



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
University College Galway (Amendment) Act 2006 No 1 of 2006	The purpose of the Act is to amend section 3 of the University College Galway Act, 1929, which required candidates for appointment to offices or positions in the National University of Ireland Galway to be competent in the Irish language. The Act replaces this requirement with an obligation to ensure that one of the principal aims of each strategic development plan of the University provides for the delivery of education through the Irish language. It also obliges the President and Governing Authority of the University to ensure this aim is implemented.	Department of Education	23 February 2006
Teaching Council (Amendment) Act 2006 No 2 of 2006	This Act corrects a legislative difficulty in relation to the Teaching Council. The issue relates to the Minister's power to make Regulations governing the first election of members to the Teaching Council in circumstances where the relevant applicable provisions of the Teaching Council Act 2001 had not been commenced. The Bill will declare that the requirement in the 2001 Act to commence the relevant sections will not serve to invalidate the Regulations made by the Minister on 10 September 2004 in respect of the first election of members to the Teaching Council or anything done under those Regulations.	Department of Education and Science	4 March 2006
Irish Medicines Board (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 No 3 of 2006	This Act amends a number of Acts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· The Irish Medicines Board Act 1995· The Misuse of Drugs Act 1977· The Control of Clinical Trials Act, 1987· The Health Act 1947· The Health Act 1970· The Health (Amendment) Act 1994· The Animal Remedies Act, 1993 The Act deals mainly with a variety of technical matters involving the Irish Medicines Board (IMB). In general terms the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- allows for certain licensing functions in relation to controlled drugs to transfer from the Department of Health and Children to the IMB,- updates Irish legislation regarding medicinal products, cosmetic products, veterinary medicinal products, drug precursors and medical devices, including in respect of EU legislation,- introduces enabling provisions which will allow prescribing by nurses once secondary legislation has been put in place,- provides for labeling of beef and of other meats at retail or restaurant level,- clarifies eligibility for dental, aural and ophthalmic examinations to all children, and extends that eligibility to all children,- provides for the improved operation and enforcement activities of the Irish Medicines Board in respect of medicines and control of clinical trials, and- clarifies the legal basis in relation to the collection of veterinary medicines fees by the IMB.	Department of Health and Children	4 March 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
Competition (Amendment) Act 2006 No 4 of 2006	<p>On the 20th March 2006 the Competition (Amendment) Act 2006 came into effect and it abolished the 1987 Groceries Order.</p> <p>The legislation strengthened the provisions of the 2002 Competition Act by specifically prohibiting the fixing of minimum retail prices by suppliers (resale price maintenance), unfair discrimination, the payment of advertising allowances and "hello money" in the grocery trade.</p> <p>Minister Martin has asked the Competition Authority, in cooperation with the Director of Consumer Affairs, to review and monitor the structure and operation of the grocery trade for the foreseeable future to see how it responds to the new legislative environment.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	11 March 2006
Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006 No 5 of 2005	<p>This Act provides for a number of measures announced in Budget 2006, including increases in Child Benefit and the Respite Care Grant, raising the income threshold for the One-Parent Family Payment, the extension of the duration of Carer's Benefit, and the legislative basis for payment of the Early Childcare Supplement.</p> <p>It also provides for the introduction of a standard non-contributory support payment for persons aged over 66 years - the State Pension (Non-Contributory), for the automatic transfer to Old Age (Contributory) Pension for recipients of Invalidity Pension or Retirement Pension on reaching age 66 and for changing the titles of some social welfare schemes.</p> <p>In addition, the Act contains amendments to a number of other Acts, including the Pensions Act, the Carer's Leave Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Taxes Consolidation Act and the Combat Poverty Agency Act.</p>	Department of Social Welfare	24 March 2006
Finance Act 2006 No 6 of 2006	<p>This Act gives legislative form to the taxation proposals in the Budget Statement of 7 December 2005. It also contains provisions that are consequential on the Budget measures and other changes in the taxation code. The Act is in 6 parts covering Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Excise, Value-Added Tax, Stamp Duties, Capital Acquisitions Tax and Miscellaneous. This year the Act runs to 130 sections and 2 schedules. In conjunction with the Act, an Explanatory Memorandum is published which provides an explanation of each section.</p>	Department of Finance	4 April 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
