

Information Law 2017*Thursday 23 March 2017*

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Charlemont Place, Dublin 2

Conference Programme

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.30am | Registration | |
| 9.00am -9.10am | Introduction from the Chair | Fred Logue |
| 9.10am – 9.40am | Balancing individual rights in the age of transparency | Linda NíChualladh |
| 9.40am – 10.10am | Recent developments in the Offices of the Information Commissioner and the Commissioner for Environmental Information | Elizabeth Dolan |
| 10.10 – 10.40am | Alternative ways of accessing public sector information | Conor Ryan |
| 10.40am – 11.00am | Coffee Break | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | FOI and information policy in Ireland | Niall Mulligan |
| 11.30am – 12.00 | Recent developments in Freedom of Information Law | John Kenny |
| 12.00 – 12.30pm | Question and Answer Session | |
| 12.30pm | Close from the Chair | Fred Logue |



Recent developments in the Offices of the Information Commissioner and the Commissioner for Environmental Information

Elizabeth Dolan

Senior Investigator, Offices of the Information Commissioner and the Commissioner for Environmental Information



FOI and information policy in Ireland

Niall Mulligan

Central Policy Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform



Recent developments in Freedom of Information Law

John Kenny, BL

Barrister-at-Law, The Law Library



Balancing individual rights in the age of transparency

Linda NíChualadh, Solicitor

Regulatory Counsel, An Post



Alternative ways of accessing public sector information

Conor Ryan

Investigative Journalist, RTÉ

Speaker Biographies

John Kenny is a practising barrister and occasional lecturer in Trinity College Dublin School of Law. He has acted in a number of cases for appellants in FOI cases in the High Court. He previously completed a Masters in the University of Cape Town concentrating on developing access to information legislation in that jurisdiction and worked in the FOI Unit in the Houses of the Oireachtas. His practice includes environmental, planning and administrative law.

Elizabeth Dolan has worked with the Information Commissioner's Office since 2000. She is a Principal Officer/Senior Investigator in that Office and is delegated to make decisions on reviews of FOI decisions on behalf of the Commissioner (Mr Peter Tyndall). Liz manages a team of investigators in that Office and also has responsibility for the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information.

Niall Mulligan represents the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's FOI Central Policy Unit, having previously worked at the Office of the Information Commissioner. The Central Policy Unit is responsible, in consultation with public bodies and working with the FOI networks for ensuring that the policy and legislative framework for FOI supports the effective operation of FOI in public bodies.

Linda NíChualadh is a solicitor and is Regulatory and Competition Counsel for the An Post Group providing specialist legal advice in national, EU and international communications regulation, competition, commercial, consumer and administrative law and policies.

Conor Ryan is a journalist with the RTE Investigations Unit. Previously he worked in investigative and political correspondent roles with the Irish Examiner. He has been in journalism for 15 years working for the Irish Examiner, Tallaght Echo, Clare FM and as a freelance reporter. He was a contributor to Ireland and the Freedom of Information Act FOI@15 (Manchester University Press, 2015) In 2010 his investigative book Stallions and Power: The Scandals of the Irish National Stud was published.