



# 40th

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

in conjunction with



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**Better Governance;  
Better Co-operatives**

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Tuesday, 8th November 2016  
Convention Centre, Dublin



[www.icos.ie](http://www.icos.ie)

## KEVIN VICKERS

### Canadian Ambassador to Ireland

Kevin Vickers was appointed as the Ambassador of Canada to Ireland in January 2015. He previously served as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons.



Born and raised in Newcastle (now part of the city of Miramichi), New Brunswick, he studied at St. Francis Xavier University and the University of Calgary.

He had a successful 29-year-long career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), attaining the rank of Chief Superintendent. With the RCMP, Mr. Vickers was called upon to successfully lead a number of high profile investigations, including homicides, national criminal investigations, international drug importations, and a national investigation into those responsible for the safety of Canada's blood supply. Mr. Vickers also played an important role in defusing the 1999-2000 Burnt Church Native Fishing Crisis, as the RCMP Incident Commander. Mr. Vickers was entrusted with providing security for VIP guests to Canada, such as HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Andrew. He also served as an Aide-de-Camp for the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, and held positions as Director-General for the Aboriginal Police Services Branch and Director-General for the National Contract Policing Branch of the RCMP. In this latter role, in 2005 at the RCMP

Headquarters in Ottawa, he led the Canadian police community in developing a National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet. This initiative resulted in \$45m of funding and the creation of a National Centre of Expertise.

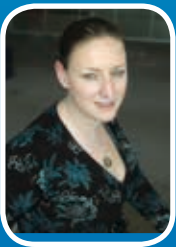
He was appointed Director of Security Operations for the House of Commons in June 2005. He was soon after appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms (August 2006-January 2015). There he was responsible—along with a team of 1,000 employees—for ensuring the security of the Parliamentary Precinct, and for operations that supported the functions of Parliament. He was also responsible of the implementation of the Long-Term Vision and Plan for the Parliamentary Precinct Services. He was hailed as a hero by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada's parliamentarians, and other prominent Canadian and international figures for his actions in stopping the October 2014 attack at the Parliament of Canada.

Mr. Vickers is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the Canada 125 Medal, and the RCMP Long Service Medal. He has also been recognised by the Community of Burnt Church for his outstanding service to their community, and by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency for his "Outstanding Contribution to Drug Enforcement."

## DEARBHAIL MCDONALD

### Group Business Editor of Independent News and Media

An Eisenhower Fellow, the award winning journalist, author and broadcaster is chair of the Irish chapter of the global leadership network.



She serves on the board of Fighting Words, is a member of the External Advisory Board of Maynooth University Department of Law, serves on the board of the Happy Days Enniskillen International Beckett Festival and is a director of the St Stephen's Green Trust.

Dearbhail holds an LL.B (Law) from Trinity College Dublin as well as a Masters Degree in Journalism from Dublin City University.

## JOHN MCSTAY

### McStay Luby

John McStay, MBA, FCA founded the practice in 1993, having been the head of insolvency at an international accounting firm for many years. He is past Chairman of the Consultative Committee of Accounting Bodies Insolvency Committee (South).



He has written articles on the subject of business failure and related issues for a number of journals. He has also lectured in Ireland, the UK and the US on these issues. John has acted as Receiver, Liquidator or Examiner in many major cases including ISTC, Cityjet and Chorus Communications, and has also been appointed as Court-appointed arbitrator.

## IAN DRENNAN

### Director of Corporate Enforcement

Ian Drennan is the Director of Corporate Enforcement, having been appointed in 2012. Previously, he was Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority. He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Regulatory and White Collar Crime from the King's Inns.



## JAMES DOYLE

### Legal & Governance Executive, ICOS

James Doyle is a qualified solicitor who works full time with ICOS as the Legal & Governance Executive operating from the ICOS Limerick office.

His work focuses on the legal structures of ICOS members, training co-operative boards on good governance and delivering solutions to the ICOS membership on legal and regulatory issues that affect their co-operative businesses.



## MICHAEL PARSONS

### Kilkenny Co-operative Livestock Mart

Michael Parsons is the current chairman of Kilkenny Co-operative Marts. Michael has overseen the expansion and move of Kilkenny Mart and he oversees the implementation of dense and detailed health and safety regulations, animal welfare guidelines and compliance issues relating to the livestock mart business and other business interests of the co-operative.



## VINCENT WALL

### Business Editor, Newstalk

Vincent Wall is Business Editor with Newstalk, where in addition to providing news updates for morning and evening drive time programmes, he presents a daily programme, Breakfast Business from 6.30am to 7am.