Aviation Act 2006 No 7 of 2006	<p>The Act amends the Irish Aviation Authority Act 1993, the Aviation Regulation Act of 2001 and the Aer Lingus Act 2004, and also makes provision for related matters.</p> <p>The Act will allow Ireland ratify the Revised Eurocontrol Convention signed on 27 June 1997. Eurocontrol is the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation. The Eurocontrol Convention of 1960 was revised in 1997 to take account of changes in the political and operational environment of air traffic management, within which the Organisation functions.</p> <p>The amendments to the Aviation Regulation Act 2001 relate to the recent designation of the Commission for Aviation Regulation as the responsible organisation for administration of the EU Regulation on denied boarding. The amendments also provide for some procedural amendments in relation to appeal processes for the determination of Dublin airport charges.</p> <p>The amendment to the Aer Lingus Act, 2004 relates to the need to dispel any legal doubt over the title of the Aer Lingus Employee Share Ownership Trust to shares given to it as the share transfer took place before the commencement of the relevant provision of the Act.</p>	Department of Transport	4 April 2006
Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 No 8 of 2006	<p>This Act revised and restated sea-fisheries provisions of the Fisheries Acts 1959 to 2003 to secure compliance with EU Law (Common Fisheries Policy) and national law (including taxation law). It provides for the establishment of an independent statutory Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority to enforce sea-fisheries law and food safety law in relation to fish and fishery products. It strengthened the Fishery Harbour Centres Act 1968 to secure payment of rates and charges in relation to vessels and updated and replaced the Maritime Jurisdiction Acts 1959 to 1988. The Act updates sea-fishing boat registration and aquaculture licensing law, and provides for the repeal of 8 obsolete Fisheries Acts (1470, 1516, 1845, 1846, 1909, 1931 and 1951 (2)) and spent or superseded provisions in 8 other Fisheries Acts (1959 to 2003) and 7 other Acts.</p>	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	4 April 2006
Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Bill 2005 No 9 of 2006	<p>The main purpose of the Bill is to implement the provisions of Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 concerning the establishment of arrangements for informing and consulting employees in undertakings and to provide for related matters.</p> <p>The Bill provides for the establishment of a general framework setting out minimum requirements for the right to information and consultation of employees in undertakings with at least 50 employees. It introduces for the first time in Irish legislation a general right to information and consultation for employees from their employer.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	9 April 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
Diplomatic Relations and Immunities (Amendment) Act 2006 No 10 of 2006	The Diplomatic Relations and Immunities (Amendment) Act 2006 amends Part VIII of the Diplomatic Relations and Immunities Act 1967, by inserting a limitation on delegations of legislative power. The Act inserts into Part VIII of the 1976 Act, as amended, the limitation that only privileges and immunities of the nature of those conferred in relation to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 may be conferred by Government order. The Act also provides that all orders made under Part VIII of the 1967 Act and in force immediately prior to the Act's enactment shall have effect as if they were an Act of the Oireachtas.	Department of Foreign Affairs	12 April 2006
Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 No 11 of 2006	The purpose of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 is to clarify, modernise and reform the law on criminal insanity and fitness to be tried and on related issues and to bring it into line with the jurisprudence of the European Convention on Human Rights.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	12 April 2006
Registration of Deeds and Titles Act 2006 (No. 12 of 2006)	The purpose of this Act is to establish the Property Registration Authority. Its main functions will be to manage and control the Land Registry and the Registry of Deeds and to promote and extend the registration of ownership of land. The Act also amends the Registration of Titles Act 1964 with a view to modernising the registration of title system. In addition, it repeals outdated legislation governing the operation of the Registry of Deeds and replaces it with provisions more suited to modern conditions and conveyancing practice. Finally, the Act amends two sections of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act 1978.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	7 May 2006
