

## REVITALISING PUBLIC SERVICES

IPA Spring Seminar Series 2010 for Public Service Managers

A series of seminars on current governance issues and aspects of the modernisation agenda for public service leaders and managers

SEMINAR ONE: 31 MARCH 2010

**Crisis Management – Lessons for Cross-Government Working**

SEMINAR TWO: 11 MAY 2010

**Public Service Accountability and Oireachtas Committees**

SEMINAR THREE: 2 JUNE 2010

**Can Government deliver ‘Strategically’?**



# IPA SPRING SEMINAR SERIES 2010

## Revitalising Public Services

The Irish Public Service has been the focus of much criticism in recent times, particularly in the context of the fiscal crisis. Yet at the same time government and citizens require the public service to step in and assume new tasks and responsibilities despite the increasing constraints on resources and manpower. The motivation and morale of public servants has been adversely affected but addressing the current challenges requires a creative and energetic response from our public service organisations.

**'Revitalising Public Services'** will be the overarching theme of this IPA seminar programme for public service managers in 2010. While revitalising public services will require the hard work and dedication of every public servant, vision and leadership will be required across all management levels. The Spring Seminar series will look at three timely topics:

- Crisis management and lessons for cross-government working;
- Public service accountability and Oireachtas committees; and
- Can government deliver 'strategically'?

Each topic has merit in its own right but will also be examined in the context of the *Transforming Public Services* agenda and its focus on: more joined-up government, greater accountability for performance, and longer-term planning and delivery. Progress on each of these fronts will play a role in revitalising public services. Further information regarding each seminar is included overleaf.

### Outcomes

Participants will:

- Be briefed on key developments and issues in public service.
- Benefit from a unique perspective and insights from senior public service, political and business leaders on each of the timely public management topics.
- Take practical ideas back to the workplace and share with colleagues.
- Network with speakers as well as peers, and share good practice and learning.

### Who Should Attend?

The *IPA Spring Seminar Series for Public Service Managers 2010* is aimed at managers from across all areas of the civil and public service, including departments, agencies, the health and education sectors and local authorities. It is also of relevance to any officials involved and responsible for modernisation and change management.

### Seminar Fee:

**Individual Rate:** €125 per person per seminar or €295 to attend all three seminars.

**Organisational Rate:** €450 per seminar for up to 6 staff members to attend or €1,200 for up to 6 staff members to attend all three seminars.

### Bookings:

To book a place on the Spring Seminar Series, please complete the booking form and return to the Central Bookings Office. Contact Central Bookings on 01 240 3666 or email [training@ipa.ie](mailto:training@ipa.ie)

### Further Information;

For further information regarding the content of the Spring Seminar Series, please contact Tom Ward on direct telephone 01 240 3636 or email [tomward@ipa.ie](mailto:tomward@ipa.ie).

## Seminar 1: Crisis Management – Lessons for Cross-Government Working

31 MARCH 2010 (8:45am to 11:00am)

The high-profile flooding and cold weather crises of Winter 2009 have focused attention on effective again on effective cross-government working and co-ordination, a subject that also receives attention in the Transforming Public Services agenda. What do these and other recent crises, such as pork contamination and swine flu, teach us about effective joined-up government? What lessons can we learn before the next crisis hits to ensure an optimal public service response? This seminar brings together three senior public servants with experience of crisis management, particularly involving multiple public service bodies, to discuss their experiences and lessons learned for not only crisis management per se but also effective cross-government working and co-ordination.

### Special Guest Speakers:

- Sean Hogan, Chair of the National Response Co-Ordination Committee, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Brendan Kenny, Chief Executive, Limerick Regeneration Agencies
- Professor Alan Reilly, Chief Executive, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

## Seminar 2: Public Service Accountability and Oireachtas Committees

11 MAY 2010 (8:45am to 11:00am)

The issue of accountability for performance in public service organisations remains high on the agenda and senior public servants are increasingly being called to account for performance in front of Oireachtas committees. For many this is a daunting experience; the Oireachtas is after all is an intensely political environment. The purpose of this seminar is to examine this accountability relationship between public servants and Oireachtas committees, including types and functions of committees, their powers, 'what to expect' if you're to appear before a committee, and what politicians are looking for. It will also consider increasing accountability under the reform agenda.

