PUBLIC AFFAIRS IRELAND | NEWSLETTER

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Oireachtas Update

This week, discusssions in the Dáil will focus on this years annual Budget 2014 while the Seanad will debate the County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Bill 2013 in its final stages.
Among the Committee Hearings this week, the Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation will hear submissions on the Companies Bill 2012 from the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies in Ireland and the Irish Social Enterprise Network.

News Updates

Minister Howlin recommends Peter Tyndall for the post of Ombudsman and Information Commissioner

The Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Brendan Howlin TD, has announced Peter Tyndall as the Government's nominee, for appointment by the President, for the role of Ombudsman and Information Commissioner.

Mr Tyndall, who has held the position of Public Services Ombudsman for Wales since 2008, will replace Emily O'Reilly, who recently left the office to take up the position of European Ombudsman. His appointment is subject to a resolution of the Dáil and Seanad.

It is not yet known when Mr Tyndall will take up his role. Pending his appointment the Office of the Ombudsman will be vacant.

Mr Tyndall, who is originally from Dublin, acted as chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales before becoming Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

A total of 35 expressions of interest were received for the position from individuals with a wide range of experience spanning both the public and private sector.

Recruitment underway for Chief Economist in the Department of Finance

The shortlisting process for Chief Economist in the Department of Finance is currently underway and a number of candidates will shortly proceed to interview in the next level of the TLAC process.

The position was re-advertised in July 2013 following an earlier process in June 2012. It is expected that the successful candidate for the post of Chief Economist will be identified within a matter of weeks.

Appointment Notice

RTÉ's director of programmes Steve Carson moving to BBC

Steve Carson, director of programmes in RTÉ is moving to BBC Northern Ireland to act as head of productions. Mr Carson joined RTÉ in 2009 as director of programmes and had previously worked for the BBC in London. He is expected to take up his new position before the end of this year.

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Public Affairs Ireland Annual Conference on Public Procurement

Half-day conference, Alexander Hotel, Dublin

Thursday 7 November 2013

Public Affairs Ireland are organising a half-day conference on developments in public procurement on the 7 November in Dublin from 9am to 1.30pm.

This should prove to be a topical and informative conference on significant current issues and forthcoming developments in procurement. Minister of State Brian Hayes TD will open the conference and the leading expert official in the procurement field in the European Commission, Claudio Romanini, will make a presentation on progress on the new Directives. There will also be expert comments on specific issues from leading legal practitioners and academics in the procurement field.

This conference would be of particular interest and value to those involved in public procurement across the public service.

Speakers will include:

Minister of State, Brian Hayes TD
Claudio Romanini, European Commission
Christine Comiskey, Deputy Assistant Chief State Solicitor
Philip Lee, Philip Lee Solicitors
Professor Dermot Cahill, Bangor University, Winning in Tendering
Niamh Hyland, SC
Nathy Dunleavy BL, Director, Irish Centre for European Law
John Finnegan, Aecom
Don Bergin, Public Affairs Ireland and formerly of the Department of Finance

Please click **here** for booking or call us on 01 819 8500 for further information.

Oireachtas Schedule: Week beginning October 14 2013

Dáil

Tuesday October 15	Wednesday October 16	Thursday October 17
2.30pm Budget 2014 SOS (30 mins) Budget Financial Resolutions	**10.30am** Leaders Questions **10.51am** Order of Business Budget 2014 **1.40pm** SOS **2.40pm** Budget 2014	**10.30am** Leaders Questions **10.51am** Order of Business Motion re Arms Trade Treaty (Referral to Committee without Debate) (Department of Foreign Affairs) Motion re Change in Standing Orders (to conclude in 50 minutes) Private Members Business (to conclude within 3 hours) **3.42pm** Topical Issues **4.30pm** Questions (Minister for Social Protection)

Seanad

Tuesday October 15	Wednesday October 16	Thursday October 17
1pm Order of Business SOS for Budget Announcement **4.45pm** Statements on Budget 2014 (Department of Finance) Matters on the Adjournment	**10.30am** Order of Business **11.45am** Taxi Regulation Bill 2012 – Report Stage (Amendments from Dail Éireann) (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport) **2.30pm** County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Bill 2013 - Report and Final Stages **5.00pm** Private Members Business Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill 2011 (Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú) **7.00pm** Matters on the Adjournment	**10.30am** Order of Business **11.45am** Gas Regulation Bill 2013 – Second Stage (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) Matters on the Adjournment

Committee Meetings

Tuesday October 15	Wednesday October 16	Thursday October 17
12.30pm **Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation** Committee Room 2, Leinster House **AGENDA:** Submissions on Companies Bill 2012 [Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies – Ireland; and Irish Social Enterprise Network] **12.30pm** **Agriculture, Food and the Marine** Committee Room 3, Leinster House **AGENDA:** Private Meeting	**9.30am** **Transport and Communications** Committee Room 4, Leinster House **AGENDA:** **General Scheme of the Shannon Aviation Services and** Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2013 [Engagement with representatives from Shannon Airport Authority, Shannon Chamber, Clare County Council and SIPTU] **9.30am** **Justice, Defence and Equality** Committee Room 2, Leinster House **AGENDA:** *Session A: 9.30am* (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals COM(2013)534;COM(2013)535 [Officials from Department of Justice and Equality] *Session B: 2pm* Private **2.15pm** **Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht** Committee Room 4, Leinster House **AGENDA:** Private Meeting **3.45pm** **Foreign Affairs and Trade** Committee Room 1, Leinster House **AGENDA:** The Minister's recent visit to Middle East [Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Trade and Development] **4pm** **Public Service Oversight and Petitions** Committee Room 3, Leinster House **AGENDA:** Session a: 4pm Private; and b: 5pm Public Petitions received	**9.30am** **Health and Children** Committee Room 2, Leinster House **AGENDA:** Update on Health Issues [Minister for Health; Minister of State at Departments of Health and of Justice, Equality and Defence with responsibility for Disability,Older People, Equality and Mental Health; Minister of State for Primary Care; and Mr Tony O'Brien, Director General Designate, Health Service Executive] **10am** **Public Accounts** Committee Room 1 Leinster House **AGENDA:** *Session A: 10am* Forfás – Annual Accounts 2012 [Mr Martin D. Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, Forfás] *Session B: 12pm* Ordnance Survey Ireland – Annual Accounts 2011 [Mr. Colin Bray, Chief Executive Officer, Ordnance Survey Ireland] **11am** **Agriculture, Food and the Marine** Committee Room 4 Leinster House **AGENDA:** The work of the Forage Fish Taskforce and its findings in its report entitled Little Fish, Big Impact [Dr Ellen Pikitch, Pew Marine Fellow] **2pm** **European Union Affairs** Committee Room 3 Leinster House **AGENDA:** Forthcoming General Affairs Council Meeting [Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs]

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