Parental Leave (Amendment) Act 2006 (No. 13 of 2006)	<p>This Act amends the Parental Leave Act 1998 to implement recommendations of the Social Partnership <i>Working Group on the Review and Improvement of the Parental Leave Act 1998</i>.</p> <p>The Act provides for the following:- raising the maximum age of the eligible child from 5 to 8 years; an increase in the maximum age of the eligible child to 16 years in the case of children with disabilities; extension of parental leave entitlements to persons acting <i>in loco parentis</i> in respect of an eligible child; extension of the <i>force majeure/compassionate leave</i> provisions to include persons in a relationship of domestic dependency, including same-sex partners; a statutory entitlement to take the 14 weeks parental leave in separate blocks of a minimum of 6 continuous weeks, or more favourable terms with the agreement of the employer; the transfer of parental leave entitlements from one parent to another if both parents are employed by the same employer, subject to the employer's agreement; that an employee who falls ill while on parental leave and as a result is unable to care for the child may suspend the parental leave for the duration of the illness following which period the parental leave recommences; provision for statutory codes of practice on the manner in which parental leave and <i>force majeure</i> leave might be taken and the manner in which an employer can terminate parental leave.</p>	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	18 May 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
Road Safety Authority Act 2006 (No. 14 of 2006)	The Road Safety Authority Bill was recently enacted and signed into law by the President on the 31 st of May 2006. The Department of Transport will now commence the process to formally establish the Road Safety Authority (RSA). The RSA will assume responsibility for all road safety related activities such as formulating strategies, the testing of drivers and vehicles, road safety research and data collection, driver education and the promotion and awareness of road safety in general.	Department of Transport	31 May 2006
Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006 (No. 15 of 2006)	On 23 May 2006, the Supreme Court struck down section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1935 (Defilement of girl under 15 years of age) on the basis that it did not provide a person charged with an offence under that provision with a defence of honest belief as to the age of the girl. The purpose of the above Act is to enact in modern, generally gender neutral terms, a replacement provision for the subsection struck down by the Supreme Court, with a defence for the defendant of honest belief that the child against whom the offence was alleged to have been committed had attained 15 years of age. Sections 1(2) (Attempt to defile girl under 15 years of age) and 2 (Defilement and attempted defilement of girl under 17 years of age) of the 1935 Act, while not the subject of the Supreme Court judgment, also did not provide a defence of honest belief as to age. Accordingly, they were repealed and similarly re-enacted in modern terms.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	2 June 2006
Employment Permits Act 2006 (No. 16 of 2006)	This Act sets out the criteria and / or procedures relating to the application for, or renewal of, an employment permit, and the granting, refusal or revocation of such permits. The legislation also provides new protections for foreign national workers and enables the Minister to introduce, by Regulation, a managed economic migration policy.	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	23 June 2006
Health (Repayment Scheme) Act 2006 No. 17 of 2006	This Act provides for a scheme to repay recoverable health charges to fully eligible individuals in publicly funded long stay residential care and also regulates patient private property accounts. All fully eligible persons who are still alive and the estates of fully eligible persons who died in the six years prior to the 9 December 2004 will have charges repaid in full. The repayment amount will include both the actual amount paid in charges and an amount to take account of inflation by reference to the consumer price index.	Department of Health	23 June 2006
European Communities (Amendment) Act 2006 No. 18 of 2006	This Act amends the European Communities Act 1972, so as to provide that certain provisions of the Treaty concerning the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union shall be part of the domestic law of the State.	Department of Foreign Affairs	28 June 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
National Campus Development Authority Act No. 19 of 2006	<p>This Act provides for the establishment of the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) on a statutory basis. NSCDA will succeed the present limited company Campus and Stadium Ireland Development Company Ltd (CSID) in function and responsibility and will continue the role of overseeing the planning and development of a sports campus at Abbotstown.</p> <p>The Act sets out the functions for the Authority including to develop and manage a sports campus on the site and encourage and promote its use by professional and amateur sports people and members of the public alike. It provides for the site currently owned by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to be conveyed to the Authority, and for the Authority to develop the land pending the conveyance.</p> <p>Under the terms of the Act, the Authority will have a Board consisting of a Chairperson and 12 members and it will also have a Chief Executive. The range of powers proposed for the Authority are set out in the Act, including transitional provisions in relation to transfer of staff from CSID to the new Authority, and other standard provisions in legislation of this type.</p>	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	5 July 2006
Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 No 20 of 2006	<p>The Defence (Amendment) Act, 2006 amends and updates the Defence Acts in relation to the despatch of members of the Permanent Defence Force on overseas duties. The current Defence Acts provide for the despatch of members of the Permanent Defence Force outside the State as part of an “<i>International United Nations Force</i>”. The 2006 Act updates and amends the definition of “<i>International United Nations Force</i>” together with formalising arrangements in relation to the despatch of members of the Permanent Defence Force on a range of other duties including, carrying out official duties, undergoing training, undertaking humanitarian tasks, representing the Defence Forces at various events etc.</p>	Department of Defence	12 July 2006
National Economic and Social Development Office Act 2006 No 21 of 2006	<p>This Act establishes the National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO), comprising three bodies, the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), and the National Centre for Partnership and Performance (NCP), and such other bodies as the Taoiseach may by order establish. The Act also defines the functions of each of these bodies. Both the NESC and the NESF have been in existence on their own for some time, while the NCP - the successor to the National Centre for Partnership - arises from the commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness that it would be located with the NESC and the NESF, within the National Economic and Social Development Office, where it would work with IBEC and ICTU in supporting the deepening of partnership.</p>	Department of Finance	12 July 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
<p>Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal (Amendment) Act 2006</p> <p>No. 22 of 2006</p>	<p>This Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishes a scheme to allow persons infected with Hepatitis C and HIV, through the administration within the State of blood and blood products, to purchase mortgage protection and life assurance policies and annual travel insurance; - defines Hepatitis C diagnosis in the Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal Acts 1997 and 2002, and the Health (Amendment) Act 1996 in terms of either one of the following scientific tests: the 'ELISA test', the 'RIBA test', or the 'PCR test', or alternatively, if the person has displayed symptoms of acute infection with jaundice up to 16 weeks after administration of anti-D. If another test is identified this can be added by Regulations; - clarifies that under the Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal Acts 1997 and 2002 compensation for loss of consortium will be awarded to spouses and partners of persons where the relationship had commenced before diagnosis of Hepatitis C or HIV was known. New partners or spouses of infected persons who entered relationships after the diagnosis of Hepatitis C, will be unable to claim damages for loss of consortium. 	<p>Department of Health and Children</p>	<p>16 July 2006</p>
<p>Road Traffic Act 2006</p> <p>No 23 of 2006</p>	<p>The principal provisions in the Road Traffic Act 2006 include the provision enabling Mandatory Alcohol Testing (MAT) checkpoints to be set up by An Garda Síochána, a ban on holding a mobile phone while driving, and the legislative provision supporting the operation of privately operated speed cameras. This legislation has addressed the issues outstanding in the current Road Safety Strategy that required primary legislation particularly in the key problem areas of drink driving and speeding.</p>	<p>Department of Transport</p>	<p>16 July 2006</p>
<p>Building Societies (Amendment) Act 2006</p> <p>No 24 of 2006</p>	<p>This Act gives building societies a greater range of options in relation to their corporate status. It supports any society wishing to remain mutual, but allows any society that wishes to demutualise, further options to pursue that strategy.</p> <p>The other main aspect of the Act is that it updates aspects of building society legislation, particularly by increasing the powers and discretion of societies, subject to approval by the Central Bank, as appropriate, in relation to matters such as the range of services they provide, how they source funding, bodies they can invest in, categories of persons that may be given membership and the extent to which specific approval of members and the Central Bank is needed in order to undertake certain functions.</p>	<p>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</p>	<p>16 July 2006</p>
<p>Institutes of Technology Act 2006</p> <p>No 25 of 2006</p>	<p>This Act brings the Institutes of Technology within the remit of the Higher Education Authority. In doing so, the legislation creates the opportunity for a unified strategic framework for higher education in Ireland. The Act also removes the Minister and the Vocational Education Committees from the normal operational activities of the Institutes and provides greater autonomy to the Institutes to fulfill their roles. The Act clarifies the respect oversight and management functions of the Governing Body and Director/President.</p>	<p>Department of Education and Science</p>	<p>16 July 2006</p>



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
