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Public Affairs Ireland Newsletter : your essential weekly guide to legislative, regulatory, and public affairs in Ireland

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

Oireachtas Update



Wednesday and Thursday's Dáil sessions will see the second stage of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015. This Bill's main purpose is to identify areas which need housing, and those which have housing lying idle and unused. It also proposes a Register of vacant sites in identified areas, and will provide a levy to aid these areas.

This week in Seanad Éireann, the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 will reach the second stage. This Bill aims to "provide for the establishment and functions of a body to be known as An tÚdarás Póilíneachta or, in the English language, the Policing Authority for the purpose of overseeing the performance by the Garda Síochána of its functions relating to policing services". The introduction of a regulatory body has been called for for some time, now.

On Thursday, a Joint Committee on European Union Affairs will discuss the TTIP, including topics such as an Investor State Dispute mechanism.

Rumour of Diageo buy-out rises stock price nearly 10%

Jorge Paulo Lemann, Brazil's richest man, is potentially planning a buyout of Diageo. According to *Veja* magazine, Lemann and his partners in 3G Capital are exploring the idea of bidding on Diageo, the world's largest alcohol retailers, with heavy-hitters such as Guinness and Smirnoff under their umbrella.

As well as being the chief investor in 3G Capital, Lemann also owns a share in Anheuser-Busch InBev, another brewery giant.

As a result of this information being released by *Veja*, shares of Diageo rose their highest in nearly seven years. They saw their shares rise 8%, up to \$118 on the New York stock exchange.

Research grant awarded to Galway-based firm who help fight kidney disease

Orbsen Therapeutics, a Galway-based company, have created an experimental stem-cell treatment to battle kidney problems.

In a project entitled NEPHSTROM, Orbsen Therapeutics, in conjunction with NUI Galway and other partners from abroad, a certain form of stem cells will be purified and made safe for use. These cells are taken from donor bone marrow, and are injected into the bloodstream of a patient in the hopes of slowing, or even stopping, kidney disease.

This work has been rewarded with funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research fund. The €6m funding will fund the trial of this process on forty-eight human patients next year.



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IBRC review may need outside legal council

Michael Noonan, Minister for Finance, has agreed to changes to the terms of reference for the commission that will investigate the IBRC. However, he is unlikely to judge on certain provisions, such as the Oppositions suggestion that the results be provided as soon as October, or their call to investigate the role of the Department of Finance. The terms of reference will be discussed when the Dáil meets again tomorrow, Tuesday 9 June.

The commission is to investigate claims made by Independent TD Catherine Murphy regarding preferential interest rates given to certain large borrowers, including Irish businessman, to whose company the sale of Siteserv is under also under investigation.

Fianna Fáil called for the investigation to be done by William Fry solicitors, as using a legal entity to the IBRC review the situation would constitute a conflict of interest.

Retired High Court judge Iarfhlaith O'Neill is likely to chair the commission.

Construction figures on the rise

In the latest release of the Ulster Bank Purchasing Managers' Index, a solid twenty-one consecutive months have shown growth.

Growth in the construction sector has increased for the third consecutive month, at 63.3, up from 57.2 in April. Civil engineering, in contrast, only grew marginally.

These increases, or workload, has led companies to take on more staff and increase their purchasing. The index also showed an expansion in the use of sub-contractors.

PAI BLOG

Assisted Human Reproduction legislation and regulation eagerly awaited

read Fiona Duffy's Article [here](#)

Ireland's Offshore Wind Resources

read Brian Britton's article [here](#)

Delivering Better Regulation at EU Level

read Tom Ferris's article [here](#)

DNA sampling of convicted criminals and the DNA database

read Maureen O'Sullivan's article [here](#)

Junior Cert reform: a practitioner's perspective

read Moira Leydon's article [here](#)

Rent Certainty versus Rent Supply

read Stephen Faughnan's article [here](#)

DAIL

Tuesday 9 June

Wednesday 10 June

Thursday 11 June

2.00 p.m.	Dáil Éireann 9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Defence)	Questions (Minister for Education and Skills)	Questions (Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government)
3.15 p.m.	10.45 a.m.	
Leaders Questions	Motion re Commission of Investigation into IBRC (working title) (resumed)	10.45 a.m.
3.36 p.m.	Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)	Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
Questions (Taoiseach)	Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)
4.36 p.m.	Order of Business	
Technical Motion re Joint Meeting of more than two Committees (without debate)	Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)	Urban Regeneration and Housing Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded) (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government)
Motion re PQ Rota Change (Departments of Finance and Social Protection) (without Debate)	12.00 noon	12.00 noon
Motion re Ratification of the Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (back from Committee without Debate) (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)	Leaders Questions	Leaders Questions
5.06 p.m.	12.21 p.m.	12.00 noon
Motion re Commission of Investigation into IBRC (working title)	Order of Business	Leaders Questions
12.00 midnight	12.51 p.m.	12.21 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns	SOS (1 hour)	Order of Business
	1.51 p.m.	Order of Business
	Topical Issues	12.41 p.m.
	2.39 p.m.	Morning Business Continued
	Morning Business Continued	4.42 p.m.
	7.10 p.m.	Topical Issues
	Health (General Practitioner Services) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages (Department of Health)	5.30 p.m.
	7.30 p.m.	Dáil Adjourns
	Private Members Business - Central Bank (Mortgage Interest Rates) Bill 2015 (Sinn Féin) (3 hrs)	
	10.30 p.m.	
	Dáil Adjourns	

