

Information Law 2018*Tuesday 27 March 2018*

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	Practitioner’s update: recent case law and decisions of the Information Commissioner	Aoife Gillespie
9.40am – 10.10am	Recent developments in the Offices of the Information Commissioner and the Commissioner for Environmental Information	Lisa Underwood
10.10am – 10.40am	FOI and the media: Some recent examples	Mark Tighe
10.40am – 11.00am	Coffee Break	
11.00am – 11.30am	Promoting Compliance with Environmental Information Obligations: the Interplay between Law and Policy	Áine Ryall
11.30am – 12.00pm	Litigation update: Recent developments in access to information litigation procedure	John Kenny
12.00pm – 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

Lisa Underwood

Investigator, Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information



Promoting Compliance with Environmental Information Obligations: the Interplay between Law and Policy

Dr Áine Ryall

Senior Lecturer, School of Law, UCC and Vice-Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee



Litigation update: Recent developments in access to information litigation procedure

John Kenny, BL

Barrister-at-Law, The Law Library



Practitioner's update: recent case law and decisions of the Information Commissioner

Aoife Gillespie, Senior Associate

Philip Lee Solicitors



FOI and the media: Some recent examples

Mark Tighe

Sunday Times

Speaker Biographies

Dr Áine Ryall teaches and researches environmental law, European Union law and tort law at University College Cork. A qualified barrister (called to the Irish Bar in 1995), she is currently Vice-Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. Áine Ryall has been a member of the statutory Advisory Committee to the Environmental Protection Agency since 2013. She served as Vice-Chair of the An Bord Pleanála Review Group which reported to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2016 and, prior to that, served as a member of the Environmental Protection Agency Review Group from 2009-2011. More recently, Áine Ryall was a member of the Expert Advisory Group to the Citizens' Assembly on the climate change module of its work. She is a board member of the Irish Centre for European Law and a member of the Royal Irish Academy Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee.

Lisa Underwood is an Investigator at the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information. Her role includes preparing recommendations for the Commissioner (Mr Peter Tyndall) on appeals made to him under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014. Lisa previously worked at the Library and Research Service at the Houses of the Oireachtas, the Courts Service and the then Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Mark Tighe is an award winning journalist, originally from Donegal, and has been a reporter with The Sunday Times since 2006. He qualified in 2003 from DCU with a degree in Computer Applications and in 2006 graduated from NUI Galway with a Masters in Journalism. He has several Justice Media Awards from the Law Society for court reporting and writing on legal issues. Last year he won the Smurfit Business School specialist business journalist of the year. He was part of a 2013 delegation of journalists from the newspaper sector that made a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Finance before the new Freedom of Information Act was introduced in 2014. He regularly uses freedom of information requests to aid investigations and has had a number of important rulings in his favour from the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Aoife Gillespie Aoife is a public and administrative law specialist and a Senior Associate at Philip Lee solicitors. She is an experienced advocate and litigator with over 8 years' experience representing clients before the Superior Courts and before administrative and statutory tribunals and appeals bodies. Prior to joining Philip Lee in 2015, she was a practising Barrister acting primarily in public administrative law, human rights law and immigration law. Aoife specialises in Freedom of Information Law and advises on Access to Information on the Environment under the Aarhus Convention and related EU and domestic law provisions. In addition to acting for the Information Commissioner and Commissioner for Environmental Information in respect of judicial reviews and statutory appeals before the Superior Court, she has delivered general and bespoke training to public bodies regarding their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. She also has an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex and is an active member of the firm's CSR and pro-bono committee.

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.