Criminal Justice Act 2006 No 26 of 2006	<p>The Criminal Justice Act 2006 contains a comprehensive package of anti-crime measures designed to enhance the powers of An Garda Síochána in the investigation and prosecution of offences and generally provide for improvements to the operation of the criminal justice system. The Act, in the main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· amends and extends the powers of An Garda Síochána in relation to such matters as the preservation of crime scenes, the detention and photographing of suspects and the seizure and retention of evidence;· makes a number of amendments to criminal law and procedure including the admissibility of witness statements in circumstances where a witness recants or denies making a prior statement and the extension of the circumstances in which the prosecution can appeal a point of law to the Supreme Court;· makes provision for new offences including offences in relation to organised crime, the supply of drugs, reckless endangerment of children and attacks against emergency workers;· amends the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 so as to strengthen and extend its mandatory minimum sentencing provisions for drug trafficking offences;· provides for an obligation on drug trafficking offenders to notify information as to their whereabouts to An Garda Síochána;· provides new sentencing options in lieu of imprisonment;· provides new civil mechanisms to deal with anti-social behaviour by children and adults;· updates and strengthens our laws on firearms and fireworks including by the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for some firearms offences;· contains a comprehensive package on juvenile justice issues which will facilitate the implementation of the Children Act 2001; and· provides for the establishment of the Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	16 July 2006



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
For 2006

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
No. 27 of 2006 - Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 No. 27 of 2006	This Act amends the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide for the introduction of a 'strategic consent process' for strategic infrastructure of national importance provided by other statutory bodies and private promoters. It also provides for a range of supporting measures, including the restructuring of An Bord Pleanála to allow for the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Division to handle all major infrastructure projects. The types of infrastructure that will be included in the process include major environmental, transport and energy related projects. Where the Board decides that the project in question is of strategic importance, an application, accompanied by an environmental impact statement, will be made directly to the Board. The public, the local authority (including the elected members) and interested stakeholders will be consulted and their views will be taken into account. The Board is being given greater flexibility to handle infrastructure consent applications, including the possibility for pre-application discussions with the applicant. A greater range of more flexible decisions are also now available to the Board and including the power to require infrastructure providers to provide direct and substantial benefits to local communities affected by major infrastructure projects. In coming to any decision, the Board will be required to have regard to the national interest and any effect any decision may have on issues of strategic economic or social importance to the State, as well as to the National Spatial Strategy and any regional planning guidelines in force for the area.	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government	16 July 2006

No 28 of 2006 - Road Traffic and Transport Act 2006	The purpose of this Act is to strengthen some of the key measures introduced under the Road Safety Strategy 2004 – 2006, particularly those relating to drink driving, to provide for some technical amendments to provisions relating to drink driving, and to provide for, in primary law, the power for the Minister for Transport to grant licences to road haulage and to road passenger transport operators.	Department of Transport	4 October 2006
No 29 of 2006 - Sea Pollution (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	This Act updates our legislation in relation to the protection of the marine environment through giving effect in our law to several internationally agreed instruments concerning the prevention of, response to and liability for pollution from ships.	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	31 October 2006
No 30 of 2006 - International Criminal Court Act 2006	The purpose of this Act is to give effect to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) signed by Ireland in July 1998 and which came into force on 1 July 2002. The Statute provides for the establishment of an International Criminal Court with jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute and punish persons who commit the most serious offences of concern to the international community – genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over individuals, rather than States. The Court has jurisdiction over crimes committed in situations anywhere in the world, which are referred to it by the United Nations Security Council. The Act creates domestic offences and associated penalties for International Criminal Court crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It enables assistance to be given to the International Criminal Court in this country by permitting the arrest and surrender of persons requested by the International Criminal Court. It also provides for freezing of assets and enforcement of International Criminal Court orders for fines and other forms of practical assistance in the investigation of International Criminal Court offences.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	31 October 2006