SEANAD

Tuesday 9 June

Wednesday 10 June

Thursday 11 June

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.
Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)	Customs Bill 2014 – Committee Stage (Department of Finance)	Motion regarding Renewal of Certain Provisions of the Offences against the State Act (to conclude within 30 minutes)
7.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	Motion regarding Criminal Justice Amendment Act 2009 (to conclude within 30 minutes)
Statements on Yeats 2015 (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)	Children (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Report and Final Stages (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)	2.00 p.m.
9.30 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Bill 2015 – Committee Stage (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)
	Private Members Business – Fianna Fáil Moore Street Area Renewal and Development Bill 2015 – Second Stage (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)	4.30 p.m.
	7.00 p.m.	Health (General Practitioner Service) Bill 2015 – Second Stage (Department of Health)
	Statute Law Revisions Bill 2015 – Committee, Report and Final Stages (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)	6.30 p.m.
	9.00 p.m.	Seanad Adjourns
	Seanad Adjourns	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 9 June

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)(M)

AGENDA: (i) Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule A: COM(2014)585; Schedule B: COM(2014)559; COM(2014)563; COM(2015)50; and COM(2015)98
(ii) Bord na Móna's strategic plan for the company and how it will impact on existing jobs in the Midland Counties and the possibility to create new jobs as a result of diversification [Representatives from Bord na Móna]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Scrutiny of EU legislative proposals: Schedule A: COM(2015)177 [Officials from the Departments of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and from Health; Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland]

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

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Environment, Community and Local Government (Select sub) CR4, LH 2000 4.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015 [Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government]

Health and Children (Joint) CR3, LH 2000 5.15 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Amnesty International's upcoming global Report on Ireland's abortion laws [Mr. Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International; Mr. Colm O'Gorman, Director, Amnesty International Ireland; and Ms. Christina Zampas, Senior Legal Advisor, Amnesty International Ireland]

Wednesday 10 June

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.
[Ms. Mary O'Dea, former Acting Chief Executive, Central Bank/IFSRA];
Session B: 11.15 a.m.
[Mr. Cyril Roux, Deputy Governor (Financial Regulation), Central Bank]; and
Session C: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Tom O'Connell, former Assistant Director General (Chief Economist), Central Bank]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 a.m.
Joint sitting with the Joint Committee on Public Service, Oversight and Petitions; and
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
Joint sitting with the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications

Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Ireland's compliance with Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) [Dr. Brian J Farrell Coroner, Dublin and Dr. Natasa Mavronicola, Queen's University, Belfast]
In Joint sitting with the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality

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

AGENDA: Briefing on the International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) Addis Ababa and Sustaining Development Goals [Dóchas]

Transport and Communications (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 11 a.m. (T)

AGENDA: Session A: 11 a.m.
Research project into potential impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing [Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency]; and
Session B: 2.30 p.m. in Committee Room 2 in Joint sitting with the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality
The Pro Social Drivers Programme - a rehabilitation programme for improving the behaviour of drivers [Representatives from the Pro Social Drivers Programme]

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

AGENDA: (i) Engagement with Ms. Ita Mangan, Chair Designate, Citizens Information Board; and
(ii) Issues relating to Rent Supplement [Peter McVerry Trust; Focus Ireland; and the Department of Social Protection]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the Draft General Scheme of a Bill to provide for functions for the Minister for Finance and powers to spend in relation to the Agreement on the Transfer and Mutualisation of Contributions to the Single Resolution Fund [Officials from the Department of Finance and the Central Bank]

European Scrutiny - Finance and Public Expenditure (Joint sub) CR4, LH 2000 4.15 p.m.

AGENDA: Private Meeting

Thursday 11 June

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

AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 a.m.
Development of Quality and Affordable Childcare Meetings (resumed) [Ms. June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy, Barnardos; and regional selection of childcare providers];
Session B: 11.15 a.m.
Engagement with Mr. Frank Nolan, Chair Designate, Board of Dublin Dental Hospital; and
Session C: 12 noon
Engagement with Mr. Paul Donnelly, Chair Designate, Board of St James's Hospital

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. Liam O'Reilly, former CEO, Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority]; and
Session B: 2.30 p.m.
[Mr. Brian Patterson, former Chairman, Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority]

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

AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and
(ii) Comptroller and Auditor General Special Report no 88: Restructuring the Administration of Student Grants [Officials from the Department of Education and Skills]

European Union Affairs (Joint) CR2, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – Update on Negotiations, including Investor State Dispute Mechanism [Mr. Brian Cotter, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland; Mr. Colin Brown, European Commission, DG Trade, Dispute Settlement and Legal Aspects of Trade Policy; Mr. Tom Healy, Director, Nevin Economic Research Institute; and Mr. Mark O'Mahoney, Chambers Ireland]

Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform (Joint) CR4, LH 2000 2 p.m. (T)

AGENDA: Fiscal Assessment Report - June 2015 [Representatives of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council]



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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