



Appointments to the Data Governance Board

Closing Date: 15:00 on Friday 19th February 2021

**State Boards Division
Public Appointments Service
Chapter House, 26 – 30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1**

Telephone Number: 353 1 858 7441

Email: info@stateboards.ie

stateboards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that the PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which the PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard and in accordance with 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, "it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards."

The [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016](#) (the Code) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

Appointments to the Data Governance Board

Location:	Dublin
Number of Vacancies:	3
Remuneration:	€11,970 (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors).
Time Requirements:	Approx 4 half day meetings per annum, generally office hours. Approximately 20 days per annum including time on preparation and attendance on subcommittees.

Candidates' attention is also drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to Audit and Risk Committee membership which can be found [here](#).

1. Background

The goal of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is to serve the country, its people and the government by delivering well-managed and well-targeted public spending, through modernised, effective and accountable public services.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has a broad and varied remit which includes leading the implementation of a range of national and international strategies.

In collaboration with departments and agencies across the public service, the OGCIO:

- drives the government's transformation agenda
- plays a leadership role in digital service delivery and innovation initiatives including through the development and application of a range of ICT and digital-related policies
- represents Ireland internationally including at EU level, in relation to public service ICT, eGovernment, digital transformation, and Government CIO working groups and forums including the OECD Digital Leaders group

The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 which was enacted on 4 March 2019, comes on foot of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 in order to clarify the legality of data sharing between public bodies and to introduce data governance within the Public Service on a statutory footing.

The Act, a core part of the Public Service Data Strategy, sets out to reform the way Public Service Bodies (PSBs) share and use data in order to improve public services. It provides a general legal basis for PSBs to engage in the sharing of data, while also setting out appropriate safeguards under which such sharing must take place.

The Act also gives a range of powers to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to Public Service data governance, once such power is the creation of a Data Governance Board.

2. Functions of the Board

Under the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019, the Board has a clearly defined set of legal powers and obligations. The Board shall:

- Advise the Minister on the introduction of data management standards and guidelines
- Promote and report on PSB compliance with the above standards and guidelines
- Advise the Minister on the prohibition of collection of certain data by PSBs
- Advise the Minister on directing PSBs to share data under the Act
- Advise the Minister on the designation and operation of Base Registries
- Review all data sharing agreements under the Act

The Board will require of broad range of experience and expertise in many different aspects of data, including but not limited to experience in the following areas.

- Technical Architecture
- Data Protection & Ethics
- Legal
- Research & Analytics
- NDI / Base Registries / Classifications
- Citizen Advocacy

With matters of high importance, it may be appropriate for committees, reporting to the Board, to be established to undertake specific pieces of work in the above listed areas.

The Board will be chaired by Mr Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, Office of Government Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

3. Person Specification

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform invites applications to fill three positions on the Data Governance Board.

Candidate's attention is drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to the role of a Board member, where the principle states: -

- Each State body should be headed by an effective Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term sustainability of the body.
- Non-executive Board members should bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance resources, key appointments and standard of conduct.

Details on the role of Board Members can be found in Section 3 of the Code which can be found [here](#).

Data Protection & Ethics (2 positions)

Candidates must demonstrate in their application, evidence of:

- High achievement in the public or private sector at an appropriately senior level
- A demonstrable understanding of the public sector environment and data governance in the public sector.

- Extensive experience in the areas of data protection, GDPR and ethics both within and outside the public sector
- Understanding of the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 and the Public Service Data Strategy 2019 - 2023.

Research and Analytics (1 role)

Candidates must demonstrate in their application, evidence of:

- High achievement in the public or private sector at an appropriately senior level
- A demonstrable understanding of the public sector environment and data governance both within and outside the public sector
- Extensive experience in the area of data analytics within the public sector
- The ability to demonstrate research carried out in relation to data governance within the Public Sector
- Understanding of the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 and the Public Service Data Strategy 2019 – 2023

Desirable

- Governance Experience – demonstrable knowledge or experience in board governance; understanding the role of the board (and executive). Experience could be acquired through prior board or committee membership or reporting to/working with a board;
- Demonstrable knowledge of Government policy and procedures;
- Experience at senior level in State Regulation;
- A demonstrated commitment to public service values;
- Experience of strategic oversight;
- Leadership, networking and team-working skills.

The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments, in line with the updated Code.

In order to qualify for appointment a person must not have any legal impediment or conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role of a member of the Board. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

4. Term of Appointment

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend the term of engagement, subject to:

- The membership of any member of the Board may be terminated by the Minister at any time, on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Minister.
- A member of the Board may resign his or her membership of the Board by notice in writing sent or given to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect on the day on which the Minister receives the notice.

- Members of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, from time to time determine.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board Members are described in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available here [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies](#).
- he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann,
- is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament,
- he or she is elected to the European Parliament,
- is a Judge, Advocate General or Registrar of the Court of Justice of the European Union a member of the Commission of the European Union,
- is a member of the Court of Auditors of the European Union,
- is appointed under the Constitution as a Judge or as the Comptroller and Auditor General,
- becomes a member of a local authority,
- becomes a Commissioner for Data Protection or a member of staff of the Data Protection Commission,
- has not been issued with a tax clearance certificate in accordance with section 1095 of the Act of 1997 or has been issued with a tax clearance certificate under that section which has been rescinded under subsection (3A) of that section,
- is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for any term exceeding 6 months imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State,
- is disqualified or restricted from being a director of any company, or
- is adjudicated bankrupt.

5. Submitting your Application

Before submitting your application, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an application - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

1. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Authority position(s) specified in this booklet, and*

- 2. That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board. **Please only include information that is directly relevant to the particular role for which you are applying.**

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

6. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the "Panel") will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the applications received by PAS. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - Meeting/conference call; and/or
 - Referee checks; and/or
 - Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include PAS requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).
- arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates (based on the information provided by the candidate) to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

Please note that the Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of our selection process.

7. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

8. Data Protection

The Data Protection Act 2018 provides that the processing of personal data shall be lawful where such processing is necessary for the performance of a statutory function of a controller. PAS is mandated by statute under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act, 2004 to act as the centralised assessment and selection body for the civil service and to carry out all the procedures necessary to undertake the recruitment, assessment and selection of suitable candidates for appointment. By submitting your personal data (including your name, address, contact details and details of your education and work history contained in your curriculum vitae and cover letter) via publicjobs.ie, you acknowledge that such data may be used by the Public Appointments Service and disclosed to and used

by client departments, in connection with its statutory roles to assist and advise relevant Ministers in relation to appointments to the boards of State bodies. The information contained in your publicjobs profile is yours to manage, amend, update or delete as appropriate. For more detailed information on our Data Protection Policy, please see our [Code of Practice for the Protection of Personal Data in the Public Appointments Service](#).

If your application is assessed and you are considered to be suitable for appointment your c.v. and cover letter (and any additional supplementary information requested as part of the application process), will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant Department. Once it obtains your personal data, the Department will act as data controller of such data and will retain it for up to one year following the appointment/s. Unless you request the withdrawal of your application such data may be used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that arise for a period of up to one year for this Board.

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your application:

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

1. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
2. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
3. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
4. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page
5. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to create one.
6. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
7. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
8. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
9. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.