



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Appointments to Boards of State Bodies under aegis of DECC in 2021

Last updated 30th April 2021



Appointments to Boards of State Bodies under aegis of DECC in 2021

| Body | Member | Position Type | Basis of appointment | Term of Appointment | Biography |
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| National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) | Mr Rossa McCann | Ordinary Member | PAS Process | 4/01/2021 – 3/01/2026 | An engineering/maths graduate Rossa McCann qualified as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen (Dublin) and then joined CRH Group HQ finance function in 1987. The positions Rossa held during his 29 year career with CRH included those of Group Treasurer, Head of Group Financial Operations and Head of Group Finance. |
| Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) | Mr William Walsh | CEO | <i>Ex officio</i> | 27/01/2021 – 26/01/2026 | William Walsh is Chief Executive Officer in SEAI, having previously held the position of both Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer. William joined SEAI in 2013. Prior to joining SEAI he worked for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) where he held a number of roles including Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Director. Prior to that he held senior management positions in the private sector. William is a Chartered Accountant, holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Dublin City University and a Graduate Diploma in Strategy, Innovation and Change from UCD. |

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| Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) | Mr Patrick Gibbons | Ordinary Member | Nomination of Joint Oireachtas Committee | 16/02/2021 – 15/02/2024 | Mr. Patrick Gibbons is a full-time Independent Non-Executive Director. He is a commercial lawyer with experience on the board of several financial service companies and public bodies, including chairing several Audit & Risk Committees. Before that, he had 15 years' experience at senior executive level in charge of the compliance and legal functions of a number of leading financial services regulated entities encompassing enterprise risk management, corporate governance and regulation. A member of the IFI Board since 2016, he chaired its Audit & Risk Committee 2020-1. |
| Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Advisory Committee | Dr Aoife Foley | Member | Ministerial (PAS Process) | 18/02/2021 – 17/02/2024 | Dr Aoife Foley is a Reader in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in Queen's University Belfast and Editor in Chief of Elsevier's Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews, the leading journal in the world in the field of sustainable energy in Google Scholar. She also sits on the editorial boards of a number of other major journals in energy. Dr Foley has rapidly gained a leading international profile in sustainable energy systems, since joining academia in 2009, initially as a Lecturer in University College Cork, before joining Queen's in 2011. She has successfully accessed highly competitive national, international and industry funding totalling £2.3M. Prior to joining academia, she spent 12 years in senior project management roles in industry working in the energy, telecommunications, and pharmaceuticals sectors. |

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| EPA Advisory Committee | Ms Elaine Nevin | Member | Ministerial (PAS Process) | 18/02/2021 - 17/02/2024 | <p>Ms Elaine Nevin is the National Director of ECO-UNESCO, one of Ireland's leading organisations in environmental education and education for sustainable development. She holds a BA in Geography and Political Science, an MA, a Higher Diploma in Education and has worked in the field of environmental education and education for sustainable development (ESD) in both formal and non-formal settings for over 20 years. Elaine has led the development and growth of ECO-UNESCO and its range of education, training and youth programmes including 'Youth for Sustainable Development' – a peer education and youth leadership programme, 'Green Pathways' – a QQI accredited green training programme for unemployed young people and the 'Young Environmentalist Awards' which recognises and rewards young peoples' work in environmental protection. She has led ECO-UNESCO's partnership with UNESCO as a Key Partner of UNESCO's Global Action Programme (GAP) in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and its current international framework ESD for 2030. She was a Ministerial Appointee to the 6th EPA Advisory Committee, served as a member of the 7th EPA Advisory Committee and has been reappointed to the 8th EPA Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Department of Education and Skills Advisory Committee for the Irish National Strategy on ESD and the NDCA Advisory Group.</p> |
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| EPA Advisory Committee | Ms Yvonne Mullooly | Member | Ministerial (PAS Process) | 18/02/2021 – 17/02/2024 | Ms Yvonne Mullooly is Assistant Chief Executive (Chemicals & Prevention) in the Health & Safety Authority with responsibility for policy provision, advice and enforcement for a wide range of chemical, market surveillance, occupational health and safety legislation aimed at protecting human health, the safety of workers and consumers. Yvonne served as the Irish expert to the European Chemical Agency's Risk Assessment Committee from 2008 to 2019. Prior to joining the Authority in 2007 Yvonne worked in Local Government as a Senior Executive Scientist holding a BSc. (Hons) in Environmental Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway. |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Ms Sadhbh O'Neill | Member | Designated Nominating Body (Irish Environmental Network) | 18/02/2021– 17/02/2024 | Ms Sadhbh O'Neill is a PhD candidate at the School of Politics and International Relations at University College Dublin researching climate ethics and carbon trading. She holds an MA in Philosophy and Public Affairs (UCD), and a BA in English literature and Philosophy (TCD). She is currently policy coordinator for the Stop Climate Chaos, a coalition of civil society organisations that advocates for climate action. A former policy advisor to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action between 2018 and 2020, she also acted as coordinator and spokesperson for Climate Case Ireland during 2019 which took a successful legal challenge to the National Mitigation Plan. She has a long history of engagement with environmental campaigns and organisations and is a former Green Party councillor in Dublin city. She has served on the EPA Advisory Committee on Genetically Modified Organisms and is currently a member of the Department of Agriculture's |