Prior to joining Newstalk, Vincent most recently managed his own communications consultancy company preceded by a seven-year term as Director of Communications with Dublin Airport Authority.

In a former journalistic career, he was successively, Business Correspondent at RTE; Business News Editor of the Irish Independent; and Editor of Business & Finance magazine.



## PROFESSOR PAT GIBBONS

### Smurfit School of Business

Pat Gibbons is the Jefferson Smurfit Professor of Strategic Management, Academic Director of Executive Development and Management Subject Area Head at the UCD College of Business.

He holds visiting positions at the European School of the Management of Technology (Berlin) and at Nanyang Business School Singapore. His research interests revolve around strategy development processes and the practice of leadership development.



## GERARD BRICKLEY

### CEO, Bandon Co-operative Society

Ger Brickley is a graduate of UCC holding an MCOM in Supply Chain Management and is a qualified Black Belt in Lean Business. Ger started his career with Kepak Group as a Graduate and spent twenty three years with the company developing to COO before leaving in 2014 to join Bandon Co-op as CEO. Bandon is a progressive co-op with three business units including dairy products in which Bandon is the largest supplier of private label cheese products in ROI. Ger is also a board member of Carbery Group and Clona Dairy Products Ltd of which Bandon are shareholders.



## DR PAT ENRIGHT UCC

Pat Enright is a Lecturer in the Cork University Business School at University College Cork, Ireland. He has an MA from the University of Alberta in Canada and a PhD from the University of Leicester, UK. His research interests focus on agricultural change and restructuring in the food industry. He is Academic Director of the Diploma in Corporate Direction (Food Business) and the BComm International programme at UCC.



## PAT MAHER Centenary Thurles Co-operative Society

Pat manages Cooleeney Farm Ltd, a family owned farming company operating a dairy enterprise in the heart of Tipperary. It supplies milk to Centenary Thurles Co-operative and for their family business, Cooleeney Cheese company, which produces cheese for the global speciality cheese market. Pat is also a board member with Centenary Thurles Co-op.



## FIONA MULDOON CEO, FBD

Fiona Muldoon joined FBD Holdings plc in January 2015 as Group Finance Director Designate and was appointed as an Executive Director and member of the Board. In October 2015, she was appointed as Group Chief Executive.

A Chartered Accountant, she was Director of Credit Institutions and Insurance Supervision at the Central Bank of Ireland from August 2011 until May 2014. Prior to this, she was with XL Group for seventeen years and held a number of senior roles with this NYSE listed Property & Casualty Insurance firm in Ireland, London and Bermuda, including two years as Group Treasurer until July 2010. On 12 June 2015, she was appointed as a non-executive Director of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland.



## GERARD HOWLIN Public Affairs Consultant

Gerard Howlin is a public affairs consultant since 2008, working for a wide range of clients in the public and private sector. He has been a columnist with the Irish Examiner since 2012 and is a regular contributor to political debate in the media. He was a Special Adviser at the Department Taoiseach 1999 – 2007, and at the Department of Tourism and Sport 1997-1999. He was Government Press Secretary June - August 2007, having acted in that role on a number of occasions. As policy adviser to the opposition spokesman on Agriculture 1995-1997 he was very involved in the range of issues arising from the BSE crisis, including food safety.

A graduate in history from Trinity College Dublin, in 2009 he returned as a mature student, graduating with an M.Phil. in early modern history.



## DR TOM GRAY USDA - Co-op Programs & University of Saskatchewan - Co-op Centre

Tom holds a Ph.D. in rural sociology from Ohio State University and "masters" and "bachelors" degrees in agricultural economics from Ohio State and Cornell Universities respectively. He also holds a Masters in Social Work from the Catholic University of America. He has been employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to do research on co-operatives since before his hair turned gray, though his hair was gray at birth. He also holds the title of "co-operative scholar" at the Center for the Study of Co-operatives, at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

He currently has over 200 published and professional papers on aspects of co-operative participation and member satisfaction, cooperative organisational design, and has written on such contextual issues as co-operative conversions, market concentration, family farm survival, geographically indicated products, and multi-stakeholder cooperatives. In his youth, he spent many hours on dairy farms working on the multiple activities of taking care of dairy cows. Today he will report on four dairy member satisfaction studies done over 20 years in the U.S.



