

Open Government Round Table Members¹ and bios

Civil Society Members	Public Sector Members
<p>Antóin Ó Lachtnáin (Co-Chair Civil Society) <i>Chair of Open Government Association Ireland, Director of Digital Rights Ireland and exmuris.</i></p>	<p>Sarah Glavey (Co-Chair Public Sector) <i>Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR) Head of Public Sector Transformation Policy Unit</i></p>
<p>Seamus Boland <i>Irish Rural Link</i></p>	<p>Kieran Moylan <i>Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)</i></p>
<p>Shana Cohen <i>TASC</i></p>	<p>Barry Vaughan² <i>Department of the Taoiseach – (DTAO) Public Service Justice and Policing Reform</i></p>
<p>Johnny Sheehan <i>The Wheel</i></p>	<p>Andrew Patterson <i>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)</i></p>
<p>Kathryn McCabe <i>Individual and Change Agency</i></p>	<p>Diarmuid O’Leary <i>Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) Local Governance and Elected Members</i></p>
<p>Fiona Descoteaux <i>Innovative Communities</i></p>	<p>Antoinette Doran <i>Department of Justice (DJUST) Criminal Justice, Penal Policy and Victims’ Rights Content and Events</i></p>
	<p>Anne O Mahony <i>Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR) Expenditure Division, Government Reform</i></p>
<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>Victoria Gbafah <i>Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR)</i></p>	<p>Jackie Fisher <i>Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR) Open Government in Ireland National Point of Contact</i></p>

¹ Joined the Round Table in November 2021 and is currently serving, unless otherwise stated.

² Joined the Round Table in March 2023 and is currently serving.

Board representation:

There is a Government target to achieve 40% representation of each gender in the membership of all State Boards³. While the Open Government Partnership Round Table is not a State Board, its terms of reference embrace the spirit of the Government target. The Open Government Partnership Round Table (excluding the Secretariat) currently has six female Board members and seven male Round Table members, and zero vacancies. To meet the gender balance target, the permanent Open Government Round Table with thirteen members would need to continue to have at least six members of each gender.

Civil Society Members:

Member: **Antóin Ó Lachtnáin**

Affiliation: Open Government Association Ireland / Digital Rights Ireland

Role: Co-Chair

Responsibilities: Antóin Ó Lachtnáin is a volunteer director of Digital Rights Ireland and has been engaged with the Open Government Partnership process in Ireland since 2014. In his day-to-day work, he provides services for suppliers in the electricity sector. He holds a Diploma in Financial Management from ACCA and a degree in psychology and philosophy from Trinity College, Dublin.

Member: **Seamus Boland**

Affiliation: Irish Rural Link

Role: CEO

Responsibilities: Holder of a degree in Rural Development and in Speech and Drama. Currently CEO of Irish Rural Link and President of Civil Society Organisations in the European Economic Social Committee. Chair of the Peatlands Council. Former Co-ordinator of the Midland Regional Youth Service. Former Chair of Pobal. Former member of the Irish Press Council having chaired its financial committee. Former chair of the CORU Ophthalmic Regulatory Board. Throughout his career, has had a continued link with all aspects of government ranging from local to national as well as the EU.

Member: **Shana Cohen**

Affiliation: TASC

Role: Director

Responsibilities: I am the Director of TASC, an independent think tank based in Dublin focused on inequality and democracy in Ireland and the EU. Originally from the US, I have a PhD in Sociology and have lived in multiple countries. I have extensive experience working with NGOs and researching how they contribute to democratisation and sustaining democratic practices.

³ Source: Government of Ireland (2020), '[Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies: Annex on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/201558/41894d60-243d-4980-abb8-2d50e9e6669f.pdf)', Appendix 2 at <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/201558/41894d60-243d-4980-abb8-2d50e9e6669f.pdf>

Member: Kathryn Mc Cabe
Affiliation: Individual and Change Agency
Roles: Multiple (refer to below).

Responsibilities: For the last 16 years she has consulted internationally, guiding NGOs, business and community groups towards sustainability and well-being. She is a professional facilitator, emergent program designer and collaborative leadership development specialist.

A radical Masters in Australia, Social Ecology, enabled her to engage with complex systems and design context-specific change strategies. Crucially, to feel inspired about what is possible when people feel respected and trusted to take their next step towards change. She is Ireland's only trained social ecologist.

She was a lecturer at the University of Western Sydney in Education for Sustainability. She was on the organising committee for the first International Democratic Education Conference in Australia. She has a special interest in youth Rites of Passage; Directing a 6-week residential summer program on Vancouver Island, Canada and Ireland's first ancestrally appropriate youth program, True Nature.

Kathryn sits on the National Board (Secretariat) for the Public Participation Network, and on her local Roscommon Secretariat. She is passionate about amplifying the needs of civic society to influence and direct local policy decisions. The PPN is the only constitutionally recognised avenue to facilitate that, and open to all registered groups.

