

# EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE IN A CHANGED PUBLIC SERVICE

## PAI'S CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE



**21 OCTOBER 2021  
9.00AM - 1.15PM  
ONLINE**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**MICHAEL MCGRATH, T.D.,**  
**MINISTER FOR PUBLIC**  
**EXPENDITURE AND**  
**REFORM**



Following a period of extraordinary uncertainty, crisis management and deference of some traditional Board responsibilities to management roles - How do we regroup, reset, and apply these principles of good governance in 2021 and beyond?

This year's PAI's Corporate Governance conference aims to review the lasting effects of innovation adopted by public sector organisations in a time of crisis, to identify what's been left behind in its recovery and re-imagine the boards responsibility in driving progress forward.

## PAI's Corporate Governance Conference



Thursday 21st October 2021  
9.00am – 1.15pm  
Online

Chair's Foreword

Public Affairs Ireland is delighted to confirm the arrangements for this year's Corporate Governance Conference. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies is based on the underlying principles of good governance: accountability, transparency, probity and a focus on the sustainable success of the organisation over the longer term. It is five years since the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies was revised and updated. However, the Code's principles are even more relevant today, in an era of unprecedented challenges, ranging from Brexit, Covid-19 to Climate Change.

Our conference brings together a host of key industry experts and provides a forum to reflect on the corporate governance demands in today's world. The keynote address will be given by Michael McGrath, T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, whose Department is responsible for the 'Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies'. Our expert speakers will address a range of issues in the area of Corporate Governance which have emerged in recent times and which go to the heart of how State Sponsored Bodies have to operate. In the plethora of Covid-generated activity, it is imperative that the Boards of these bodies do not lose sight of their central functions .

I look forward to chairing the Conference.

Tom Ferris

## Agenda



Opening Address

Emma McBride,  
Chief Operations Officer, Public Affairs Ireland.



Conference Overview & Context

Conference Chairperson,  
Tom Ferris, Economic Consultant



Keynote Address  
Strengthening Board Independence, Measuring Progress and Equality Budgeting -  
A Progress Report on the New Guidance for State Bodies, Code of Practice for the  
Governance of State Bodies 2016

Michael McGrath, T.D.,  
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform



Emerging board priorities in corporate governance:

- Evolving requirements of boards on ESG
- Individual accountability vs collective responsibility
- Organisational values and culture enabling or hindering change?

Niall Fitzgerald,  
Head of Ethics and Governance,  
Chartered Accountants Ireland



AOB on EDI? – Moving up the Agenda and Prioritising Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Julie Hutton,  
Head of Operations, Irish Centre for Diversity

*Panel Engagement & Q&A*

## Networking Coffee Break



Nobody loves us and we don't care –

HSE, Sláintecare and the changing future of public health services.

Anthony Staines, Professor of Health Systems,  
Centre for eIntegrated Care and School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health,  
Dublin City University



Deloitte's Global on the Board's Agenda publication –  
Stepping in: The Board's Role in Crisis Management.

Melissa Scully,  
Director, Corporate Governance Leaders, Deloitte



Simulated Risk Reputation and Crisis Management – A Boards Response  
Conference Exercise (Boardroom Break-out Rooms) - Facilitated by PAI training partners Reputation Inc.

Coordinate your response, validate the plan, and develop your leadership skills. Join us for our boardroom breakout rooms, the final element of our conference event. Led by PAI's training partners Reputation Inc. Participants will be jettisoned into a discussion-based breakout group to work on a well-defined problem. Participants will benefit from peer experience and facilitator guidance to grow their confidence in handling a crisis, reacting quickly and to ready resources in its response and recovery.

Robert Brown  
Director of ReputationInc

Please note: all speakers, timings and topics may be subject to slight change.

## Speakers

Michael McGrath, T.D.,

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform



Michael is currently a TD for Cork South Central and is the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Michael secured a first-class honours Commerce degree in UCC and went on to qualify as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG in Cork City. He is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and has served on that body's Audit, Risk and Finance Committee. Michael

has also undertaken studies with the London School of Economics and Political Science.

As Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael is responsible for delivering well-managed and well-targeted public spending, through modernised, effective and accountable public services. The department oversees the implementation of the National Development Plan, drives the programme of public service reform, and has a key role in decisions made across government.