No 31 of 2006 - Patents (Amendment) Act 2006	<p>This Act amends the Patents Act, 1992 and has four purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to bring patent law, mainly in the area of the compulsory licensing of patents, into compliance with obligations under the Agreement on the Trade related aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPs), annexed to the WTO Agreement; • Amendments consequent on the revision of the European Patent Convention. The main changes relate to patentability criteria and, in particular, explicit recognition that a patent may be obtained for a second medical use of a known substance; recognition of the limitation of European patents designating the State under the central limitation procedure before the European Patent Office (EPO); provision for the protection of third parties where a patent is restored by the Enlarged Board of Appeal of the EPO, following its review of a decision of a Board of Appeal of the EPO. • Provisions and amendments to enable Ireland to accede to the Patent Law Treaty, which 	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	11 December 2006

	<p>was concluded under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The purpose of the Patent Law Treaty is to harmonise the formal requirements for patent applications set by national and regional patent offices such as the elements of an application, filing date, priority, time limits etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miscellaneous necessary amendments to intellectual property legislation, (Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and Copyright) mainly by way of clarification or correction. <p>The Act was signed by the President on 11 December 2006. Certain sections of the Act, those relating to the revision of the European Patent Convention and the Patent Law Treaty, will require commencement orders.</p>		
--	---	--	--

<p>No 32 of 2006 British Irish Agreement (Amendment) Act 2006</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Act is a short technical amendment to the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999, establishing the North/South Implementation Bodies. 2. The legislation gives domestic legal effect to an Agreement with the British Government constituted by an Exchange of Letters dated 25 July 2006. The Exchange of Letters and Bill clarify the mandate of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) in the context of alterations to EU funding structures from 1 January 2007. 	<p>Department of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>11 December 2006</p>
<p>No 33 of 2006 - Electoral (Amendment) Act 2006</p>	<p>The Act provides specific arrangements for postal voting by prisoners. Prisoners will continue to be registered at their home address and, for voting purposes, will be deemed to be ordinarily resident in their home constituency. Prisoners must be able to establish that they were ordinarily resident in the State prior to being imprisoned in order to avail of the postal voting arrangements. As is the case with all voters, citizenship will determine the type of elections at which prisoners can vote. The Act also provides for a number of miscellaneous amendments to electoral law.</p>	<p>Department of Environment and Local Government</p>	<p>11 December 2006</p>
<p>No 34 of 2006 - Industrial Development Act 2006</p>	<p>This Act amends the Industrial Development Act 1993 by the insertion of a new Section 21A into the 1993 Act. The new Section gives legislative authority to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to designate the transfer of staff from Shannon Development to Forfas. It also provides a guarantee that the pay, conditions of service and pension arrangements of staff who are so designated shall be in no way diminished by virtue of the transfer.</p>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>	<p>18 December 2006</p>
<p>No 35 of 2006 - Appropriation Act 2006</p>	<p>This Act provides statutory authority for the allocation by Dáil Eireann of Exchequer moneys for public services for the year 2006. The Act provides for the carryover of unspent Exchequer capital of up to 10% of the 2006 allocation for spending in 2007 on capital services specified in the Act. It also includes a technical provision to allow for deferment of the end of year deadline for the Financial Resolutions passed on Budget night.</p>	<p>Department of Finance</p>	<p>19 December 2006</p>
<p>No 36 of 2006 - Social Welfare Act 2006</p>	<p>The main purpose of this Act is to give effect to a number of social welfare measures as announced in Budget 2007. The Act provides for increases in the rates of social insurance and social assistance payments and improvements in Family Income Supplement, Maternity and Adoptive Benefit, Death Benefit Funeral Expenses Grant, Bereavement Grant, Widowed Parent Grant, State Pension (Non-Contributory) and Disability Allowance schemes.</p> <p>It also provides for raising the weekly earnings amount at which PRSI becomes payable, and an</p>	<p>Department of Social and Family Affairs</p>	<p>19 December 2006</p>

	increase in the income ceiling above which PRSI contributions are not payable by employed or optional contributors. In addition, the Act provides for changes to the Health Contributions Act 1979 to provide for an increase in the amount of contributions payable for earnings over a certain threshold, and for an increase in the weekly and annual exemption thresholds for the Health Contribution Levy.		