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| | | | | | Forestry Working Group. |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Prof. John Wenger | Member | Designated Nominating Body (Institute of Chemistry of Ireland) | 18/02/2021–17/02/2024 | John Wenger is Professor of Chemistry at University College Cork (UCC), where he is also director of the Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry (CRAC Lab) and Principal Investigator at the Environmental Research Institute (ERI). He has over 25 years research experience in atmospheric chemistry and air pollution, producing over 100 publications in internationally renowned journals. His main research interests are in the atmospheric degradation of volatile organic compounds and the chemical composition and sources of atmospheric aerosols. He has been involved in a large number of National and European projects involving atmospheric simulation chambers and field measurement campaigns to improve our understanding of atmospheric processes and their links with air pollution and climate. Prof. Wenger is currently an Associate Editor for the journal Atmospheric Environment and the National Contact Person for the pan-European research infrastructure ACTRIS (Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure). |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Prof. Frances Lucy | Member | Designated Nominating Body (Environmental Sciences Association of | 18/02/2021 – 17/02/2024 | Professor Frances Lucy is Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Director of CERIS, the Centre for Environmental Research Innovation and Sustainability at the Institute of Technology, Sligo. She is a former chairperson and current council member of the Environmental Sciences Association of |

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| | | | Ireland) | | Ireland. Her main research interests are in aquatic invasive species, fisheries science, water quality and sustainability. Frances is a Board Member of Inland Fisheries Ireland. She is president of Invasivesnet and is also involved in environmental research nationally and with European partners. |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Mr Thomas Cooney | Member | Designated Nominating Body (Irish Farmers Association) | 18/02/2021 – 17/02/2024 | Thomas Cooney farms with his wife and two children near Stradone in Co. Cavan. He is a dairy and beef farmer and former National Chair of the Irish Farmers' Association Environment Committee. He led the award winning resource efficiency Smart Farming programme from 2016 to 2020. Thomas has also served on the board of recycling body IFFPG from 2017 to 2020 and member of An Forum Uisce 2018 to 2020. Thomas has also participated in a number of European forums including COPA. |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Dr Brendan Dunford | Member | Designated Nominating Body (Heritage Ireland) | 18/02/2021– 17/02/2024 | Dr Brendan Dunford is from a farming background in Co. Waterford. Brendan has spent over 20 years living and working in the Burren. In 2001 he completed his doctorate on the impact of farming on the heritage of the Burren, and later led the award-winning BurrenLIFE Project. He currently manages its successor, the 'Burren Programme' which works with over 300 farmers on 23,000ha of heritage-rich landscape. Along with his late wife Ann O'Connor, Brendan co-founded the Burrenbeo Trust which aims to 'connect all of us to our places and our role in caring for them' and co-ordinates events such as the Burren Winterage School and festival. Brendan is also a founder of the 'Farming for Nature' |

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| | | | | | <p>initiative which aims to acknowledge, celebrate and support farmers across Ireland who work to protect nature.</p> <p>Brendan has previously served as a board member of the Heritage Council and on the Advisory Board of the EPA. He has participated in committees advising on issues such as Ireland's World Heritage Site Tentative list and Agri Food 2030 Strategy. In 2011 he became an Ashoka Fellow and in 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by NUI Galway for his work in championing biodiversity.</p> |
| EPA Advisory Committee | Ms Elaine Mahon | Member | Designated Nominating Body (The Wheel) | 18/02/2021 – 17/02/2024 | <p>Ms Elaine Mahon has wide-ranging experience in the Community and Voluntary sector, with particular expertise in Development Education (also known as Global Citizenship education/Education for Sustainable Development). Elaine works part time for IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association, where she manages the Capacity Development Programme supporting members of IDEA to increase their knowledge and understanding of global issues including sustainability, strengthening quality in their educational work and measuring impact. Elaine has led the development of a Code of Good Practice for Development Education, facilitating approximately 40 IDEA members to engage in its creation. Elaine has worked for international institutions including the European Commission and spent two years working in Sudan based at the EU Delegation in Khartoum. Elaine is also a freelance facilitator and trainer. In this field she specialises in areas relating to global justice, equality and interculturalism, youth participation, international volunteering and child</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>safeguarding. As a practitioner, Elaine has a strong track record of providing training, carrying out consultations/research and creating reports/submissions in collaboration with a variety of organisations in Ireland and internationally including City of Dublin Education and Training board (CDETb), Léargas, National Youth Council of Ireland, and SALTO-Europe. Elaine has a Masters in Management for the Community and Voluntary Sector (DCU, 2014) and a Bachelor's Degree in European Studies (TCD, 2004). Elaine also tries to be environmentally conscious in her everyday life – as a parent of young children this can be a challenge! In practice it means, Elaine cycles to work, is part of an organic vegetable box scheme, and buys sustainable/ethically sourced products (such as toys) as much as possible.</p> |
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