Policy Forum for Ireland conference:
Next steps for AI adoption and regulation in Ireland
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 15th December 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****

POLICY FORUM FOR IRELAND
FÓRAM BEARTAIS d'ÉIRINN

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Albert Dolan TD, Spokesperson on Enterprise and the Circular Economy, Fianna Fáil

9.05 **Assessing Ireland's AI strategy and priorities for responsible AI adoption**
Naoise Ó Cearúil TD, Cathaoirleach, Joint Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Houses of the Oireachtas
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Scaling AI adoption in Ireland - capabilities, investment, addressing barriers and provider priorities**
Senior representative, AI provider

9.45 **Next steps for building Ireland's AI capability - skills, research and infrastructure**
implementation of Digital Ireland: Connecting our People, Securing our Future | delivery of national AI priorities | supporting AI literacy and organisational readiness | data centre capacity, implications of renewable energy requirements, and implementation of LEAP and the CRU's Large Energy Users Connection Policy | supporting innovation and investment | research commercialisation, the AI in Research Transformation Programme, and access to specialist skills and investment | access to computing capacity, data and digital infrastructure | attracting international investment
John Durcan, Chief Technologist, IDA Ireland
Peter Lantry, Managing Director, Ireland, Equinix
Rosie Hood, Lead Data Scientist EMEA, Economic Graph Research Institute, LinkedIn
Dr Elizabeth Daly, Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM Research Ireland
Brian McDowell, Head, Communications and Public Affairs, Financial Services Union

10.10 Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Albert Dolan TD, Spokesperson on Enterprise and the Circular Economy, Fianna Fáil

10.40 Break

10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senator Linda Nelson Murray, Seanad Spokesperson, Enterprise and Employment, and Insurance, Fine Gael

10.55 **Priorities for AI regulation, coordination and public trust**
Paul Byrne, CEO, AI Office of Ireland

11.10 **Ireland's AI governance framework - implementation, oversight, assurance and redress**
implementation of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026 | early operation of the AI Office of Ireland | Digital Omnibus on AI and implications of amended EU AI Act implementation timelines | coordination and allocation of responsibility across competent authorities, including cross-sector cases and complaints | development of guidance, standards and assurance arrangements | testing, monitoring, safeguards for increasingly capable models, and coordination across regulators and developers | transparency, human oversight, complaints and redress | interaction between AI regulation and existing sectoral frameworks, including GDPR and consumer protection requirements | copyright, licensing and use of protected material
Colin Rooney, Partner, Arthur Cox
Dr Margaret Hartnett, Co-Founder and CEO, Progressio.ai
Rob O'Farrell, Chief Technology Officer, ID-Pal
Samantha Holman, CEO, Irish Copyright Licensing Agency

11.30 Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 **AI adoption, productivity and service transformation**
implementation of the forthcoming sectoral AI Adoption Strategy | implications of differences in the pace and extent of adoption across enterprises, SMEs, public bodies and sectors | approaches to addressing barriers to moving from pilots to scaled use, including procurement and supplier dependence | public service capability and responsible deployment of AI | implementation of AI literacy requirements and strengthening organisational readiness | support for smaller employers and organisations with limited in-house capability | access and scope of the AI Regulatory Sandbox programme | requirements for human review, intervention and challenge in consequential decisions | measuring economic and organisational impact, including differences in gains and costs across firms and sectors | support for workforce transition and public confidence
Michael Cronin, Managing Director, OpenSky Data Systems
John Byrne, Founder, Corlytics
Laoise Mullane, Director, Business Transformation and AI Adoption Lead, PwC Ireland
Senior representative, industry
Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 **Delivering Ireland's AI strategy - implementing Digital Ireland, AI adoption and strengthening governance**
Jean Carberry, Assistant Secretary, Digital Division, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment *(pre-recorded contribution)*

12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Senator Linda Nelson Murray, Seanad Spokesperson, Enterprise and Employment, and Insurance, Fine Gael
Harry Nelson, Policy Forum for Ireland