No 37 of 2006 - Europol (Amendment) Act 2006	<p>This Act gives effect in Irish law to three Protocols to the Convention on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention). The Europol Convention was given the force of law in the State by the Europol Act 1997, and the Protocols make amendments which are mainly of a procedural nature, to that Convention.</p> <p>The effect of the First Protocol is to extend to a degree, the competence of Europol to deal with money laundering. The Second and Third Protocols clarify certain powers in relation to participation in Joint Investigation Teams and privileges and immunities applying to Europol members, and streamline the internal workings of Europol.</p>	Tanaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform	23 December 2006
No 38 of 2006 - IRISH FILM BOARD (AMENDMENT) ACT 2006	The purpose of this Act is to amend the Irish Film Board Act 1980 to increase, from £80,000,000 (€101,579,046) to €200,000,000, the total funding provided by the Irish Film Board towards the cost of making films and providing training in all aspects in the making of films. The current legislation governing the Board stipulates that the maximum of the aggregate amount of any investments, loans, grants or moneys provided by the Board towards the cost of making films and providing training in all aspects in the making of films is set at £80,000,000(€101,579,046).	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	23 December 2006

No 39 of 2006 - Houses of the Oireachtas Commission (Amendment) Act 2006	This Act established the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission to administer the running of the Dáil and Seanad, and provided for funding for the Commission for the three years up to the end of 2006. The main purpose of this Amendment is to provide funding for the Commission to continue its work for the next three years up to the end of 2009. The Act provides for a maximum amount of €93m for the period.	Department of Finance	23 December 2006
No 40 of 2006 - Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act	This Act is an important component in driving forward the Government's progressive energy agenda. It expands the regulatory functions of the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) to develop an all-island energy market, to regulate electrical contractors and gas installers with respect to safety and to regulate electricity interconnectors. It also provides for greater Ministerial powers to provide policy directions to the Commission for Energy Regulation, to open the natural gas market and to take action in the case of emergencies. Finally it provides for a wide range of miscellaneous matters, including mine site rehabilitation and the issue of capital stock in Bord Gáis Éireann.	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	24 December 2006
No 41 of 2006 - Investment Funds, Companies and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2006	<p>This Act makes a number of amendments to the Companies Acts 1963-2005 dealing with matters relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private Companies and their ability to offer shares and debentures; ➤ Increase of audit exemption thresholds; ➤ Dematerialisation of securities certification; ➤ Guarantor liability for prospectus content; and ➤ Consent of experts relating to material provided by them in Prospectuses. <p>The Act also facilitates the transposition of the EU Transparency Directive which is due to be transposed into Irish law by January 2007; amends the Takeover Panel Act 1997 including provisions to complete the transposition of the EU Takeovers Directive which was transposed into Irish law to meet the EU deadline of 20 May 2006; and amends the Consumer Information Act 1978 to allow for the appointment of a person to perform the functions of the Director of Consumer Affairs for a period of more than 6 months. It also provides for Statutory Declarations to be made abroad for the purposes of the Companies Acts and amends the Netting of Financial Contracts Act 1995 to ensure the protections of that Act for Common Contractual Funds.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	24 December 2006
No 42 of 2006 - Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006	This Act provides a statutory basis for the establishment of Business Improvement District Schemes (BIDS) within the functional areas of local authorities. A Business Improvement District Scheme is an organisational and financing mechanism through which businesses can develop, fund and implement initiatives, in defined areas, to improve those areas for the betterment of the trading environment in which they operate. A Business Improvement District company, representative of business and the local authority, is charged with responsibility for implementing the provisions of a Business Improvement District Scheme.	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	24 December 2006

	<p>The Act also makes new provision in relation to the functions of audit committees in local authorities; provides for the imposition and collection of new levies applicable to newly constructed properties; and amends section 56 of the Valuation Act 2001 to allow for buoyancy in rates revenue to apply in the year following revaluation by the Valuation Office.</p>		
--	--	--	--