



Roinn an Taoisigh  
Department of the Taoiseach

# Expressions of Interest in Membership of the National Statistics Board

Nomination of Persons for appointment to the National Statistics Board  
By Organisations Representative of Users of Statistics and Providers  
of Information under the Statistics Act 1993

Closing Date: 15:00 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Expressions of Interest in Membership of the National Statistics Board**

The Department of the Taoiseach is inviting expressions of interest from organisations and users of statistics to nominate individuals for membership of the National Statistics Board. In line with Section 18 of the Statistics Act 1993, the National Statistics Board shall consist of eight members, including three persons of proven ability and experience whom shall be nominated by such organisation or organisations as the Taoiseach considers to be representative of the users of official statistics and providers of information under the Act.

A vacancy has arisen on the Board, at this time, for one person of proven ability and experience whom shall be nominated by such organisation or organisations as the Taoiseach considers to be representative of the users of official statistics and providers of information under the Act.

## **What organisations/bodies can be considered representative of users of statistics and providers of Information under the Act?**

The Statistics Act 1993 does not identify specific organisations, and it provides that the Taoiseach shall consider if an organisation meets this criterion.

Many organisations use official statistics, and as such a wide range of organisations/bodies may be considered to fall within this category. This could include, for example:

- Civil society groups
- Academic institutions
- Business/trade union representative bodies
- Professional/technical groups
- Sectoral representatives
- Regional organisations
- Non-governmental organisations/charities
- Environmental organisations.

## **Membership of State Boards**

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State Bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard, and in accordance with Section 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State

Boards, “it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards.”

The [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016](#) (the Code) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

## Appointment to the National Statistics Board

<b>Location:</b>	Predominantly central Dublin, once a year central Cork
<b>Number of Vacancies:</b>	1
<b>Remuneration:</b>	€5,985 per annum for Ordinary Member. Travel and subsistence is payable at normal civil service rates where relevant. (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors).
<b>Time Requirements:</b>	The Board will be required to meet approximately 5 – 6 times per annum. Each meeting lasts half a day in length, with an estimated 24 hour meeting time per annum and an estimated 12 hours of preparation time per annum.

### 1. Background

The National Statistics Board (NSB) was set up as a non-statutory body in 1986 and established on a statutory basis in November 1994 under the Statistics Act 1993. Section 18 of the Statistics Act 1993 provides the legislative basis for the Board. The role of the Board defined by Section 19 of the Statistics Act is to guide, with the agreement of the Taoiseach, the strategic direction of the Central Statistics Office.

Since the Board was first established the role of the Board has evolved considerably. Previously, the Board primarily advised the CSO on the strategic direction and priority statistical outputs for the CSO. However, in recent strategies and papers the Board has highlighted the importance of data held across the wider public system, and its potential for both administrative and statistical purposes. The Board supports the Irish Government Statistical System (IGSS) involving the use of data from across the entire public sector to produce better official statistics. To give effect to this, it has promoted the idea of a National Data Infrastructure (NDI) with shared data management structures, standards and identifiers across the public sector.

The Board's current strategy is entitled *Quality Information for All – Numbers Matter – National Statistics Board Strategic Priorities for Official Statistics – 2021 – 2026* and can be found [here](#). The Strategy emphasises the importance of the CSO and IGSS:

- Remaining a trusted, independent source of data;
- Staying relevant by monitoring the transformations taking place in the environment, society and the economy;
- Linking data sources in an innovative way, in line with the requirements and protections of the Statistics Act and GDPR, to provide the best possible insights; and
- Communicating these insights in a clear way to users of official statistics

The Board is currently in the process of updating its Strategy.

## 2. Functions of the Board

It is the duty and responsibility of Board members to contribute to the work of the Board and to contribute to the development of priorities for official statistics in Ireland.

The Statistics Act 1993 provides for eight members on the Board, all of whom are appointed by the Taoiseach: two members are appointed directly by the Taoiseach and three members are appointed following nomination by organisations representative of the users of official statistics and providers of information under the Act. The Chairperson of the NSB is appointed by the Taoiseach from among these five members of the Board. Two members of the Board are senior representatives of the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Finance. The Director General of the CSO is an ex officio member of the Board.

Further information on the National Statistics Board can be found at [www.nsb.ie](http://www.nsb.ie).