## ALAN JAGOE President, CEJA

Alan Jagoe is the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) President (2015-2017) and is a 33 year-old dairy and arable young farmer from Carrigaline, Co. Cork in Ireland. He farms in partnership with his father and brother and supplying the milk to the local Cooperative Dairygold.

For the previous two years Mr. Jagoe has served as Vice-President of CEJA and, before that, he was heavily involved in the Irish young farmers organisation Macra na Feirme. He was elected as its 33rd National President in 2011, and served until 2013 representing Ireland's young farmers at National, European and International levels. During this time he was involved in significant work on the CAP reform in Ireland, focusing on issues such as land mobility and education for young farmers.



## JAMES GRAHAM CEO, SAOS

James has been Chief Executive of the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society since 1998. SAOS is the membership body of 65 agricultural co-operatives trading in Scotland whose collective throughput in 2015 exceeded £2.2 billion. He has worked in various capacities as advisor, consultant, Chief Executive and non-executive Director in the co-op 'agri-food' sector for 33 years and is an acknowledged specialist in agricultural co-operatives and supply chain collaboration in the food and drink industry.

His early work involved creating new farmers' co-ops in Scotland for marketing livestock, cereals, early potatoes, soft fruit, farmed trout, shellfish and timber. He facilitates Board workshops and training events for agricultural co-ops and was joint author of the SAOS/Co-operatives UK Corporate Governance Code for Agricultural Co-operatives, published in 2014. James served as a member of HM Treasury Working Group updating co-op legislation leading to the new UK Co-operatives and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. He is an Executive Group Member of Scotland Food & Drink and a Fellow of the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland.



## LIAM HERLIHY Former Chairman, Glanbia

Liam is a former Group Chairman of Glanbia, was appointed to the Board on 11 September 1997 and has served 17 full years on the Board until 2015.

He farms at Headborough, Knockanore, Tallow, Co. Waterford and has completed the Institute of Directors Development Programme (2006) and holds a certificate of merit in Corporate Governance from University College Dublin. He is a current director of FBD and is a former Director of both Ornu Co-operative Society Limited and the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Limited.



## MINISTER MICHAEL CREED Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Born in Macroom, Minister Creed was educated at St. Colman's College, Fermoy, De La Salle College, Macroom, at University College Cork and the College of Commerce, Rathmines.

He was a member of Cork County Council from 1987 - 2007. He was elected chairman from 2005 to 2006. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann at the 1989 general election and retained his seat until 2002. He was chairman of the Dáil Small Business and Services Committee from 1995-97. He was party spokesperson on Education, Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht (1994), Health (1989-93) and Youth and Sport (1993-94).

After regaining his Dáil seat at the 2007 general election, he was party spokesperson on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (2007-10). At the 2011 general election he topped the poll in the first preference vote and in the 2016 general election he was the first to be elected. He was appointed Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 6 May 2016.



REGISTRATION (9.30 -10.00)

OPENING ADDRESS (10.00 - 10.15)

Martin Keane, President, ICOS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (10.15 - 10.45)

Kevin Vickers –Canadian Ambassador to Ireland

**PANEL 1: BETTER COMPLIANCE (10.45 - 12.00)**

FACILITATOR: Dearbhail McDonald, Group Business Editor,  
Independent News & Media (INM)  
PRESENTER: John McStay, Partner, McStay Luby  
PANEL: Ian Drennan, Director of Corporate Enforcement  
James Doyle, Legal & Governance Executive, ICOS  
Michael Parsons, Director, Kilkenny Co-operative Livestock Mart

**PANEL 2: BETTER STRATEGY (12.00 - 13.15)**

FACILITATOR: Vincent Wall, Business Editor, Newstalk  
PRESENTER: Professor Pat Gibbons, Smurfit School of Business  
PANEL: Gerard Brickley, CEO, Bandon Co-operative Society  
Dr Pat Enright, University College Cork  
Pat Maher, Director, Centenary Thurles Co-operative Society  
Fiona Muldoon, CEO, FBD

LUNCH (13.15 - 14.30)

**PANEL 3: BETTER COMMUNICATIONS (14.30 - 16.00)**

FACILITATOR: Gerard Howlin, Public Affairs Consultant  
PRESENTER: Dr Tom Gray, USDA - Co-op Programs & University of  
Saskatchewan - Co-op Centre  
PANEL: Alan Jagoe, President, CEJA; European Young Farmers Organisation  
James Graham, CEO, Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society  
Liam Herlihy, Former Chairman, Glanbia

CLOSING ADDRESS (16.00)

Michael Creed TD  
Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine

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