

eDeposit Ireland

Public Affairs Ireland Weekly Newsletter

Item Type	journal
Citation	Public Affairs Ireland, 'Public Affairs Ireland Weekly Newsletter', [journal], Public Affairs Ireland, 2015-10-12, Public Affairs Ireland Newsletter, 378, 2015-10-12
Publisher	Public Affairs Ireland
Rights	Y
Download date	2026-06-05 22:29:48
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14765/77775

No adjustment for election spending limits

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, announced on Tuesday 6 October that there would be no changes to the limits for election spending, or the reimbursement of expenses, with regard to the upcoming elections.

Despite an increase in the Consumer Price Index—on which that spending limits are calculated—since the last adjustment of the limits, there will be no change. These limits are provided for in the Electoral Act 1997, which also gives the Minister the power to adjust them.

However, Minister Kelly said that his decision to leave the limits as they are is a matter of clarity. In a Press Release by the Minister's office, he commented: "I have made this decision at this time so that in planning and preparing for the election, candidates and prospective candidates will have certainty around spending and reimbursement limits".

Current spending rates are as follows: In a 3-seat constituency, €30,150; in a 4-seat constituency, €37,650; and in a 5-seat constituency, €45,200. Reimbursements are made to the cost of the actual spending, or €8,700, whichever is least.

Kenny confirms Spring election plans

Last week's news was awash with rumours of a November election. However, in an interview with RTÉ, and with the Independent, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny said that he has been consistent and clear in his position on the election—assuring that he has always said it would be a spring election, and that he sees no reason to change his mind.

In speaking to the Independent Online, he said that it was his prerogative "to make decisions that are in the interest of the country", and that would involve an election in the new year.

An Tánaiste, Joan Burton, welcomed the clarification, and noted that if there was an election in November, some important pieces of legislation and the banking enquiry were liable to collapse.

SIPTU backs regularisation scheme

At their National Delegate Biennial Conference on Thursday, 8 October, SIPTU put their support behind once-off scheme for the regularisation of undocumented migrant workers in the State. The agreement would be time-restricted, but would have fair and transparent criteria.

The motion was proposed by the SIPTU Equality Committee, and was approved unanimously by delegates.

Ethel Buckley, SIPTU Services Division Organiser noted that the majority of undocumented workers are working in low- and minimum-wage jobs, such as those in the hospitality, cleaning, and security service. This programme would aim to get “workers out of the shadows and enable them to enjoy the protections which should be available to all workers in Ireland.”

The campaign was set up by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland.

Climate Bill is just the start, say Environmental agencies

Last Thursday, 8 October, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015 passed through Dáil Éireann. It will see Second Stage discussions in Seanad Éireann this Wednesday, 14 October.

The Bill is enacted for the “purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy”. Deputy Michael McCarthy, the Chair of the Oireachtas Environment Committee, said that the Government was sure to include opinions and comments from a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that the Bill addressed the challenges posed to it.

While environmental agencies are largely happy with the Bill, they believe that a plan for the reduction of emissions must supplement it. Ireland is, currently, not on track to meet our 2020 target in emissions. Stop Climate Change’s Ciara Kirrane said, “this government will have had no action plan on climate change for their entire term in office. The Climate Bill will ensure this behaviour cannot be repeated”. She further encouraged the Government to set out their aims in a forthcoming Energy White Paper.

There is a meeting of the UN for talks on Climate change in Paris, November 30—December 1.



PAI's Public Sector HR Survey

In our recent survey, 49% of respondents to our survey said that it was important to continue with cost-saving programmes;

54% said attracting and retaining qualified staff was a priority.

Do you agree? What does this mean for Public Sector HR?

*You can take our survey [here](#).
The results of the survey, and analysis of the data gathered,
will be revealed at our annual HR conference.*

You can book a place [here](#).

Annual HR Conference
Thursday, October 15th, 2015
9am to 3.30pm
Westin Hotel, Dublin 2

This Week at Public Affairs Ireland

Training

Certificate in Public Sector Corporate Governance

Tuesday 13 October
Two days
9am-4pm
PAI Main Office

Certificate in Public Procurement

Wednesday 14 October
Eight days
9am-4pm daily
PAI Main Office

Develop your confidence in Workplace Communications

Wednesday 14 October
9.30-1pm
PAI Main Office

Annual HR Conference

Thursday 15 October
9am-3.30pm
The Westin Hotel, Dublin 1

On the Blog

IMF shows confidence in Ireland's economic prospects

Tom Ferris
Read [here](#)

The Problem with the Bail Bill

Michael Williams
Read [here](#)

Smart Public Procurement: More flexible, more transparent, and more cost effective

PAI Editor Shauna Nimmo
Read [here](#)

Negotiating TIPP: Are the EU and USA getting any closer to a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement?

