

**Policy Forum for Ireland keynote seminar:  
Next steps for planning policy in Ireland**  
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 9.05 **Key considerations for planning policy in Ireland going forward**  
**Gavin Lawlor**, President, Irish Planning Institute  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Sector priorities for transport, digital connectivity and housing development**  
**Robert Costello**, Partner, Capital Projects and Infrastructure, PwC Ireland
- 9.40 **Issues for implementation and likely impacts of the Planning and Development Act 2024**  
*implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 | assessing the role of the new planning commission, An Coimisiún Pleanála | priorities for its mission of speeding decision-making and improving transparency | options to expedite bill to address planning backlog | transparency and public oversight | introduction of new Planning and Development Bill (An Taisce) 2024*  
**Deirdre Nagle**, Partner, Head of Planning and Environmental Law, Mason Hayes and Curran  
**Brendan O'Sullivan**, Director, UCC Centre for Planning Education and Research  
**Dr Caroline Brown**, Director, Scotland, Ireland and English Regions, Royal Town Planning Institute  
Senior representative, local authority
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Regulatory priorities and best practice in implementing planning policy**  
**Niall Cussen**, Chief Executive and Planning Regulator, Office of the Planning Regulator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 11.05 **Supporting net zero ambitions and environmental protection through planning policy and infrastructure delivery**  
Senior representative, environmental stewardship
- 11.10 **Key priorities and long-term strategy for climate targets and renewables in planning**  
*developing the rural economy while supporting natural resources and food sector industries | considering objectives to emphasise conservation and restoration in biodiversity | strategies for achieving climate targets | options for renewable energy within planning policy*  
**Brendan Slattery**, Partner and Head, Environment and Planning, McCann FitzGerald  
Senior representative, agriculture  
Senior representative, renewable energy  
Senior representative, rural local authority
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Meeting the needs of communities and people within the National Planning Framework**  
*plans to accommodate for population growth | options for ensuring inclusive community engagement | balancing national policy with development plans | assessing likely impacts of new development plans | developing regional accessibility and connectivity*  
**Professor Paddy Gray**, Professor, Housing, Ulster University  
Senior representative, regional authority  
Senior representative, transport  
Senior representative, construction  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **The way forward for planning policy in Ireland**  
**Claragh Mulhern**, Acting Principal Planning Adviser, Chief Planner, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas  
**Sean Cudmore**, Policy Forum for Ireland