



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

Contributor biographies for the launch of reports prepared by the ESRI and the OECD in collaboration with the National Disability Authority.

Venue: Online Zoom Webinar **Date:** 22 September 2021 **Time:** 2pm – 4pm

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Minister Anne Rabbitte, Minister of State with responsibility for Disability



Anne Rabbitte TD is Minister of State with responsibility for Disability. She was appointed to this role in July 2020.

She hails from a small town in the west of Ireland, Portumna, Co Galway. A widowed mother to three children in second and third level education, she has been a TD for the Galway East constituency since the 2016 general election.

She was a member of Galway County Council from 2014 to 2016. In May 2016, she was appointed to the Fianna Fáil front bench as Spokesperson for Children and Youth Affairs.

Anne worked for 25 years for a financial institution and is a qualified financial adviser. For 3 years, Anne ran a community childcare facility.

National Disability Authority

Helen Guinan, Chairperson



Helen Guinan spent most of her career working with, or on behalf of, children and young adults with intellectual, physical and sensory disabilities. She has been Chairperson of the National Disability Authority since July 2014 and started her second four-year term in August 2018. She has been closely involved over many years in policy development and implementation at national level with a number of organisations, statutory and non-statutory, including the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the National Council for Special Education, and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. In this work, she gained a national and international perspective on advancements and improvements for persons with disabilities. She spent ten years as Principal in St. Paul's School, Cork; a school for students with complex needs. As Chairperson of the National Disability Authority, Helen is committed to ensuring that this statutory body continues to provide independent, evidence-informed advice and information to Government about current matters influencing the lives of persons with disabilities in Ireland.

Dr. Aideen Hartney, Director



Dr. Aideen Hartney was appointed Director of the National Disability Authority in July 2020, following four years as the Head of Policy, Research and Public Affairs within the organisation. Prior to joining the NDA, Aideen held a number of senior management positions in University College Dublin, most latterly as manager of the UCD Earth Institute, an interdisciplinary research institute focused on understanding and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Rosalyn Tamming, Head of Policy, Research & Public Affairs



Dr. Rosalyn Tamming is the Head of Policy, Research and Public Affairs at the National Disability Authority. Her background is in nursing and midwifery and she has a Masters in Community Health and a Ph.D. in Health Services Research from Trinity College Dublin. She has previously worked in Trinity College Dublin, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the US, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK and Concern Worldwide. She joined the NDA as a Senior Research Officer in 2016 and was appointed to her current role in 2020.

The Economic and Social Research Institute

Professor Alan Barrett, Chief Executive Officer



Professor Alan Barrett is the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic and Social Research Institute. Alan received his Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State University in 1994 and joined the ESRI that year. He was seconded to the Department of Finance from 2001 to 2003 and to Trinity College Dublin from 2011 to 2013. Most of his research has been in the areas of labour economics, population economics and macroeconomics. He is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Research Fellow with the Institute for Labour Economics (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland and an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin. He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011 to 2015 and a member (ex officio) of the Climate Change Advisory Council from 2015 to 2021. He has chaired each National Economic Dialogue from 2015 to 2021. Since March 2021 he has been a member of the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council.

Elish Kelly, Senior Research Officer



Elish Kelly is a Senior Research Officer at the ESRI, holds an adjunct research position at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) in the University of Bonn. Her main research interest is in labour economics, with a particular focus on unemployment and active labour market programmes, migration, and wages and pay bargaining institutions. Elish has also undertaken research on equality and on education issues, along with participation in sport and physical activity.

Bertrand Maître, Senior Research Officer



Bertrand Maître is a Senior Research Officer at the Economic and Social Research Institute, and holds an adjunct research position at Trinity College Dublin. He is a joint co-coordinator of Social Inclusion and Equality Research at the ESRI. His current research focuses on poverty and inequality, social exclusion and income distribution as well as on quality of life. He has published on these topics about Ireland but also from a European comparative perspective.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities



Nadim Ahmad is Deputy Director at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, helping to drive momentum in the development of integrated policies that look holistically at people, places and firms. In his role, Mr Ahmad provides intellectual leadership and quality control to ensure that the OECD is at the forefront of policy thinking in the domains covered by CFE.

