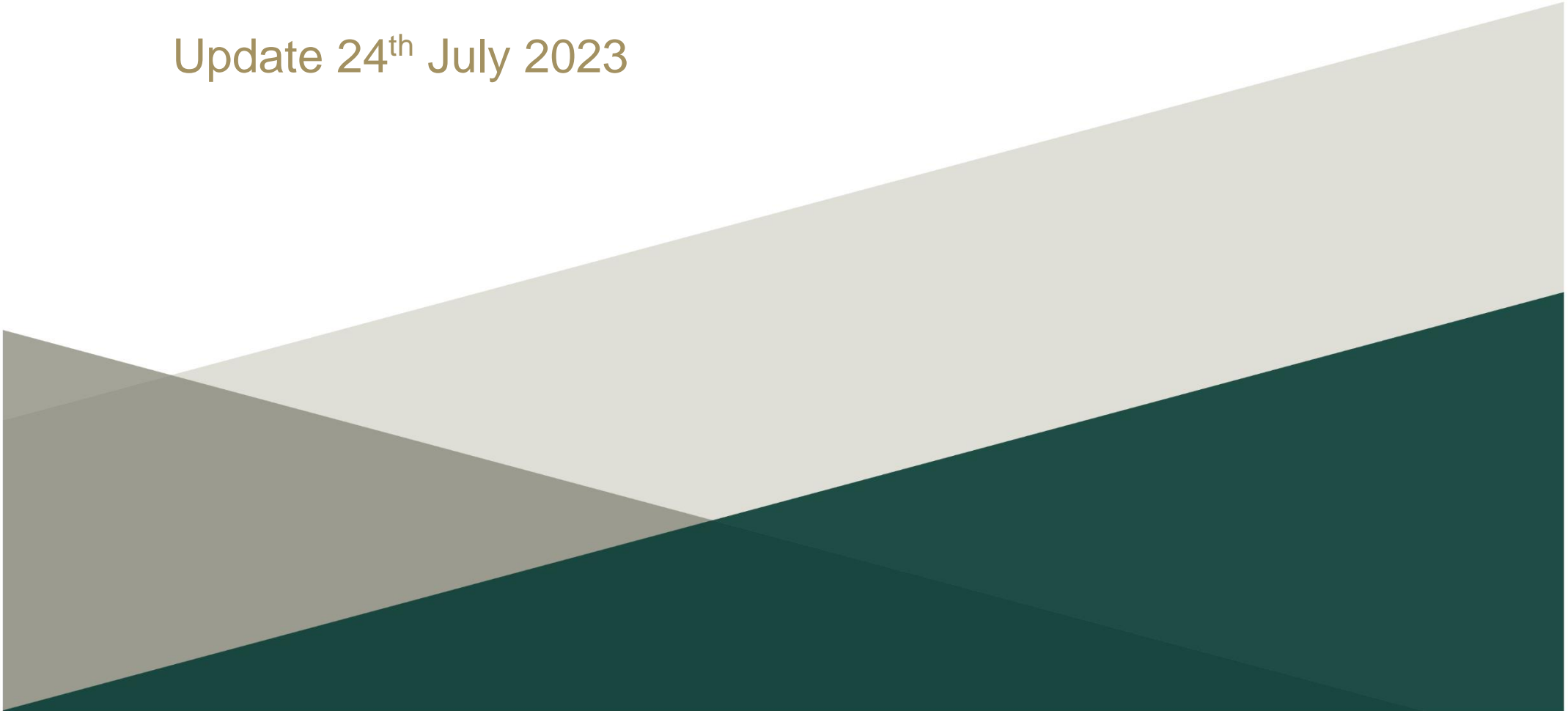




An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

# Appointment to State Bodies under the aegis of DECC in 2023

Update 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023



## Appointments to State Bodies under DECC aegis in 2023: Updated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Body	Member	Position Type	Basis of Appointment	Term of Appointment	Biography
ESB	Mr Michael Barry	Member	Government	04/01/2023 – 03/01/2028	<p>A chartered accountant, who trained with PwC, a UCC Commerce graduate and a Chartered Director. Retired in 2019 from the role of Chief Financial Officer of Bord na Mona PLC, having held that position for 13 years and was also Interim Managing Director of the Company in 2017/2018. Prior to that he held several senior financial positions in Ireland, the UK and the United States in a range of industries including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, property development and hospitality.</p> <p>A member of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board since February 2021.</p>
ESB	Trevor Walsh	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Currently a Technical Service Supervisor in ESB Networks. Previously worked as System Manager, Customer Service Supervisor, Training Officer and Network Technician. Started his career in ESB as an apprentice electrician and has accumulated over 20 years' experience with the company.</p> <p>Chairperson of the ESB Connect Technical Supervisor Branch since 2018. A representative in the ESB Group of Unions since 2015.</p>

