

All Island Disaster Risk Reduction

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Biographies of speakers & Agenda



Micheál Martin,

Tánaiste and Minister for Defence



Micheál Martin is the Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence. He was appointed to these roles on 17 December 2022.

He served as Taoiseach from 27 June 2020 to 17 December 2022.

Previously, he has served as Lord Mayor of Cork in 1992-93, and on the Fianna Fáil front bench, as well as in four cabinet posts; Minister for Foreign Affairs (2008-2011), Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (2004-2008), Minister for Health (2000-04), and Minister for Education (1997-2000).

Micheál Martin was born in Turners Cross, Cork. He attended University College Cork where he qualified with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Jayne Brady

Head of Civil Service Northern Ireland



Jayne was appointed as the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service In 2021 having previously served as the Digital Innovation Commissioner within Belfast City Council.

An engineer at heart with extensive, board experience and a track record of success that transcends blue-chip corporations, start-ups and funding ecosystems. She has over twenty year's leadership experience and a diverse skillset including venture capital, due diligence, corporate governance, setting strategy, leading teams, technical ownership and finance across complex organisational structures internationally.

Recent roles include, Partner in a Venture Capital firm with £100Mn+ funds under management and co-founder of an Artificial Intelligence start-up. She was also a member of the UK Government's Innovation Expert Group and an Entrepreneurial Expert for the Said Business School at Oxford University.

She is deeply committed to delivering economic and social development through harnessing innovation and was recently recognised for services to the economy with both an MBE and honorary doctorate. Jayne is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Irish Academy of Engineers. She sits on the NI Committee for the IoD and the Engineering Policy Group, is a board director on Queen's University Belfast Spinout Fund, QUBIS and is a Trustee for Young Enterprise NI.

Jacqui McCrum

Secretary General of the Department of Defence, Ireland



Mrs. Jacqui McCrum was appointed to the post of Secretary General of the Department of Defence in August, 2020. She is the first female Secretary General of the Department. In her capacity, she acts as the principal policy advisor to the Minister for Defence and as the Accounting Officer for all Defence expenditure. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the National Shared Services Office.

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. McCrum was the Deputy Secretary in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Director General and Accounting Officer in the Office of the Ombudsman, Offices of the Information Commissioner and Commissioner for Environmental Information, Standards in Public Office Commission, Referendum Commission and Commission for Public Service Appointments. She also held the position of Deputy Financial Services Ombudsman. The majority of her career was in financial services in London and Dublin. She lives in North Co Dublin, married to Maurice with two children, Cameron and Freya.

Mrs. McCrum holds a UCD/IPA Professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality; Law Society of Ireland Certificate in Pensions Law and Practice; is a certified Mediator (Mediation Foundation of Ireland; University of Cambridge, Post Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business and a Diploma in Montessori Studies from The London Montessori Centre.

Roger Hargreaves

Director COBR, UK Cabinet Office

Roger Hargreaves is Director of the COBR Unit in the National Security Secretariat (NSS) in the Cabinet Office UK. Roger joined NSS in October 2020, initially heading up the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, which became the COBR Unit in July 2022. The COBR Unit is responsible for the UK Government's planning and response to acute crises, and driving professionalisation of crisis management across government. It is responsible for crisis communication capabilities including the Emergency Alerts system.

Prior to joining NSS, Roger has had a long and varied civil service career across a wide range of different roles. He spent the first decade of his career at the heart of government, firstly at HM Treasury, and then the Cabinet Office where he led the redesign of the UK's civil contingencies structures. That was followed by a series of operational and delivery roles, ranging from a major emergency services reform programme through to HS2. Roger also spent a year in industry working for one of the world's largest IT companies as Director of public sector strategy. Most recently, he was Maritime Director at Department of Transport.

Professor Lucy Easthope

Expert and adviser on emergency planning and disaster recovery

Lucy Easthope is a leading authority on recovering from disaster. For over two decades she has challenged others to think differently about what comes next, after tragic events. She is a passionate and thought-provoking voice in planning for pandemics, conflict and disaster, and has been a tactical advisor to UK disaster responders since 2001. Her research and practice portfolio includes mass fatalities planning, legal aspects of emergencies, identifying lessons post incident, the effectiveness of public inquiries, interoperability, and community resilience in practice.

Based in the UK, she is known globally for her work and holds an honorary position at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University, New Zealand. She is a Professor in Practice of Risk and Hazard at the University of Durham and a co-founder of the After Disaster Network based in their Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience. She is also a Professor in Mass Fatalities and Pandemics at the Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath. She is a former senior fellow of the Cabinet Office Emergency Planning College. She acts as the external examiner for a number of international disaster management postgraduate programmes.

She is a member of the UK Cabinet Office National Risk Assessment Behavioural Science Expert Group.

All Island Disaster Risk Reduction

Her new book *When The Dust Settles* Stories of Love, Loss and Hope from an Expert in Disaster was released in March 2022 and is a Sunday Times Bestseller

She is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and the Higher Education Academy. She was awarded a special fellowship to the Emergency Planning Society for her services to the field in 2018. She holds an LLB (Bristol), Masters in Risk, Crisis and Disaster management (Leicester) and PhD in Medicine (Lancaster).