Mr Ahmad joined the OECD in 2000. Before joining CFE in 2020, he worked in the OECD's Statistics and Data Directorate, where he led international efforts to better account for globalisation, entrepreneurship and business performance, and, in particular, the role of MNEs and SMEs in global value chains, and the OECD's

Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, where he developed the OECD's first estimates of carbon dioxide emissions embodied in international trade. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr Ahmad worked in the UK's office for National Statistics (1996-2000) and the UK's Ministry of Finance (1993-1996).

Stefano Scarpetta, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs



Stefano Scarpetta joined the OECD in 1991 and became the Director of DELSA in 2013. He has led several large-scale research projects, including "Implementing the OECD Jobs Strategy" and the "Sources of Economic Growth in OECD Countries", and contributed to others including "The Policy Challenges of Population Ageing" and "The Effects of Product Market Competition on Productivity and Labour Market Outcomes". From 2002 to 2006 he worked at the World Bank as a labour market advisor and lead economist. In this capacity, he coordinated a bank-wide research program of Employment and Development and contributed extensively to the Bank's investment climate assessments. He returned to the Economics Department of the OECD in November 2006 where he became the head of the Country Studies Division in charge of Japan, Korea, China, India, Mexico, Portugal, Denmark and Sweden. From March 2008 to June 2010, he was the editor of the OECD Employment Outlook and the Head of the Employment Analysis and Policy Division of the Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (DELSA).

He is the co-director of the programme of work on Employment and Development at the Institute for the Studies of Labour (IZA, Bonn, Germany); Research Fellow of IZA; Member of the expert group on the minimum wage in France; Member of the Executive Board of the CAED (Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data) network and member of the Scientific Committee of the DARES (French Ministry of Labour).

Stefan Thewissen, Economist



Stefan Thewissen is an Economist in the Skills and Employability Division in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the OECD. He contributes to the OECD's agenda on health and work, in particular on paid sick leave and improving the labour market position of persons with disabilities. Prior to joining the OECD, he was an economist at ODI in London and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford. In addition, he has consulted for the World Bank and the Global Fund, and held the position of visiting scholar at Harvard University.

IBEC

Danny McCoy, Chief Executive Officer



Danny McCoy is Chief Executive Officer of IBEC since 2009. He is President of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Engineers, member of the Export Trade Council and the OECD-BIAC working group on Corporate Taxation. He has an extensive academic career, including positions at DCU, University College London, University of Oxford and Trinity College Dublin.

Department of Social Protection

Rónán Hession, Assistant Secretary Working Age Income Support Policy



Rónán Hession is the Assistant Secretary who leads policy across a diverse range of areas in the Department of Social Protection including working age schemes, supports for families and children, supplementary welfare, gender recognition, civil registration, illness, carers and disability.

Rónán has worked in four government departments and has previously held senior positions on Brexit, international taxation, corporation tax and financial regulation. Rónán was a member of the Civil Service Renewal Task Force and was the Irish representative to the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the EU Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation.

Seònaid Ó Murchadha, Entrepreneur



Founder of Amputee Disability Federation Ireland, Seònaid Ó Murchadha is an innovative disability management professional. She advocates and promotes the employment rights of disabled people, regularly contributing pieces across news media, Irish national radio and television.

With certification from the International Disability Management Standards Council as well as recognition from the Canadian National Institute of Disability Management & Research (NIDMAR), she has worked in HR with the Rehab Group, training and supporting 200 employees with disabilities: as well as with the Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD) on their

workplace placement initiative, the Willing Able Mentoring programme, where she supported employers to recruit and place graduates with disabilities in mainstream employment and supported disabled graduates looking for work. Seònaid also managed the successful pilot initiative, Employer Disability Information, advising employers on the recruitment, management, and retention of people with disabilities.

Seònaid is currently in the process of starting her own consultancy business, Disability Equality Inclusion, and is on the board of directors of Independent Living Movement Ireland. She guest lectures at Maynooth University on Disability Studies and provides HR, Inclusion & Diversity support to members of the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association.

SOLAS

Andrew Brownlee, Chief Executive Officer



Andrew Brownlee was appointed SOLAS CEO in August 2019 following an open competition. Andrew was Executive Director for Strategy and Knowledge at SOLAS since January 2018, where he played a key role in putting in place a strategic performance framework for the further education and training system, in implementing reforms to support a more integrated system and in developing an ambitious, new five year strategy for the further education and training sector. Andrew joined SOLAS from the Higher Education Authority. Prior to joining the public sector, Andrew had a long and distinguished career in management consultancy.