

Key Governance Topics for 2020

Thursday, 23 January 2020, 8.00am – 10.30am

Institute of Public Administration, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin D04 TC62
A light breakfast will be served at 8am and the proceedings will commence at 8.30am

At the outset of each year, we look ahead to some of the key challenges, risks and opportunities facing public and state bodies and public benefit entities over the coming 12 months and beyond. Invariably, a key aspect amongst these is the **Irish economic and fiscal outlook**, particularly in the context of Brexit and recent Irish economic and fiscal performance. Whilst a general election looks likely in 2020, there are a number of key **government and public service priorities**, which will influence the year ahead, particularly in the context of ongoing public service innovation initiatives and digitalisation. Finally, public and state bodies and public benefit entities have done much over recent years to build and in some cases rebuild trust with key stakeholders. A key aspect of this is effective performance. We will consider Irish **Public Sector Trends**, including comparative performance of the public sector with other jurisdictions.

This first important Forum session will hear from three expert speakers on these three topics, with a particular focus on some of the key issues for public and state bodies and public benefit entities. The agenda will consider key questions, such as:

- What is the outlook for the Irish economy and fiscal policy in 2020 and beyond?
- What impact might Brexit have on the Irish economy and public finances?
- What are likely to be the key government and public service-wide priorities in 2020?
- What do Boards and senior executives need to focus on to ensure that their organisation continues to innovate?
- How does the Irish public sector compare with other jurisdictions in terms of size, scale, performance and trust?



Robert Watt is Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, a position he has held since 2011. Robert is an economist with significant experience in both the public and private sectors, including in a range of roles in the Department of Finance and as an Economic Consultant. He is a member of the Board of the NTMA and was previously a member of the Economic Management Council.



Seamus Coffey is Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, a position he has held since 1 January 2017 having originally become a member of the Council in 2016. He is a Lecturer in Economics in the Department of Economics in University College Cork, with his research and writing focusing on the performance of the Irish economy. In October 2016, Seamus was appointed the independent expert by the Minister for Finance to undertake a review of Ireland's Corporation Tax Code. Seamus is a member of the external advisory board to the Irish Governmental Economic Evaluation Service, and of the council of the Irish Economic Association.



Dr Richard Boyle is Head of Research, Publishing & Corporate Relations at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), and has been the IPA's lead researcher for many years, with a particular interest in public service modernisation, managing for results and developing and implementing effective performance management and evaluation systems. Richard has worked widely with Irish central and local government, the OECD and the World Bank, and has published numerous books and papers on public service management, including the annual IPA Public Sector Trends report. He is a member of the International Evaluation Working Group on policy and programme evaluation, whilst also being on the board of the European Evaluation Society (2002-2005), and chair of the Irish Evaluation Network.

* The event will be chaired by **Dr. Marlan O'Sullivan**, Director General of the IPA

Time & Location

The briefing will take place on Thursday, 23 January 2020 at the IPA, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 TC62.

A light breakfast will be served from 8.00am. The presentations and open forum discussions will commence at 8.30am and conclude at 10.30am.

Cost and Bookings

Members of the Forum may nominate up to two participants to the briefing without charge. The cost for additional nominees is €100 per person. The cost for non-forum members is €250 per person but subject to availability. Bookings can be made using the attached booking form or by contacting Jane Greer (jgreer@ipa.ie)