Dominick Vansevenant

Head of Paragon Project, Belgian National Crisis
Coordination Centre

Dominick, married with Karin, 3 children is a former mayor of Keerbergen (Belgium) and an information. He grew up building computers, playing computer- and board games so suits the definition of a nerd. However, using his experience in security, diplomacy, emergency planning from his political mandate and combining it with his expertise in information technology, he started rethinking what is needed to build a crisis management platform that goes beyond what we use today. Paragon is the platform that he is building with a team of about 45 co-workers consisting of analysts, data engineers, developers and project managers.

Chris Johnson

Pro Vice Chancellor (Engineering and Physical Sciences)
Queen's University Belfast

Chris Johnson is Pro Vice Chancellor for Engineering and Physical Sciences at Queen's University, Belfast. He was technical lead for contingency planning across European Air Traffic Management, including support for the Irish Aviation Authority. More recently, he has served as an expert witness for the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry; where he was responsible for explaining the data and communications failures that exacerbated loss of life. He reports to the UK Deputy Prime Minister as a member of the National Cyber Advisory Board, within the National Security Secretariat and assisted on the cyber security panel within the Tánaiste's forum on International Security Policy. He has held fellowships from NASA, the US Navy and the US Air Force.

Event Moderator

Dr Margaret Stanley

Office of Emergency Planning, Ireland

Margaret is a civil servant based in Ireland's Department of Defence where she heads up the Office of Emergency Planning. This civil-military office supports the Minister for Defence who chairs the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning and it promotes coordination amongst Departments in their emergency planning and encourages best use of resources.

Margaret is also the Department of Defence's point of contact for cyber security matters and represents Defence on the Inter-Departmental Committee guiding the implementation of the National Cyber Security Strategy.

Prior to joining Defence, Margaret worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and spent a considerable amount of time abroad including in Germany and at the United Nations in New York. She has also spent a number of years based in Northern Ireland encouraging North South cooperation on the island. Margaret has a PhD in electrochemistry from Dublin City University and has recently been awarded a Masters in Emergency Management.

Projects

Communicating for Impact: Public Safety Messaging for Border Communities

Delivered by Professor Caroline McMullan-Dublin City University.

Advancing a Focused Cross-Border Approach to Public Messaging in Emergency Management

Jointly delivered by Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer, Monaghan County Council and Dr Cormac Walsh, Research officer, Maynooth University.

Community Resilience in Northern Ireland "Prepare, Adapt & Strengthen"

Jointly delivered by Joan McCaffrey, Anne Gallagher and Anne Hardy on behalf of the Regional Community Resilience Group Northern Ireland.

30th November 2023 – Workshop Day

Crisis Communications Workshop Agenda

14.30 Registration and Coffee

15.00 Opening briefing and outline of the workshops – *Office of Emergency Planning*

15.30 Workshops:

- **Workshop 1** – Cross Border Crisis Communications Exercise including countering disinformation - *ReidyBrophy Ltd. and Carr Communications Ltd.*
- **Workshop 2** – Crisis Information Management Systems – *Dominick Vansevent, Belgian National Crisis Coordination Centre and Head of Paragon Project*
- **Workshop 3** – Strategies for Government Departments and Agencies Engaging with Local Communities who are Recovering from a Traumatic Event - *Prof. Lucy Easthope*

17.00 Debrief - *Review of the Breakout room's outcomes*

19:00 Networking Dinner

Pre-Dinner Talk – Mr *Chris Johnson Pro Vice Chancellor Queen's University Belfast*

Close of Day 1 Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Series 2023

1st December 2023 – Conference Day

Crisis Communications Conference Agenda

08.30 Registration and Coffee

09.30 Opening Addresses:

- *Mr. Micheál Martin, Tánaiste and Minister for Defence*
- *Ms. Jayne Brady, Head of Civil Service Northern Ireland*
- *Ms. Jacqui McCrum, Secretary General, Department of Defence*
- *Mr. Roger Hargreaves, Director of Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, UK Cabinet Office*

10.20 Crisis Communications Keynote - *Prof. Lucy Easthope*

11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Communicating for Impact: Public Safety Messaging for Border Communities – *Delivered by Professor Caroline McMullan-Dublin City University*

12:05 Advancing a Focused Cross-Border Approach to Public Messaging in Emergency Management - *Jointly delivered by Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer, Monaghan County Council and Dr Cormac Walsh, Research officer, Maynooth University*

12.25 Community Resilience in Northern Ireland "Prepare, Adapt & Strengthen" - *Jointly delivered by Joan McCaffrey, Anne Gallagher and Anne Hardy on behalf of the Regional Community Resilience Group Northern Ireland*

12.45 Workshops day 1 update and call for research proposals - *Dr Margaret Stanley, Office of Emergency Planning*

13.15 Closing and Lunch

Close of Day 2 Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Series 2023