

**Policy Forum for Ireland keynote seminar**  
**Next steps for Skills and Apprenticeships in Ireland**

*Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021*

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 9.05 **Implementing the Apprenticeship Action Plan and next steps forward for skills policy in Ireland**  
**Andrew Brownlee**, Chief Executive Officer, SOLAS  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Improving support for employers and employer-industry co-operation - grants and non-financial support, sharing best practice, and ensuring a seamless transition from completing an apprenticeship into employment**  
**Claire McGee**, Head of Education and Innovation Policy, Ibec  
Senior representative, apprenticeship provider  
Senior representative, employer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 Break
- 10.10 **Improving awareness of apprenticeships, widening access for underrepresented groups, and next steps for facilitating lifelong learning and re-skilling**  
**Stephen Kent**, Chief Executive Officer, Bus Éireann  
**Gina Quin**, President, National College of Ireland  
Senior representative, research  
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**  
**Colm Markey MEP**, Member, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- 11.05 **Priorities for meeting skills needs in emerging sectors such as green and digital skills**  
**Paul Healy**, Chief Executive, Skillnet Ireland  
Senior representative, digital  
Senior representative, sustainability  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Facilitating upskilling with online courses and remote learning, and next steps for boosting take-up**  
Senior speaker confirmed from eCollege
- 11.50 **Improving career opportunities and skills levels in rural areas - the role of technological universities in driving regional growth, strengthening local partnerships, and supporting young people into skilled jobs**  
**Dr Orla Flynn**, President, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology  
Senior representative, apprenticeship provider  
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Developing cross-border apprenticeships and improving opportunities for international engagement**  
Senior representative, international  
Senior representative, apprenticeship provider  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**  
**Colm Markey MEP**, Member, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Ireland