She is the co-founder of Roscommon Transition Towns, a collaboration of local groups transitioning the region to a sustainable and just society with actions like Community Supported Agriculture and community owned energy. She brings an unusual array of experience and training to help cultivate regenerative change. www.thechangeagency.ie

Member: Johnny Sheehan
Affiliation: The Wheel
Role: National Rural Network & Member Engagement Manager

Responsibilities: Johnny Sheehan is National Rural Network (NRN) and Member Engagement Manager in The Wheel. Johnny has more than 25 years' experience in the non-profit sector nationally and internationally. He leads The Wheel's work around outreach and engagement with The Wheel's member organisations and the wider community and voluntary sector. As NRN lead for The Wheel, he works with a broad range of rural stakeholders to support their engagement with Ireland's Rural Development Programme.

Part of The Wheel's Public Policy team, a key part of his role is to facilitate networking with community and voluntary organisations and ensuring that issues affecting local communities are reflected in The Wheel's work nationally. Johnny has also led The Wheel's work on engaging civil society in a number of national dialogue processes. He represents The Wheel members', and the wider sector's shared interests in the Community and Voluntary Pillar and in Coalition 2030, a network of civil society organisations working to influence the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at local and national level.

Prior to working with The Wheel, Johnny worked with Dóchas, Fairtrade Ireland and the National Youth Council of Ireland. Johnny is currently Chairperson of the Irish Development Education Association and holds a Law Society Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance.

Member: **Fiona Descoteaux**
Affiliation: Innovate Communities
Role: CEO and Co-Founder

Responsibilities: Fiona Descoteaux is CEO and Co-Founder of Innovate Communities. Innovate Communities is a non-profit working with local authorities, government, multinationals and communities to collectively put citizens at the centre of improving intricate local community systems to build resilient, sustainable and equitable urban and rural communities. Over the next five years via our 2021-2025 strategic plan, we are focused on empowering communities and diverse stakeholders to evaluate their systems surrounding local community issues, and together we will work to improve systems and to create the communities of the future!

Public Sector Members:

Member: **Kieran Moylan**
Department: Department of Rural and Community Development
Division: Libraries Development and Community Policy
Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: Responsibility for developing and supporting the local governance structures arising from local government reform process, namely Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs); implementing the Framework Policy for Local and Community Development; Libraries Development and Policy; managing the Department's responsibilities under the PEACE IV Programme (2014-2020); and managing the Community Services Programme (CSP).

Member: **Barry Vaughan**
Department: Department of the Taoiseach
Area: Public Service Justice and Policing Reform
Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: Supporting the Taoiseach on social policy and public service reform and related matters, including the work of the Cabinet Committee on Social Affairs and Equality; supporting Civil Service Renewal, including through the Civil Service Management Board; and supporting policing reform, including through the Policing Reform Implementation Programme Office.

Member: **Andrew Patterson**

Department: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Division: Corporate Governance

Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: *Responsibility at Principal Officer level for the work of the Corporate Governance Unit - including oversight of the management of the Ministers' Offices, the Secretary General's office and the work of the Central Co-ordination Unit. Andrew is the main point of contact on a wide range of cross-departmental and international issues relevant to the Department; business planning and risk management; agency governance, including co-ordination of agency board appointments; and governance oversight of the Ombudsman for Children's Office.*

Member: **Diarmuid O'Leary**

Department: Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Division: Local Governance and Elected Members

Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: *Diarmuid O'Leary has responsibility at Head of Business Unit level for certain policy development initiatives, including the governance of cities and directly elected mayors with executive functions, and increasing the participation of women in local government. He is responsible also for supporting effective governance arrangements in local authorities, including matters such as engagement with representative associations of elected members; the role and conditions of elected members, and associated training requirements; ethics provisions in the local government sector; customer service; the local authority code of governance and corporate plans. Submissions to the Minister under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 from the local government sector also fall within his remit.*

Member: **Antoinette Doran**

Department: Department of Justice

Division: Criminal Justice, Penal Policy and Victims' Rights Content and Events

Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: *Antoinette is the Transparency Business Partner for the Criminal Justice, Penal Policy and Victims' Rights Pillar. The purpose of the Criminal Justice, Penal Policy and Victims' Rights Content and Events team is to develop factual, quality and timely content related to the work of the Criminal Justice Pillar and to provide support and input into delivery of events.*

Member: **Anne O Mahony**

Department: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform

Division: Reform Division, Head of Government Reform & Legislation

Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities: *Government Reform including development of reform commitments on ethics, lobbying policy and protected disclosures. It also includes managing the Freedom of Information Central Policy Unit.*

Secretariat:

Co-Chair: Sarah Glavey

Department: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform

Division: Head of Public Service Transformation Policy

Grade: Principal Officer

Responsibilities:

Secretariat: Victoria Gbafah

Department: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform

Division: Public Service Transformation Policy

Grade: Assistant Principal

Responsibilities: *Victoria Gbafah has the responsibility of driving transformation across the civil and public service through the development and implementation of sound policy initiatives. This includes putting in place the necessary supports that enables transformation amongst public and civil servants and evaluating transformation initiatives. Victoria is part of Ireland's Open Government Partnership team and is point of contact (since March 2023). She is the secretariat to the Open Government Partnership Round Table, to support their development of the next Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.*

Secretariat: Jackie Fisher

Department: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform

Division: Public Service Transformation Policy

Grade: Administrative Officer

Responsibilities: *Ireland's Open Government in Ireland point of contact (since November 2022). Secretariat to the Open Government Partnership Round Table to support their development of the next Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.*

Contact details:

For the attention of the Secretariat at:

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