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ESB	Gráinne O'Shea	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Joined ESB as a graduate engineer in 1989. Holds primary and masters degrees in engineering from Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University respectively and a diploma in Asset Management from the Institute of Asset Management. A Chartered Engineer (Engineers Ireland), Grainne has worked in ESB Networks, Power Generation and Supply. Currently, Business Strategy Manager for ESB Networks.</p> <p>Irish representative on the General Assembly and on the Strategic Advisory Group of the EU DSO Entity, (EU Distribution System Operators Entity) . Vice Chair of the Eurelectric Working Group on Regulation and Network Customers and a member of the Distribution and Market Facilitation Committee. Member of the European Distribution System Operators (E.DSO) Policy and Regulation Committee. Member of the Electricity Association of Ireland Policy Committee. Chair of Networks Sub branch of the Energy Sector Professionals Association (EPSA). Previously (2012-2016) director of ESB Fullabrook Windfarm and Derrybrien Wind farm.</p>
ESB	Karen Halpenny	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Worked in ESB International since 2001, primarily in the area of overhead line development. Currently working in Engineering and Major projects in the HV Cables area as a cable specialist. Holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in HRM Strategy and Practice from the National College of Ireland (NCI) and a higher advanced diploma in Applied Employment Law from King's Inn School of Law. Holds a</p>

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					<p>Certificate in Management and Industrial Relations from NCI and a Certificate in Health and Safety from UCD.</p> <p>Former President of the Energy Services Union of Ireland (ESU) 2017 – 2021. ESU representative on the Group of Unions forum.</p>
ESB	Owen Kilmurray	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Joined ESB in March 1982. Worked as a general worker, charge hand linesman, electrician and as a Networks Technician in ESB Networks for over 40 years.</p> <p>Active member of the ESB Group of Unions. Vice chairman of the SIPTU Energy Branch Committee and member of SIPTU's Transport, Energy, Aviation and Construction (TEAC) Committee.</p>
BnM	Paddy Rowland	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Mr Rowland joined Bord na Móna in 1984 and has worked in many areas of the Company. Currently he is Key Stakeholder Manager for Renewable Energy, based in Newbridge. He was elected to the Board of Bord na Móna in 2018 as a Director.</p>
BnM	Sinead Culleton Lowry	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Sinead joined the company in 1989 as canteen attendant at Boora Workshops. Following her appointment to Blackwater as Canteen Manager for 3.5 years, Sinead returned to Boora HQ in 2017 to take up her current role as Canteen Manager. Sinead has served as Shop Steward and Assistant Secretary on the Boora SIPTU Committee. Sinead is looking forward to</p>

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					representing her colleagues as Worker Director on the Board.
BnM	Paddy Rigney	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Mr Rigney became a member of Bord na Mona in Oct 2000, starting an apprenticeship in Blackwater works as a Maintenance Construction Plant Fitter.</p> <p>He left Blackwater to undertake a position of Fitter in Dundalk coal yard three years into his apprenticeship and spent five years in this position until taking up his current role as a fitter in Derrinlough briquette factory, where he has spent 14 years. In this time he has held the position of Health and Safety Representative for five years, been on the group of unions for 12 years and been representative for the Unite members for these 12 years. He has been a director of the ESOP shares scheme for five years.</p>
BnM	Stephen Markham	Elected Employee Member	Staff Election	01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026	<p>Stephen joined Bord na Móna in 2003 as a seasonal operative in Peat Operations. Since then he has held various roles in Operations, Supply Chain, and most recently in the Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS) as a machine operative.</p> <p>Outside of BnM Stephen enjoys farming and spending time with family.</p>
EPA Advisory Committee	Dr Niamh Lynam-Lennon	Member	Ministerial	18/01/2023 – 17/01/2026	Dr Niamh Lynam-Lennon is a Research Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator at Trinity College Dublin, where she works in the area of chemoradiation therapy resistance in gastrointestinal cancers. She is the current Treasurer of the Irish Radiation Research Society. She leads a research