### Current Composition of the Board:

Name	First Appointed	Reappointed	Expiry Date	Position Type	Basis of Appointment
Cliona Saidléar (Dr.)	22/07/2023	11/02/2025	21/07/2029	Chair  Executive Director, Rape Crisis Network Ireland	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (a) of the Statistics Act 1993
Martina Lawless (Dr.)	22/07/2023		21/07/2026	Board Member	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (a) of the

				Director, ESRI	Statistics Act 1993
Jim Scheer	22/07/2023		21/07/2026	Board Member  Head of Data and Insights, SEAI	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (a) of the Statistics Act 1993
John McGarry	11/02/2025		10/02/2028	Board Member  Director of Consulting, PwC Ireland	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (a) of the Statistics Act 1993
Eithne Fitzgerald	27/08/2020	26/08/2023	25/08/2026	Board Member  Economic and Social Policy Analyst	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (a) of the Statistics Act 1993
John Shaw	15/09/2016	22/07/2023	21/07/2026	Board Member  Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (b) of the Statistics Act 1993
Emma Cunningham	05/12/2023		04/12/2026	Board Member  Assistant Secretary, Department of Finance	Ministerial appointment in line with Section 18 (1) (c) of the Statistics Act 1993

Jennifer Bannim				Board Member  Director General of the CSO	Ex-officio

### 3. Person Specification

The Taoiseach invites applications from:

- organisations which can be considered representative of users of statistics and providers of information under the Statistics Act 1993, who wish to nominate suitably qualified candidates who meet the below criteria; and/or
- individuals who meet the below criteria, and who have been nominated by an organisation which can be considered representative of users of statistics and providers of information under the Statistics Act 1993.

#### Essential:

In addition to outlining their particular interest in this position, the nominated candidate must demonstrate evidence of significant knowledge and/or experience in the below at an appropriately senior level:

- the official statistical system in Ireland and/or the international statistical system;
- contributing effectively, at a senior level, to the strategic direction of, and development of priorities for, a complex organisation;
- the environment in which the Central Statistics Office operates;
- the contribution of statistics to the formulation of public policy in Ireland.

Candidates must also have experience of three or more of the following at an appropriately senior level. Please indicate all that apply.

- Strategic Management and Development
- Senior management experience in a public/private organisation
- Participation in International organisations/networks
- Previous board experience
- Data Protection
- Statistics and/or Statistical Analysis

- Data Management and/or Data Engineering and/or Data Analytics
- Macro/Micro Economics
- Regional Studies / Spatial Analysis
- Social Science / Social Policy / Sociology
- EU and/or Domestic Law
- Environmental Policy
- Public Policy

The Taoiseach encourages applications from diverse, qualified candidates to ensure the Board is a true reflection of Irish society and shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Board as the Taoiseach considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments, in line with the updated Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016.

In order to qualify for appointment, a person must not have any legal impediment or conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role of a member of the Board. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

#### **4. Term of Appointment**

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend the term of engagement for a second term subject to:

- The membership of any member of the Board may be terminated by the Taoiseach/Minister of State at any time on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Taoiseach/Minister of State.
- A member of the Board may resign his or her membership of the Board by notice in writing sent or given to the Taoiseach/Minister of State, and the resignation shall take effect on the day on which the Taoiseach/Minister of State receives the notice.
- Members of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Taoiseach/Minister of State may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, from time to time determine.
- A board member shall cease to be a member of the Board if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament or elected to the European Parliament or becomes a member of a local authority.

## 5. Submitting an Expression of Interest

Nominating bodies/individuals should submit:

- a **Curriculum Vitae**
- a **cover letter** (to include the reasons for seeking a position on the National Statistics Board)
- and a **letter/document confirming the nomination of the individual** by an organisation which can be considered representative of users of statistics and providers of information under the Statistics Act 1993.

Expressions of interest may be submitted via email to NSBApplications@taoiseach.gov.ie

Please take care when submitting expressions of interest, as the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit. Organisations/nominated persons should ensure the Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how a person's particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Board position.

**Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter.**

## 6. Appointment Process

In line with the provisions of the Statistics Act 1993, appointment to the position will be made by the Taoiseach on the basis of nominations received from organisations considered representative of users of statistics and providers of information under the Act.

An Assessment Panel (the "Panel") will be convened by the Department of the Taoiseach to consider and assess the applications received. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
  - consideration of the written applications; and or
  - interview; and or
  - referee checks
- Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include the Department requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications)
- Arrive at a shortlist of suitable candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Taoiseach.

## **7. Confidentiality**

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquiries, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process. Certain information in relation to this process, not specific to any individual, is extracted for computer records for general statistical purposes.

## **8. Data Protection Act 2018**

If your application is assessed and you are considered to be suitable for appointment, your CV and cover letter (and any additional supplementary information requested as part of the application process) will be held in the Department of the Taoiseach. The Department will act as data controller of such data and will retain it for up to one year following the appointment. Unless you request withdrawal of your application, such data may be used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that arise for a period of up to one year for this Board.