Agricultural Sector [Mr. Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development]

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Joint meeting with the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) [Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation]

Joint meeting with the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and Marine and with the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Electoral Commission in Ireland (resumed) [Mr. Justice Dan O'Keefe, Chairman, Standards in Public Office Commission; Mr. Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General, Standards in Public Office Commission and Referendum Commission; Mr. Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman, Standards in Public Office Commission and Referendum Commission; Mr. Paddy Walsh, Secretary, Standards in Public Office Commission and Referendum Commission; Ms. Mairead Ahern, County Registrar for Louth; Mr. Fintan Murphy, County Registrar for Mayo; Mr. Joseph Nugent, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Management Agency; Mr. Conn Murray, County and City Managers Association and Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council; and Mr. Vincent J. Norton, Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office & Corporate Services Department.]

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

AGENDA: Private Meeting

## Wednesday 24 June

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 9 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Witnesses before the Banking Inquiry

Session A: 9 a.m.

[Mr. John McCarthy, Chief Economist, Department of Finance];

Session B: 11.30 a.m.

[Mr. Kevin Cardiff, former Secretary General, Department of Finance (resumed)]; and

Session C: 3.30 p.m.

[Mr. William Beausang, Assistant-Secretary, Department of Finance]

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: White Paper on Energy Policy [Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Trade with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) [Representatives from Asia Matters]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Global resettlement needs and related matters

[Representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)]

Education and Social Protection (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Engagement with Mr. Pat Burke, Chair Designate, State Examinations Commission (SEC)

Human Rights relative to Justice and Equality Matters (Joint sub) CR2, LH 2000 2.30 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: The Charities Act 2009 and the omission of Human Rights as a charitable purpose [Dr. Oonagh Breen, School of Law, UCD and Mr. Ivan Cooper, Director of Advocacy, The Wheel]

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 4 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Update on Report on the Design and Layout of Ballot Papers used in the Seanad Referendum October 2013 [Department of Environment, Community and Local Government-Franchise Section]

## Thursday 25 June

Health and Children (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 a.m.

The importance of pre-pregnancy folic acid supplementation in the prevention of neural tube defects

[Professor Michael Turner, UCD Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital; Dr. Bob McDonnell, EUROCAT Network, HSE; Dr.

Aoife McKeating, Research Fellow, UCD; and Mr. Martin Mc Nicholl, Programme Manager for Obstetrics and

Gynaecology, HSE]; and

Session B: 11.15 a.m.

Affordable and Quality Childcare (resumed): Update on the work of the Inter-Departmental Group on Future

Investment in Early Years and School-Age Care and Education Services [Dr. Fergal Lynch, Secretary General of

the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Officials]

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.

[Professor Patrick Honohan, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland]; and

Session B: 2.30 p.m.

[Professor Patrick Honohan, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland]

Public Accounts CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and

(ii) 2013 Appropriation Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General:

a. Vote 25: Environment, Community and Local Government

b. Chapter 5: Central Government Funding of Local Authorities

c. C & AG Special Report no 84: Transhipment of Waste

[Officials from the Departments of Environment, Community and Local Government and from Public

Expenditure and Reform]

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 10.15 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: (i) The outstanding legacy issues in Northern Ireland affecting the reintegration of political prisoners

[Mr. Michael Culbert, Director, Coiste na nIarchimí; and Mr. Tom Roberts, Director and Mr. Robert Campbell,

Project Coordinator, Ex Prisoners Interpretative Centre (EPIC)]; and

(ii) UK Government's proposal to repeal the UK Human Rights Act, 1998 and the potential effect this would

have on the Good Friday Agreement [Ms. Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner, Irish Human Rights and Equality

Commission and Mr. Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission]



Public Affairs Ireland

# The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

*What are the implications for  
political lobbying in Ireland?*

Thursday, 25th June 2015

The Westin Hotel

Dublin 2

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