

All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

FIFTH PLENARY
DUBLIN CASTLE
15 FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE ALL-ISLAND CIVIC DIALOGUE ON BREXIT.

Since our last plenary session in April 2018, the Government has stepped up its preparations for Brexit. While ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement is still the Government's preferred outcome, we continue to prepare for the possibility that the UK fails to agree a deal for its departure from the EU on 29 March 2019, both domestically and as part of the EU.

We are all deeply aware of the potentially profound political, economic and trade impacts of a no deal Brexit. The Government is taking very clear steps to mitigate these impacts.

This plenary session will provide participants with an update on the preparations that have taken place. We hope that it will provide some clarity to citizens and businesses on the work that has been done and the supports that are in place.

We hope that you find this event both useful and informative. As this process continues, it is important that all views on the issues are heard.



LEO VARADKAR, T.D.
Taoiseach



SIMON COVENEY, T.D.
*Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign
Affairs and Trade*

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Facilitators



TOM ARNOLD served as Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) from 2013 until April 2017. He has previously served as Interim Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement (2014–16), Chairman of the Constitutional Convention (2012–2014) and CEO of Concern Worldwide (2001–13). In his earlier career he was Assistant Secretary General with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Senior Economist with ACOT, the farm advisory service, and Senior Administrator with the European Commission serving in Brussels, Ivory Coast and Malawi.

Tom has held leadership positions with a number of national, European and international boards and organisations. He was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2016.

Tom has a degree in agricultural economics from UCD and Masters degrees from the Catholic University of Leuven and Trinity College Dublin.



AINE LAWLOR joined RTÉ in September 1984 as a trainee journalist, working on a number of radio and television programmes. She then became a reporter/presenter in January 1988, eventually leading to her becoming a presenter on Morning Ireland which she joined in 1995 and presented for over 17 years. She has worked on The Pat Kenny Show, Today at 5,

RTÉ 2fm News and a variety of television programmes, including The Nature of Things, Tuesday File and as narrator for the highly-acclaimed series on clerical sexual abuse in Irish institutions, States of Fear.

She was awarded Best News Broadcaster of the Year at the prestigious PPI Radio Awards in October 2012 and went on to be inducted into the PPI Hall of Fame in 2014. In August 2013, she joined RTÉ's flagship lunchtime radio news programme News at One as alternating presenter and was also appointed as presenter of The Week in Politics on RTÉ One television. In November 2013, she presented a two-part documentary Facing Cancer which followed her as she re-traced the steps of her journey to overcome breast cancer.

Ministers



MINISTER JOE MCHUGH is Minister for Education and Skills. He previously served as Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of Culture with responsibility for Gaeilge, Gaeltacht and the Islands up to October 2018. He was previously appointed as Co-Chairperson of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in July

2011. In July 2012 Deputy McHugh was elected as Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Deputy McHugh was re-elected to Dáil Éireann as a Fine Gael T.D. for Donegal in 2016.

Joe was elected to Seanad Éireann in 2002 and was Fine Gael Seanad spokesman on Community, Rural, Gaeltacht and Marine Affairs from 2002–2007.

He previously served as Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development.



MINISTER HELEN MCENTEE was elected to Dáil Éireann in a By-Election in March 2013, and re-elected in the February 2016 General Election. Deputy McEntee was appointed by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D., to the position of Minister for Mental Health and Older People at the Department of Health in May 2016. In June 2017, as part of a

Government reshuffle by newly appointed Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., Minister McEntee was promoted to the position of Minister of State for EU Affairs at the Departments of An Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Panelists



LES ALLAMBY

was appointed Chief Commissioner for a period of five years on 1 September 2014. As part of the Joint Committee with the Irish

Human Rights and Equality Commission, the two commissions have worked extensively on human rights and equality issues arising from Brexit. Les is a solicitor and formerly the Director of the Law Centre (Northern Ireland). He was an honorary Professor of Law at the University of Ulster last year and was a trustee of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland from 2009-2018. He is a former Chair of an Advisory group to Human Rights Commission on proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. From 2015-2018 he chaired the Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs.

He is also formerly the Chair of the Social Security Standards Committee for Northern Ireland, a member of the Legal Services Commission (Northern Ireland) and a member of the Legal Services Review Group. He has undertaken election monitoring for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organisation for Migration in Bosnia, Pakistan and Georgia. Les is also a former Chair of the immigration sub group (OFMDFM) and a former member of the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (Home Office).

He is also a former chair and member of the executive committee of the Committee for the Administration of Justice and former member of the Executive committee of the Children's Law Centre.