Níall Fitzgerald (FCA),

Head of Ethics and Governance, Chartered Accountants Ireland



Níall leads the delivery of strategic objectives on business ethics and governance across operations, including policy, member support and resources, and engagement with regulators, standard setters and other stakeholders. Níall is a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland's Sustainability Expert Working Party and also a European Corporate Governance

Advisory Group. He is passionate about internal implementation of sustainability initiatives and applying sustainability reporting frameworks. His non-executive experience includes being a trustee of an occupational pension scheme, member of a governance and risk committee for an Irish charity and chair of a panel of judges for the Good Governance Awards in Ireland. Níall is the author of a number of expert guides and articles on ethics, organisational culture and corporate governance, as well as having produced a number of compliance toolkits for the audit and accounting profession.

Melissa Scully,

Director, Corporate Governance Leaders, Deloitte



Melissa Scully is a Director in our Risk Advisory practice and leads our Deloitte Ireland Centre for Corporate Governance. Melissa specialises in Board effectiveness and corporate governance across all industries, and brings insight into the challenges facing Boards and Directors. She has delivered over 75 Board effectiveness and governance engagements

across Ireland and Europe to include: conducting independent Board effectiveness reviews, providing advisory support for companies going through IPO, developing governance policy frameworks and designing governance structures and processes. She also undertakes benchmarking exercises for many companies keen to meet current standards for best practice and bespoke training for Boards and committees.

Robert Brown

Director of ReputationInc



Robert is a Director in Reputation Inc and has been with the business for over nine years. He has experience across all aspects of reputation management and is a specialist in corporate communications, investor relations, and stakeholder management.

Robert also has extensive experience in reputation evaluation and he is the business' Reputation Intelligence lead in Dublin. Robert is particularly active in devising and implementing materiality programmes, working with clients to identify the key priorities and trigger points for their stakeholders.

Tom Ferris,

Independent Economic Consultant



Tom Ferris is a consultant economist. He has wide experience in the public sector and the private realm. He has chaired six Value for Money Reviews for the Irish Government; the most recent being for the Department of Health on Value for Money Review of Nursing Home Care Costs. He organises regular short courses on the Public Spending Code at Public Affairs Ireland. He has published widely on regulatory economics, good governance and transport planning. He was formally the Senior Economist at the Department of Transport in Ireland. He is a former President of the Chartered Institute of Transport. His monthly blogs on economic matters are published on [www.pai.ie](http://www.pai.ie)

Julie Hutton,

Head of Operations, Irish Centre for Diversity.



As an ICFD and NCFD Advisor, Julie works to advance Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion for all in the workplace, working with organisations across all sectors, to deliver personal training as well the Investors in Diversity and Leaders in Diversity accreditations. Julie is a quality consultant and assessor with a successful track record in implementing

quality and performance monitoring initiatives within the public and service sectors. Her areas of expertise include quality assurance frameworks, benchmarking strategies and methodologies, research and evaluation with internal and external customers, assessment and verification, document control and record management. Julie has achieved numerous qualifications and certificates and particularly excels in IT-based data analysis and statistical breakdown.

Anthony Staines, Professor of Health Systems,

Centre for Integrated Care and School of Nursing, DCU



Anthony Staines is an epidemiologist and a public health consultant whose research focuses on the uses of information in health systems. He has a particular interest in child health and disability. Working closely with the Health Intelligence Unit in the Health Services Executive in Ireland, he has led a number of projects to deliver innovative health

information approaches in Ireland and Europe. He teaches on programs in public health and health systems within DCU, and on digital health in an innovative national program led by the Health Services Executive. He was formerly the chair of the Irish Blood Transfusion service, and now leads St. Michael's House, one of the larger providers of services for people with Intellectual Disability in Ireland. He is a Chartered Director.

Join the conversation



We'll be live-tweeting the conference. If you have any comments or questions, you can join the conversation by using the hashtag:

**#CorpGovConf21**

Make sure to follow @publicaffairsireland.

## Polite request: Camera on / Microphone off

Due to the interactive nature of this conference where attendee participation is required, we politely request that all attendees join the conference with their cameras on but microphones off.

This improves delegate engagement, connection with fellow corporate governance professionals and improves the overall conference experience.

## Contact PAI

You can call us on 01 877 3910  
or email [info@pai.ie](mailto:info@pai.ie)

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