

**Policy Forum for Ireland keynote seminar:
Next steps for planning policy in Ireland**
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 5th 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
Senior representative, agriculture
Senior representative, renewable energy
Senior representative, legal
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