

Oireachtas Update



Dáil Éireann is adjourned until Tuesday 22 September 2015.

Seanad Éireann is adjourned until Wednesday 23 September 2015.

The Banking Inquiry resumes this week, meeting Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday will see the examination of former-head officers from Irish Nationwide Building Society. Thursday, ex-officers of Anglo Irish will be examined.

White Paper on Defence released

A new Government White Paper on Defence has been published. It is available to view on the Department of Defence's website (www.defence.ie).

Speaking of the publication of the White Paper, Kildare South TD Martin Heydon said that it is "good news for the Curragh, as it sets out Ireland's defence policy framework for the next decade".

He went on to comment that it proposes the "development of a new Institute for Peace Support and Leadership Training at the Curragh Camp ... Work on that concept will be developed over the coming 12 months", and will be released in 2016.

It also establishes an employment support scheme for people aged 18-24 who are currently in cycles of disadvantage which they would like to break. TD Heydon said that "this is a really great way to expose young people to our defence forces where perhaps they might consider a future career.

CSO figures show the impact of the Action Plan for Jobs

On Wednesday 26 August, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, made a statement in which he welcomed the latest CSO figures, which showed the very real effects of the Action Plan for Jobs.

The figures show that more than 1,300 jobs are added to the jobs market each week since the beginning of 2015. The rise in positions is seen across every region in the country.

Further figures show that over 57,000 jobs have been created in the last twelve months, 19,000 jobs were created in Q2 2015, the number of self-employed has risen, full-time employment is up and long-term unemployment is down to 5.5%. Unemployment has decreased on an annual basis for twelve consecutive months. Growth is particularly strong in the construction sector.

In his statement, the Minister said, "Since we started the Action Plan for Jobs 125,000 lives have been helped back on track. Each one of those lives back on track means a family improved and a community enhanced." He went on to say, "The opportunity is there now, but the recovery is still fragile and can be wasted by the wrong policies and the wrong focus on what is the number one priority – jobs."

Deloitte to create 400 jobs

Last week, accountancy and consulting firm Deloitte announced they would be doubling their team over the next four years, with the introduction of 400 new jobs in its consultancy areas.

Of the 400, 100 staff are to be recruited immediately and a further hundred will be employed over the course of the next four years. Positions will be available to all levels, and the roles will be in strategy and operations, tech, and human capital teams.

The managing director of Deloitte, Brendan Jennings, said that the firm were “investing heavily in digital, technology, business intelligence, and analytics”.

National Social Monitor shows we are ill-equipped for the future

Social Justice Ireland, last week, released the findings from their annual National Social Monitor study. The National Social Monitor “reviews the present situation on a wide range of issues that affect society as a whole. Issues such as healthcare, education, housing, as well as taxation, employment, rural development and sustainability”.

Dr Seán Healy, Director of the advocacy organisation, said of the results: “We are focusing far too much on the performance of the economy and not nearly enough on issues such as aging, social housing and sustainability, that have major implications for the wellbeing of individuals and society as a whole”.

The report notes that by 2031, almost 1m people will be over 65, our social housing plans are inadequate to deal with future need, and Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions will overshoot EU 2020 targets.

However, it notes that GDP has increased, and unemployment has decreased.

PAI BLOG

Department of Finance’s Consultation on Taxing Expenses of Travel and Subsistence

read Tom Ferris’ article [here](#)

SIPTU proposal for new Social Solidarity Contribution to replace USC

read Ger Gibbons’ article [here](#)

Healthy Workplaces

read Kate O’Flaherty’s article [here](#)

Dynamic capability: A basis for sustainable performance?

read Dr Brian Harney’s article [here](#)

Government doesn’t take climate change seriously, can energy policy fill the gap?

read Oisín Coughlan’s article [here](#)

Low Pay Commission recommends an increase in the National Minimum Wage

read Tom Ferris’ article [here](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 1 September

No Dáil session

Wednesday 2 September

No Dáil session

Thursday 3 September

No Dáil session

SEANAD

Tuesday 1 September

No Seanad session

Wednesday 2 September

No Seanad Session

Thursday 3 September

No Seanad Session

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 1 September

Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint) CR1, LH 2000 2.30 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday 2 September

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 Fingleton, former Chief Executive, Irish Nationwide Building Society];
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Michael Walsh, former Chairman, Irish Nationwide Building Society]; and
Session C: 4.30 p.m.
[Mr. John Stanley Purcell, former Finance Director and Secretary, Irish Nationwide Building Society]

Thursday 3 September

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. Peter Fitzgerald, former Director of Corporate & Retail Treasury, Anglo Irish Bank];
Session B: 11 a.m.
[Mr. Gary McGann, former Non-Executive Director, Anglo Irish Bank];
Session C: 1 p.m.
[Mr. Matt Moran, former Chief Financial Officer, Anglo Irish Bank];
Session D: 4 p.m.
[Mr. David Went, former Group Chief Executive, Irish Life and Permanent/Permanent TSB];
Session E: 6 p.m.
[Mr. David Gantly, former Head of Group Treasury, Irish Life and Permanent/Permanent TSB]; and



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"Smart" Public Procurement

Wednesday, September 30th, 2015

9am to 1pm

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