### Special Guest Speakers:

- Darragh O'Brien TD, Vice-Chairman, Public Accounts Committee
- Art O'Leary, Director of Committees, Information and Communications, Houses of the Oireachtas
- Julie O'Neill, former Secretary General, Department of Transport (2002-2009)

## Seminar 3: Can Government deliver 'Strategically'?

2 JUNE 2010 (8:45am to 11:00am)

One of the key aims of the Transforming Public Services agenda is to link public service delivery with commonly understood strategic or societal outcomes as enunciated through government policy. In this way public service bodies in a particular policy area need to work together to deliver outcomes for citizens, while sharing a clarity of purpose, alignment with policy goals, and performance. But how does this work in practice? Do short-term political pressures trump long-term strategic delivery? Does a lack of capacity for implementation or clarity about objectives hamper the achievement of policy goals? These are just some of the questions to be tackled in this important seminar.

### Special Guest Speakers:

- Michael D. Higgins, Labour Party TD and former Minister for Arts, Culture and Sport (tbc)
- Jim Glennon, Chairman of Edelman PR, rugby analyst and former TD and Senator
- Brendan Tuohy, former Secretary General, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

*Note: The line-up for each seminar is correct at the time of going to print but may be subject to change*

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## SPEAKERS

### Michael D. Higgins, TD

Michael D. Higgins is a Labour Party TD for Galway West. Having first been elected to the Dáil in 1981, he has been successfully returned at each general election since 1987. Deputy Higgins is a former Cabinet Minister for Arts, Culture and Sport (1993-1997) and served in Seanad Éireann for the NUI constituency (1982-1987) and as a Taoiseach's nominee (1973-1977). He is currently Labour Party President and Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs.

### Jim Glennon

Jim Glennon is a former Fianna Fáil TD for Dublin North (2002-2007) and caused some surprise when he announced in 2006 that he would not seek re-election. He previously served in Seanad Éireann between 2000-2002. Mr. Glennon was Vice-Chairman of the Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Sport and Tourism, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (2002-2007), a member of the Oireachtas Transport Committee and the Oireachtas Committee on Procedures and Privileges. He is a former Irish rugby international, capped six times for his country. He also coached and managed the Leinster rugby team. Since departing politics, Mr. Glennon has been working as a media rugby analyst and in the public affairs and sports sponsorship areas. Since November 2008 he has been Chairman of Edelman PR.

### Sean Hogan

Sean Hogan was appointed by Government to be Chairman of the National Emergency Response Coordination Committee during the severe flooding crisis in late 2009 and during the 'big freeze' in December 2009/January 2010. Mr. Hogan is National Director for Fire and Emergency Services at the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

### Brendan Kenny

Brendan Kenny was appointed Chief Executive of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies in May 2007. Limerick Southside Regeneration (Southill and Ballinacurra Weston) and Limerick Northside Regeneration (Moyross and St. Mary's Park) were established to lead the development of comprehensive measures to address issues of social exclusion and disadvantage and to drive forward the regeneration of these areas. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Kenny was Assistant Dublin City Manager with responsibility for Housing, Social and Community Services.

### Darragh O'Brien TD

Darragh O'Brien is a Fianna Fáil TD for Dublin North, having been elected in the 2007 General Election. He is Vice Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts, convenor on the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and member of the Select Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights. Deputy O'Brien was a member of Fingal County Council between 2004-2007. Before entering politics, Deputy O'Brien worked for the financial services group, Friends First.

### Art O'Leary

Art O'Leary is Director of Committees, Information and Communications at the Houses of the Oireachtas. Mr. O'Leary formerly worked at the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

### Julie O'Neill

Julie O'Neill was Secretary General of the Department of Transport between 2002 and 2009. Ms. O'Neill was previously Secretary General in the Department of Marine and Natural Resources, Head of the Office of the Tánaiste, and Assistant Secretary at the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. She joined the civil service in 1972 and has also worked in the Departments of Social Welfare, Finance, the Public Service and in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

### Professor Alan Reilly

Alan Reilly is Chief Executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), the state agency that has responsibility for the enforcement of food regulations in Ireland, and the lead agency in the pork dioxin crisis of December 2008. Before joining the Authority in 1999 Prof. Reilly worked in the Food Safety Programme of the World Health Organization in Geneva, in the UK scientific civil service and managed the Food Safety Group at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich in Kent, and as visiting Associate Professor at the College of Fisheries, University of the Philippines. He is a member of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Food Information Council. He also acts as a food safety advisor to the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN).

### Brendan Tuohy

Brendan Tuohy is the former Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (2002-2007). Mr Tuohy was previously Secretary General of the Department of Public Enterprise and prior to that Assistant Secretary in that Department and its predecessor, the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications. He is a former member of the National Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Task Force on Information and Communications Technology for Development.