Tom Ferris
Read [here](#)

This week in Dáil Éireann

Tuesday 13 October

2.00 p.m.
Budget Statements 2016 (to conclude within 4 hours 30 minutes)

SOS (30 minutes)

Financial Resolutions (to conclude at midnight)

12.00 midnight
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 14 October

10.30 a.m.
Leaders Questions

10.51 a.m.
Order of Business

11.21 a.m.
Budget 2016 Motion

1.50 p.m.
SOS (1 hour)

2.50 p.m.
Morning Business Continued

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 15 October

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Justice and Equality)

10.45 a.m.
Private Members Business - Fianna Fáil (to adjourn at 12pm)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

Motion re International Agreement (Referral to Committee without Debate)
(Department of Finance)

12.41 p.m.
Private Members Business - Fianna Fáil (Resumed to conclude at 2.26pm)

2.26 p.m.
Motion re Proceeds of Sale of Aer Lingus (back from Committee) (to conclude within 20 minutes)
(Department of Finance)

2.46 p.m.
Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (to adjourn at 8pm if not previously concluded)
(Department of Finance)

8.00 p.m.
Topical Issues

8.48 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

This week in Seanad Éireann

Tuesday 13 October

1.00 p.m.
Commencement Matters

2.00 p.m.
SOS

4.00 p.m.
Order of Business

5.00 p.m.
Budget 2016 Statements
(Department of Finance)

7.00 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

Wednesday 14 October

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

1.00 p.m.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015 – Second Stage
(Department of Environment, Community and Local Government)

3.00 p.m.
SOS

4.00 p.m.
Private Members Business - Public Services and Procurement (Social Value) Bill 2015 – Committee, Report and Final Stages
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

6.00 p.m.
Minerals Development Bill 2015 – Report and Final Stages
(Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources)

7.00 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

Thursday 15 October

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

1.00 p.m.
Marriage Bill 2015 – Second Stage
(Department of Justice and Equality)

3.00 p.m.
Seanad Adjourns

This week's Committee Meetings

Tuesday 13 October

Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)
CR4, LH 2000 12.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 (resumed) [Minister of State, Department of Justice and Equality]

Thursday 15 October

Health and Children (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2015 (resumed)

Session A: 9.30 a.m.
[Ms. Helen Gilmartin, Adoptive Parents Association of Ireland; Ms. Rhoda Mac Manus, Adoption Loss-Natural Parents Network of Ireland; Ms. Susan Lohan, Director, Adoption Rights Alliance; Ms. Kathy Mc Mahon, Irish First Mothers Group; Ms. Deirdre Pemberton, Council of Irish Adoption Agencies and Mr. Paul Redmond, Coalition of Mothers & Baby Home Survivors]

Session B: 11.15 a.m.
[Dr. Conor O'Mahony, Faculty of Law, University College Cork; Dr. Fergus Ryan, Department of Law, NUI Maynooth; Mr. Tom Walsh, Know My Own; Ms. Patricia White, Social Worker, Post Adoption Service, Barnardos and Ms. Margaret Dromey, CEO, Treoir]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: The Irish Harness Racing Industry [Representatives from the Irish Harness Racing Association]

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee; and
(ii) Inland Fisheries Ireland Financial Statements 2013 [Officials from Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources]

Transport and Communications (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 2.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: Incorrect emissions readings for Volkswagen cars [Representatives of Volkswagen Group Ireland and the Society for the Irish Motor Industry]

Wednesday 14 October

Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000
(a) 9.30 a.m. (P)
(b) 2 p.m. (T)
AGENDA:
(a) Private Meeting; and
(b) Submissions on the Drugs Review [Representatives from BeLong To; Dublin North East Drugs Task Force; Students for Sensible Drug Policy Ireland (DCU); Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD); Irish Penal Reform Trust; Irish Association of Social Workers; Merchants Quay Ireland; Irish Hospital Consultants Association; Ana Liffey Drug Project; and Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign]

Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)
CR2, LH 2000 12 noon (T)
AGENDA: Session A: 12 noon
Choice of Court (Hague Convention) Bill 2015
Session B: 1 p.m.
Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) (Amendment) Bill 2014 [Minister for Justice and Equality]

Education and Social Protection (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 1 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: The lack of availability of activation services and other supports for unemployed people who are not on the live-register [Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUE); National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCII); and Officials from the Department of Social Protection]

Public Service Oversight and Petitions (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000
(a) 4 p.m. (P)
(b) 4.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA:
(i) (a) Private;
(b) Public Petitions received; and
(ii) Report from the Pensions Ombudsman "Report to the Houses of the Oireachtas made under Section 139(6) of the Pensions Act 1990 as amended" [Mr. Paul Kenny, Pensions Ombudsman]