

# eDeposit Ireland

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

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## Appointments

### *Tuesday March 7*

Ms Kate Ruddock has been appointed to the Board of Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Ms Ruddock is currently the deputy Director of Friends of the Earth. She has also served in various other positions in environmental agencies, and has worked as an educator and consultant on environmental issues in Ireland and abroad.

The appointment was announced by Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD. The appointment period is five years.

### *Friday 10 March*

Seven new appointments have been made to the Board of the Irish Film Board. The appointments, facilitated by the Public Appointments Service, were announced by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD. The appointees are:

**Larry Bass:** Founder and CEO of ShinAwil Productions.

**Annie Doona:** President of IADT Dun Laoghaire. Formerly the Chair of the Irish Film Board. Nominated by the Minister for Chair.

**Mark Fenton:** CEO and Founder Masf Consulting.

**Katie Holly:** Managing Director of Blinder Films.

**Rachel Lysaght:** Chair of Women in Film and Television (Irish chapter) and founder and Lead Creative Producer for Underground Films.

**Kate McColgan:** Managing Director and Producer at Calico Pictures.

**Marian Quinn:** Founder of Janey Pictures; Lecturer at DKIT and guest lecturer at NUIG and DIT.

These appointments will operate on a split-term basis.

## Oireachtas Business

No parliamentary meetings will take place this week.

## At Public Affairs Ireland

### On the Blog

#### Prevention is Better than Cure – Improving Dignity at Work

Sile O'Donnell

Read [here](#)

#### Full Agenda confirmed for PAI's Freedom of Information conference

Read [here](#)

#### Limited merit in President Trump's Plan to reduce Regulation

Tom Ferris

Read [here](#)

#### Data-sharing in the Public Sector

Fleur O'Shea

Read [here](#)

### Training

#### Core Skills for COs (2 days)

14 and 15 March

On successful completion of this module, learners will have a firm understanding of the following core skills and how to apply them to be an effective CO (and grade equivalent):

- Team-work: how to effectively work with your team members
- Effective records and information management (FOI, Data Protection & Procurement overview)
- Strategies for the effective delivery of results through planning, time management and problem-solving skills
- Customer Service & Communication Skills
- Wellbeing in the workplace
- Self-Development opportunities

[Click here for more information](#)

#### Certificate in HR Management (3 days)

15, 22 and 29 March

This course provides you with the skills to excel in leadership in your organisation. It is specifically designed for the public sector and has been accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM).

[Click here for more information](#)

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## **This week in Dáil Éireann**

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Adjourned until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21 March 2017

## **This week in Seanad Éireann**

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Adjourned until 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21 March 2017

## **This week's Committee Meetings**

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Parliamentary Committees adjourned sine die



The Alexander Hotel, Dublin 2  
Thursday 30 March



# Updates on Current Developments Impacting on Freedom of Information in Ireland

## Key themes to be addressed

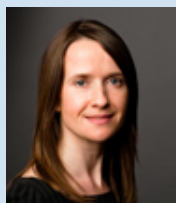
- The impact of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 on public organisations
- The Information Commissioners perspective on compliance with the FOI regime and identifying best practice in managing FOI requests
- An analysis of recent decisions of the Information Commissioner and the Courts on FOI cases
- The perspective of the Central Policy unit in DPER on the operation of FOI policy
- Practical issues for FOI Officers concerning requests for the release of different categories of confidential information
- FOI requests and cross border bodies
- The requesters perspective – an analysis from a media commentator on latest trends in the operation of the FOI Act
- Analysis of the results of a survey of FOI officers on current issues and current practices impacting on the operation of the FOI Act in Ireland

[For more information, click here](#)

## Other Speakers



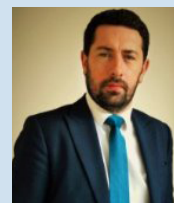
Garrett Fennell is a solicitor and a specialist consultant in regulatory and public affairs. He will be chairing this conference.



Annette Hogan is a partner in the McCann Fitzgerald's and specialises in data protection and freedom of information



Paul Lavery is the head of the McCann Fitzgerald's Technology & Innovation Group and advises on a wide range of information technology, intellectual property, data protection, confidentiality and freedom of information issues.



Daniel McConnell is the Political Editor of the *Irish Examiner* and a best-selling author. Before that, he worked for almost a decade with Independent News and Media.



Ken Foxe is an assistant lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology in the School of Media. He also worked as a freelance journalist and consultant specialising in Freedom of Information, data journalism, and investigative reporting.

## Keynote Speaker: Paschal Donohoe TD



Paschal Donohoe is the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Prior to this appointment he served, from July 2014-May 2016, as the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. Paschal has also held the position as the Minister for European Affairs at the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs from July 2013-July 2014. Paschal was formerly the Chair of Ireland's Future in Europe Oireachtas Sub-Committee, as well as a member of the Public Accounts Committee.

## Registration Fee

€295\*

\*includes conference registration, speaker materials, refreshments and three-course lunch. Please note that 23% VAT applies on conferences. Group and membership discounts may apply. For more information, call us on (01) 819 8500.