TARA MCCARTHY is the Chief Executive of Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board. She brings with her over 25 years' experience in the wider food industry having served as CEO

of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's seafood development agency as well as operated in overseas markets for 10 years in Germany, France and Belgium. Tara holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with an MBS in Marketing from Smurfit Business School and is an affiliate of IMD Business School, Switzerland.



STEPHEN KELLY

is Chief Executive of Manufacturing Northern Ireland. The sector is a larger part of the Northern Ireland economy than in the

rest of the UK representing 11% of direct jobs but supporting a total of 1 in 4 jobs in Northern Ireland, accounting for almost 2/3rd of exports and R&D spend. Particularly important in rural constituencies, almost half of jobs in Mid and East Antrim and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council areas are in manufacturing with more than half of jobs in Mid-Ulster dependent on the sector.

MNI work on behalf of the 5,500 manufacturing firms particularly on the costs of doing business and Brexit.

Previously, Stephen was Managing Director of an international marketing and comms firm, CEO of Derry - Londonderry City Centre Initiative and involved in dispute resolution around parading issues across Northern Ireland. He is a former National President of British Junior Chamber, graduate of the US State Department's IVP Programme and is the current Vice Chair of the NI Assembly and Business Trust.



JOHN MCGRANE

is Director General of The British Irish Chamber of Commerce, a private sector organisation which he co-founded in 2011 to represent businesses with

interests in the two islands and their economies. He is a retired financial services professional having completed a 40 year career with the Royal Bank of Scotland / Ulster Bank Group in Ireland.

His career has spanned substantial initiatives in the enterprise and corporate sectors, both indigenous and foreign direct investment.

He is Founder of NSI Technology, a tech start-up which helps Not For Profits become Not For Losses. He is a Board Director at Dublin Chamber of Commerce and at The British Irish Chamber of Commerce and a number of charities.

He retains active roles in the Cultural, Tourism and Trade Development sectors, having served on a number of related Boards and Government Taskforces.



ALLISON MORRIS

began her reporting career almost 20-years ago, working in the weekly newspaper industry. She joined the Irish News in 2007 and since

then has gone on to collect several awards for her work.

They include: NUJ Journalist of the Year 2010, Society of Editors News journalist of the Year 2011 and CIPR Columnist of the Year 2014 and Society of Editors Columnist of the Year 2017.

Allison is also a weekly columnist for The Irish News and a regular political commentator on radio and television.



TANYA WARD

is the Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance since 2012. Previously, she was the Deputy Director at the Irish Council for Civil

Liberties (ICCL) where she worked for eight years. She has also worked with the Irish Centre for Migration Studies, the Irish Refugee Council, the Curriculum Development Unit and the City of Dublin VEC. A former lecturer in human rights on the MPhil in Ethnic and Racial Studies, TCD, and the Masters in Equality Studies in the UCD School for Social Justice, she is a former board member with Campaign for Children and played a major role in the children's referendum of 2012. She was also a former Vice President for the International Federation of Human Rights (2008-2011). Tanya has graduate and post-graduate degrees from UCC and an LL.M in Human Rights from Queen's University Belfast as well as a Certificate in Managing Community and Voluntary Organisations from the National College of Ireland. She has a keen interest in international human rights monitoring and lectures widely on this topic and has authored several reports on a wide range of issues including garda, judicial and criminal justice reform, equality law, education, anti-racism, separated children and children's rights.

Tanya is currently the Chair of the National Advisory Council for the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. She is also a board member of the Law Centre for Children and Young People Board and a member of the Oversight Board for the Childcare Law Reporting Project.

Programme

All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit: Fifth Plenary Session
Dublin Castle 15 February 2019

9.30 – 10.30	Registration Tea and coffee
10.30 – 10.35	Welcome by the Chair Tom Arnold
10.35 – 10.45	Welcome statement from An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D.
10.45 – 11.30	Contributions from Political Parties
11.30 – 12.00	Brexit – The Next Steps The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D. in conversation with Áine Lawlor
12.00 – 13:00	Light Lunch
13.00 – 14.00	Interactive Discussion – Brexit: People, Citizens, Rights PANELISTS: Minister Joe McHugh, Minister for Education and Skills Allison Morris, The Irish News Tanya Ward, Chief Executive of the Children’s Rights Alliance Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission MODERATOR: Tom Arnold
14.00 – 15.00	Interactive Discussion – Brexit: Business Preparations PANELISTS: Minister Helen McEntee, Minister of State for EU Affairs John McGrane, British Irish Chamber of Commerce Stephen Kelly, Manufacturing Northern Ireland Tara McCarthy, Bord Bia MODERATOR: Áine Lawlor
15.00 – 15.05	Closing remarks by Minister Helen McEntee T.D. Minister of State for EU Affairs



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