

Oireachtas Update



Dáil Éireann is adjourned until Tuesday 22 September 2015.

Seanad Éireann is adjourned until Wednesday 23 September 2015.

There are no committee meetings this week.

Hospitals to be fined for long wait times

From this month on, heavy fines will be imposed on hospitals that fail to meet the Department of Health's 18-month maximum waiting time targets. Where patients are left waiting more than eighteen months, a fine will be calculated and the hospital charged.

€26m in funding was provided to hospitals in order to help achieve these targets thus far. Now, Minister Varadkar has announced a further €25m, which will go toward reaching his second target – that no patient shall wait more than fifteen months for an appointment.

The fines will be calculated based on the costs involved, but could reach the millions of euros. In August, almost 8,000 patients had been on waiting lists for over eighteen months, and it is this figure which has spurred on this penalisation of under-performing in hospitals.

This fine policy was devised during talks between the HSE and the Department of Health during the summer months.

Information day for new SME start-ups announced

Today, Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, launched "Taking Care of Business". This is to be a "one-stop-shop" event for potential and existing entrepreneurs in the North-East.

The aim is to equip those already in, or wanting to enter, the SME sector with the correct information on the governmental aids available to them.

Minister Nash said, "Government has a wide range of supports available to help SMEs make their business a success and the Taking Care of Business event is a great way for busy people to get all the information they might need from our agencies in one spot." He hopes it will help these entrepreneurs to "better understand the regulatory environment".

Information will be provided on tax and employment obligations, legal requirements, areas such as food and environmental safety, procurement and intellectual property, and assistance and support available.

It will be held on Thursday 8th October at the Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda, from 8.30am to 1.30pm. You can register, and find full details of the presentations, at www.takingcareofbusiness.ie.

Appointments this week

Starcom, the media and buying agency, announced three new appointments to their board last week.

Anna Doyle, previously of Carat Ireland, has eleven years' experience in media and strategic media planning for high profile brands. Antaine Conway has over ten years' experience, in both Dublin and Belfast. Marie Diver has been working with Starcom since 2008 and currently handles high-profile brands for the company.

At Diageo Ireland, Oliver Loomes has been promoted to country director of the company, replacing David Smith, who was appointed as MD of Diageo Australia.

Mr Loomes has been with Diageo Ireland since 1999 across a range of marketing positions at home and abroad.

ESRI research says the poor will be worse off after Budget 2015

The ESRI released a research paper entitled "The Distributional Impact of Taxes Welfare and Public Service Policies: Budget 2015 and Budgets 2009-2015". The research in the report suggests that, following Budget 2015 next month, nearly half of households will be worse off.

A press release by the ESRI stated, "The analysis focuses on the impacts of changes in tax, welfare and public sector pay on households' incomes, net of taxes and the revised water charges ... The results show that Budget 2015 will have its greatest impact – a reduction of 1 per cent in net household income – on the 10 per cent of households with lowest incomes ... The greatest gain will be close to half of one per cent for the top 10 per cent of households"

When speaking about the findings, one of the authors, Dr Tim Callan had the following to say: "Families at all income levels and of all types have seen income losses due to budgets over the last seven years", and that "on average [the Budget] is broadly neutral but in the detail is regressive".

PAI BLOG

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read Tom Ferris' article [here](#)

SIPTU proposal for new Social Solidarity Contribution to replace USC

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Healthy Workplaces

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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 15 September

No Dáil session

Wednesday 16 September

No Dáil session

Thursday 17 September

No Dáil session

SEANAD

Tuesday 15 September

No Seanad session

Wednesday 16 September

No Seanad Session

Thursday 17 September

No Seanad Session

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 15 September

No Committee Meetings

Wednesday 16 September

No Committee Meetings

Thursday 17 September

No Committee Meetings



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"Smart" Public Procurement

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