



**Irish Fiscal
Advisory Council**

Path for the Public Finances

Conference, 2019

Programme

**Long-Term Fiscal
Sustainability:**

Winter is coming!

22nd February, 2019 | Dublin Castle

8:30 am – 2:30 pm



The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council welcomes you to its third annual conference focusing on long-term public finance issues.

This year's conference is on the theme of "Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability: Winter is Coming!". We will be exploring:

- Long-run growth prospects
- Demographic changes
- Future health and pensions costs

International experts and key players in Ireland will discuss how they are trying to address these issues.



8:30am Registration

9:00am **Opening address**
Seamus Coffey
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Keynote Presentation – Growth & Public Revenues

9:10am **The Future Growth Path for Europe & Ireland**
Prof Nicholas Crafts
University of Warwick

Session 1 – Demographic Change

10:00am **Long-Term Population Projections under Uncertainty**
Enrique M. Quilis
Economic Analysis Division, Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF)

10:30pm **Predicting Irish Migration: a Gravity Model Approach**
Ainhoa Osés Arranz
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

11:00am Tea / Coffee



Session 2 – Health

- 11:30pm **Fiscal Sustainability and Public Spending on Health**
James Ebdon
Fiscal Risks and Sustainability Division,
Office for Budget Responsibility
- 12:00pm **Insights from the Hippocrates Model**
Maev-Ann Wren
Economic and Social Research Institute

12:30pm Lunch

Session 3 – Pensions & Discussion

- 1:15pm **Pension Reforms and the Labour Supply of Older Workers**
Hervé Boulhol
OECD
- 1:45pm **Discussion:**
How will Ireland incorporate future demographic pressures?
Íde Kearney (IFAC), Jasmina Behan (IGEES), John McCarthy (Dept. of Finance)
- 2:30pm **Closing address**
Seamus Coffey
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Seamus Coffey

Chairperson, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Seamus Coffey is Chairperson of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. His appointment as a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council was 4 years effective 1st January 2016. His appointment as Chairperson is effective from 1st January 2017.



Seamus is also a lecturer in Economics in UCC. His teaching includes microeconomics, government and business, advanced microeconomics and econometrics as well as adult and distance education courses. His research and writing focuses on the performance of the Irish economy. He is a sometime contributor to print, broadcast and online media relating to the Irish economy including fiscal outcomes, taxation, debt, national accounts and other issues.

Nicholas Crafts

Professor of Economics and Economic History University of Warwick

Nicholas Crafts is Professor of Economic History (since 2006) and Director of ESRC Centre on Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (since 2010) and Professor of Economic History at the University of Warwick. His previous career has included faculty positions at London School of Economics, Oxford University, Stanford University and UC Berkeley. He was President of the Economic History Society, 2004-2007. His research interests centre on the long-run growth performance of the British economy. He has published many journal articles and written or edited several books including *The Great Depression of the 1930s: Policy Lessons for Today* (2013) (with Peter Fearon). His recent publications include "The Productivity Slowdown: Is It the New Normal?", *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* (2018). His book, *Forging Ahead, Falling Behind and Fighting Back: British Economic Growth from the Industrial Revolution to the Financial Crisis* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. He was made CBE in 2014 and is a Fellow of the British Academy, elected 1992.





Speakers

Enrique M. Quilis

**Economic Analysis Division
Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal
Responsibility (AIReF)**



Enrique leads the quantitative modeling team at the macro research department of the Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF). Prior to this, he has held positions in the macro research departments of the Ministry of Economy, the Treasury and the National Statistical Institute. An economist by training, he holds a Ph. D. by the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid and is a State Statistician. Enrique's research interests include time series econometrics, quantitative macroeconomic modeling and numerical methods.

Ainhoa Osés Arranz

**Economist and Research Assistant
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council**



Ainhoa Osés Arranz is an Economist and Research Assistant at the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. Prior to joining the Secretariat in September 2017, she worked in the Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF) as a Research Assistant for a year, with special focus on demographic and pension forecasting. She holds a B.A in Economics from the University of the Basque Country (Bilbao), where she obtained the Extraordinary Prize in Economics, and a MSc in Economics at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.



Speakers

James Ebdon

**Fiscal Risks and Sustainability Division
Office for Budgetary Responsibility**



James Ebdon has been working in the public finances and fiscal policy for the last 17 years, including stints at the ONS, Audit Commission and Treasury. Since 2016, he has led the Office for Budget Responsibility's fiscal sustainability and risks team. His team's biennial Fiscal sustainability reports provide the United Kingdom Government with 50 year projections for the public finances and analysis of the public sector balance sheet.

Maev-Ann Wren

**Senior Research Officer
Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)**



Dr Maev-Ann Wren is joint Research Area Co-ordinator for Health and Quality of Life research at the ESRI. She leads the development of the ESRI's HIPPOCRATES projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure and was lead author of the 2017 report, Projections of demand for healthcare in Ireland, 2015-2030. She has published on a wide range of topics, including the effects of ageing on health and long-term care demand, the history of Irish health policy and approaches to Irish healthcare reform. She worked as Special Advisor to the Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Primary Care from 2011-2012.



Speakers

Hervé Boulhol **Head of Pensions and Population Ageing,** **Social Policy Division, Directorate for** **Employment, Labour and Social Affairs,** **OECD**



Hervé Boulhol has been a Senior Economist, responsible for the work on pensions and population ageing since March 2014. Previously he worked in the Economics Department, heading the France and Poland Desks. Prior to joining the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2007, he had worked as an Economist in Natixis (2001-2007) and in financial markets (1989-2000). He graduated from the Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Administration Economique (ENSAE, 1989), and holds a Ph.D in Economics from Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne (2007).

Íde Kearney **Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council**



Dr Íde Kearney currently works as a Senior Economist in the Research Division of the Dutch Central Bank (De Nederlandsche Bank). Prior to joining DNB she worked for a number of years in the ESRI on the development of macroeconomic models and their use in macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis of the Irish economy, including forecasting the public finances. Dr Kearney holds a Ph.D in Economics from the European University Institute in Florence and a Masters of Economic Science (Econometrics) from University College Dublin. Her work for IFAC is in a private capacity, independent of her work for DNB.



Speakers

Jasmina Behan

Head of Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES)



Jasmina Behan is the Head of Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Jasmina's role is to lead on the capacity building across the Irish Civil Service in relation to the implementation of value for money principles in public service delivery and evidence based policy making, through talent management and analytical output. Prior to joining IGEES, Jasmina worked for 14 years as a labour market economist providing research support to Ireland's Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN), Department of Education.

John McCarthy

Chief Economist Department of Finance



John McCarthy is Chief Economist in the Department of Finance and has responsibility for the Economic Policy Division. He was previously a senior economist in the Department heading up the macroeconomic analysis unit. He has worked in the Department on domestic economic and fiscal policy issues. At EU level he was the deputy member of the Economic and Financial Committee for a number of years, including during the crisis years. He is a member of the Economic Policy Committee of the OECD and the Oversight Board for the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service. Prior to joining the Department, he was a senior economist in the Central Bank.



Notes

Access Conference Presentations on www.fiscalcouncil.ie/ifac-conference



Path for the Public Finances 2019
"Winter is Coming!"