



Date: 26th May 2026

Time: 10:00 - 16:00

Venue: G018, ILAS

[Register Here](#)

Policy Implementation for Impact.

Plenary Speaker: Prof. Michael Kenny

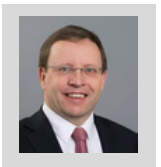
"Getting Governments to deliver effectively in turbulent times".



Prof. Michael Kenny is Professor of Public Policy and Inaugural Head of Department, Bennett School of Public Policy in Cambridge. He is a Professorial Fellow at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, a visiting Fellow at the UCL Constitution Unit, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Constitution Society. In 2021 he was made a Fellow of the UK's Academy of the Social Sciences. His research interests include public policy; governance and devolution; territorial politics; British politics and political ideas. He is currently writing *The World Island: How Britain's Relationship with the Seas has Shaped its Politics and Government*, with Nick Pearce, which will examine the policy and ideological implications of shifting conceptions of the UK as a maritime state.

Case Study: "Pension Reform" Presented By:

John McKeon, Secretary General, Department of Social Protection



The impetus to progress pension reform has arisen from the need to ensure its sustainability as the population ages and people live longer. In addition, there are increasing questions about its adequacy in terms of catering for diverse circumstances through a one-size fits all approach. Although the evidence points to the need for reform, this can founder on people's unwillingness to accept change and has proven one of the most contentious political issues in many countries. Against this backdrop, this case study will assess how pension reforms are addressing the demographic imperative whilst charting a feasible course that secures social acceptance.

Case Study: "Online Youth Safety" Presented By:

Triona Quill, Assistant Secretary, Broadcasting & Media Division, Department of Culture, Communications & Sport.



Irish society is grappling with the ubiquitous availability of online devices and communications. Its implications are especially pressing for young people as there is widespread concern about the effects of always being online as they may be exposed to a range of inappropriate influences. Consequently, in a number of countries, there are calls for age-related restrictions and/or bans. For public policy, matters may not be so simple. Relevant evidence, particularly of a longitudinal kind, may not be readily available for a still emergent phenomenon. Questions of feasibility loom large as national governments attempt to address trans-national issues brought about by some of the most resourceful corporations. And it is important to understand the viewpoint of young people when the discourse is largely driven by adult voters. Given these circumstances, the speaker will address how a practical and progressive public policy might emerge.

Case Study: "Upgrading Ireland's Energy Infrastructure" Presented By:

Philip Nugent, Assistant Secretary, EU, International and Marine Affairs, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.



Infrastructure across Ireland needs to be developed to keep pace with changing demands. Our electricity system is no different. The growth in low carbon and renewable sources will require a decade of change as we seek to become more energy secure. As the most significant electricity operator on the island of Ireland, Eirgrid recognises that this level of adaptation requires the support of individual landowners, their neighbours and the wider communities. Without this kind of buy in and legitimation, there cannot be the necessary wholesale transformation of the electricity network. Speakers will examine, both from the government and semi state perspective, how the need to secure public consent can be aligned with the urgency of delivery.