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					<p>team focused on two main areas; prediction of response to therapy and identification of novel treatment strategies to enhance the tumour response to therapy, with the ultimate goal of improving treatment and survival for patients. Dr Lynam-Lennon's work has resulted in a number of important publications and she has received several prestigious awards such as a Health Research Board-funded Emerging Investigator Grant Award 2017, Roche Researcher of the Year Award 2010, Irish Radiation Research Society Young Investigator Award 2013 and European Association for Cancer Research Young Scientist Award (Junior Award) 2014, for her work. Her research is funded by grants from the Health Research Board, Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Research Council.</p>
CRU	Jim Gannon	Chairperson	Ministerial	01/03/2023 – 06/04/2024	<p>Jim has been a member of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) since October 2019 and was appointed Chairperson in February 2023.</p> <p>His lead responsibilities include the Single Electricity Market; the generation portfolio; electricity networks regulation, connections and interconnection; system services and flexibility; and electricity security of supply.</p> <p>Jim previously served as the CEO of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, and before that role worked for 15 years in the private sector within the engineering and energy industry.</p>

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					Jim is a graduate of NUI Galway, the University of Wales Aberystwyth and he holds an MBA from the UCD Smurfit School of Business.
ESB	Annette Flynn	Member	Ministerial	25/04/2023 – 24/04/2028	<p><b>Career Experience</b> An Executive career spanning Kerry Group plc and UDG Healthcare plc over 25 years across various roles as Executive Managing Director, Corporate and Strategy Development Officer and Financial Controller in Ireland, UK, Europe and US. Appointed as an Executive Director to the Board of UDG Healthcare in 2004. Retired from her Executive career in 2011 and has since held several Non- Executive Directorships with UDG Healthcare plc, Grafton Group plc, Irish Life, and Aryzta AG. She is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, holds a B. Comm from UCC, is a qualified Chartered Director and holds two Professional Diplomas in Business and Executive Coaching from Smurfit Business School.</p> <p><b>External Appointments</b> Currently a Non-Executive Director of The Irish Times DAC and Dairygold Cooperative Society Ltd. Founder and CEO of Highflier Executive Coaching, focusing on C-Suite clients.</p>
ESB	Aisling Curtis	Member	Ministerial	25/04/2023 – 24/04/2028	<p><b>Career Experience</b> More than 20 years experience in Telecommunications and</p>

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					<p>Technology Sectors including Global, Regional and Irish market roles. Formerly held roles as Microsoft Strategy and Sustainability Director, Global Partner Solutions Director and the Commercial Director. Has a Masters in Business Economics from UCC, studied at the Insead Data and AI School and recently graduated Cambridge University Sustainability Leadership 2022 programme.</p> <p><b>External Appointments</b> Previously held non-executive roles in UK, Netherlands, South Africa and more recently sat on the National Maternity Hospital Board and held an advisory role on the IMI Council. Has served on the 30% Technology Steering Group for the past four years.</p>
SEAI	Ciarán Hayes	Member	Ministerial	09/05/2023 – 08/05/2027	<p>Ciarán is Principal of Ciarán Hayes Consultancy Ltd., a consultancy established in 2021 providing strategic advice to the public and private sector. Over a long Local Government career across five Local Authorities, he has 21 years senior management experience culminating as Chief Executive of Sligo County Council. While Chief Executive, he established the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) and governance structure facilitating the management of Local Government's sectoral challenges and opportunities arising from the circular economy, sustainability, and climate change. He completed a Harvard University Senior Fellowship in December 2022 researching climate change, holds a BA Degree in Local Government and Higher Diploma in Computer Studies. The Senior Fellowship followed earlier</p>



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					periods of study in Harvard, Boston College and Irish College, Leuven, Belgium. He was appointed a member of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in July 2021.
An Post	Matthew Kennedy	Member	Ministerial	03/03/2023 – 02/03/2028	<p>Dr. Matt Kennedy is Arup's Global Leader for Climate Strategy Services and is the Europe Region Sustainable Development Leader, responsible for delivering climate change services and sustainable development within infrastructure, property and cities.</p> <p>Matt brings 25 years' experience in delivering national and international carbon, climate change and sustainable development initiatives across government, industry and academia. Matt was Lead Negotiator for the European Union at the UN Paris Agreement (COP21) negotiations and was previously Chair of the UNEP's Climate Technology Centre.</p> <p>Matt previously worked with the Irish Government, University College Cork, and the United Nations where he led clean energy and climate transformation projects across Africa, Asia and Middle East.</p> <p>Matt holds a PhD in Engineering from Trinity College Dublin and Masters' degrees from NUI Galway and University College Dublin. He is a Chartered Sustainability professional with IEMA.</p>

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