

IAPF SPRING CONFERENCE

13th March 2025



STATE STREET GLOBAL
ADVISORS



Liam Stack

Chairperson IAPF Investment Committee/Aberdeen Investments

Liam is Head of Distribution, Ireland for Aberdeen Investments. He leads the team responsible for both existing clients and new business across Institutional, Wholesale and Retail channels. He is currently the Chair of the IAPF Investment Committee.



Brendan Kennedy

Pensions Regulator, Pensions Authority

Brendan Kennedy is Pensions Regulator and chief executive of the Pensions Authority. He has held this position since 2006.

Brendan has spent almost his entire career in pensions. Before joining the Authority in 2004, he held a variety of life insurance and consulting positions.

Brendan qualified as an actuary and is a Fellow of the Irish Institute of Pensions Management. He also chairs the Technical Committee of the International Organisation of Pension Supervisors.



Shally Shanker

Founder & Managing Partner, AiiM Partners

Shally Shanker, CFA, launched AiiM Partners after establishing a strong track record and recognizing the market need for independent fund managers with deep domain expertise. With over 22 years of investment management experience, she has structured and overseen \$19 billion in global portfolios spanning multiple asset classes and strategies.

She has served on the boards of over 20 private companies, most from early investment through successful exits. Her portfolio leadership includes early participation in high-growth sectors such as applied AI, autonomous data collection, and critical materials. Drawing on her deep expertise, she continues to champion investments that generate strong financial performance while generating positive, measurable outcomes in the areas of sustainability and local quality jobs creation.



Tony Fleming
Trustee, EirGrid Pension Fund

Tony is a trustee of the EirGrid Pension Fund. The EirGrid Pension Fund is an occupational pension scheme set up to provide retirement benefits for employees of EirGrid, Ireland's Electricity Transmission System Operator. The fund is a defined benefit scheme which was established along with EirGrid itself in 2006. The pension fund currently has over 500 members including active, deferred, and retired members. Tony is a member elected trustee having been successfully elected in the two trustee elections conducted since the

fund's establishment.

Tony has recently been awarded with two designations – QPT (Qualified Pension Trustee) from the Irish Institute of Pensions Management and PTP (Pension Trustee Practitioner) from the Life Insurance Association. He is also a member of the IAPF Council.



Ger Fitzgerald
Head of Investment Strategy, Unio Wealth Management

Ger has over 15 years investment experience having previously worked with Invesco and Mercer. Ger is Head of Investment Strategy, responsible for the delivery of investment solutions across employee benefits and wealth management. He advises clients and trustee boards on investment requirements, asset allocation and manager selection. Ger sits on Unio's Global Macro Council and Investment Committee. Ger is an Actuary, Chartered Enterprise Risk Actuary, QFA and Pension Trustee Practitioner.



Des Lawrence
Senior Investment Strategist, Investment Strategy & Research EMEA, State Street Global Advisors

Des is a Senior Investment Strategist in the Investment Strategy & Research team at State Street Global Advisors. He is responsible for advising on and designing multi-asset strategies and client specific solutions. Des joined State Street Global Advisors Europe in September 2007 and has over 30 years' experience in the investment industry.

Des previously managed fixed income mandates at Oppenheim Investment Managers, a subsidiary of Sal. Oppenheim, Cologne. His primary focus was on global sovereign debt and investment grade credit. Prior to that he managed a variety of mandates for top tier global insurance and reinsurance clients. Des has considerable experience managing and advising on investment portfolios of varying risk and return profiles.



Ciara Quinn
Ciara Quinn, IAPF Pensions Committee, Pension Investment Analyst, Enterprise Services, ESB

Ciara Quinn is the Investment Analyst for ESB Pensions. Ciara has worked in ESB Pensions for three years working on the Defined Contribution Scheme and the Defined Benefit Scheme.

Key responsibilities include monitoring fund performance relative to benchmarks and evaluation of Investment Managers across multi asset classes.

Ciara holds a Bachelor of Science in Energy with Finance degree and has completed the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) exams.





Pearse MacManus

Director of Asset Management – Head of Macro and Risk Analysis, Cantor Fitzgerald Asset Management Europe

Pearse is Director of Asset Management at Cantor Fitzgerald Asset Management Europe and has 30 years' experience in the investment industry. Prior to joining Cantor Fitzgerald, Pearse worked as a fixed income fund manager at Hill Samuel Asset Management in London. He joined Merrion Investment Managers from GE RE Management Services, where he headed up the investment team. Pearse holds a BA in Economics from Trinity College

Dublin and is a member of the CFA UK.



Deirdre Cummins

Of Counsel, Arthur Cox, Chair, Pensions Council

Deirdre has more than 20 years' experience as a solicitor in private practice advising on all aspects of Irish pension arrangements both in the private and public sectors. Deirdre advises both trustees and employers on all aspects of the day-to-day management and administration of pension schemes, and on pension developments more generally.

Deirdre is a member and former Chairman of the Association of Pension Lawyers in Ireland and is currently the Chair of the Pensions Council.

Deirdre joined Arthur Cox in August 2022, having spent previous years as a partner in Matheson.



Joanne Roche

Director, KPMG, Pensions Council

Joanne is a pensions actuary and Director with KPMG. She has specialised in pensions for 20+ years and works on a wide variety of pension issues across the public and private sector. She co-authored the report into the actuarial review of the Social Insurance Fund in 2022, 2017 and 2012 on behalf of the Department of Social Protection. Joanne has a keen interest in ensuring the concerns of all stakeholders are reflected in pension solutions with a particular focus on the ultimate beneficiaries.

Joanne was a member of the steering group of the Pensions Council which oversaw the Retirement Living Standards project produced by the KPMG Strategy team.



Alcarine Power

Head of Pension Risk Management, Aon

With over 30 years' experience in the pensions and insurance industry, Alcarine is the Head of Pension Risk Management at Aon Ireland, a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions. As a consulting pensions actuary, she has experience of USA and UK pension regimes as well as Irish and has provided risk services in the insurance industry. She is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries,

Ireland, holds a Masters from Queen's University, Belfast and an honours degree from University College Cork.



Orla Aherne

FSAI, Principal, Mercer

Orla is an Investment Consultant within Mercer's Investment business. She provides investment advice to a portfolio of institutional clients – mainly defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes – both delegated and advisory.



Eleanor Cunningham

IAPF Council, Partner, Head of Pensions & Incentives Group, McCann FitzGerald LLP

Eleanor is a Partner and Head of the Pensions & Incentives Group in McCann FitzGerald. She is responsible for advising financial institutions, semi-state bodies, companies, trustees, committees and employees on various pension plans, employee share plans and other incentive plans. Her practice includes advising international and domestic clients in both the private and public sectors. Relevant experience includes advising on a range of pension issues including the establishment, governance, amendment and day to day administration of defined contribution schemes and the impact of pensions and other relevant legislation regarding DC schemes and their operation. Eleanor also advises on defined benefit scheme including issues such as restructuring, liability management exercises, benefit design, trustee governance, scheme amendments, dealing with funding deficits and funding proposals, mergers, and scheme wind-ups. Eleanor advises on both Revenue approved tax efficient employee shares schemes and on unapproved employee share schemes and other incentive plans.

Eleanor is Chairperson of the IAPF Pensions Committee, and sits on the IAPF Council. She is the outgoing Chairman of the Association of Pension Lawyers in Ireland, the current Chairman of the Irish Pro Share Association and Chair of its Pensions Sub-Committee. Eleanor is a member of the UK Association of Pension Lawyers, the International Pension and Employee Benefit Lawyers' Association and the Global Equity Organisation.

