

National Data Infrastructure (NDI) Conference Agenda

Advancing Data as a National Resource

27th November 2025
09:30-15:30

The North Range, Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Royal Hospital Kilmanham, Military Road, Dublin 8, D08 FW31

Conference Opening

09:00 Registration, Tea/Coffee & Networking

09:30 Opening Address

Cliona Saidléar, Executive Director,
Rape Crisis Network Ireland, and Chairperson,
National Statistics Board

09:40 CSO-DG Address

Jennifer Banim, Director General,
Central Statistics Office

Session 1: Realising the Vision

This will set the scene by reflecting on a decade of progress and challenges, outlining the next steps in ensuring data is embedded as a national resource.

09:55 Presentation

Laura McGarrigle, Assistant Secretary General,
Department of Children, Disability and Equality

Session 2: Data Standards – ‘AI Ready Data’

This segment will address the challenges of preparing data for advanced analytics while maintaining quality and trust. It will explore and consider what's needed to ensure Ireland's data systems are equipped to meet the opportunities and risks posed by artificial intelligence.

10:20 Introduction – Look Back on Last Year & Forward

Pamela Lafferty, Senior Statistician,
Central Statistics Office

10:30 Presentation

Martin Quigley, Director of Data & Analytics,
Pobal (presenter/panellist)

10:45 Panel Discussion

Frankie Kay, Assistant Director General,
Central Statistics Office (facilitator)

Ken Moore, Senior Statistician,
Central Statistics Office (panellist)

Catherine Dempsey, Head of the Data Management &
Analytics Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and
the Marine (panellist)

Session 3: Data Services – ‘Virtual Data Rooms (VDR’s)’

This part of the programme will showcase the CSO’s VDRs – a collaborative platform enabling public sector bodies to securely access and analyse pseudonymised microdata. It will demonstrate how VDRs support evidence-based policymaking, provide valuable insights for policy development and evaluation, and underscore the importance of strong governance, safeguards and collaboration between the CSO and participating organisations to deliver successful projects.

11:55	Introduction – Look Back on Last Year & Forward	Pamela Lafferty, Senior Statistician, Central Statistics Office
12:05	Presentation	Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (presenter/panellist)
12:20	Panel Discussion	Deirdre Mahony, Assistant Director General, Central Statistics Office (facilitator) Laura Flannelly, Senior Statistician, Department of Health (panellist) Reamonn Lydon, Head of Function, Monetary Policy, Research and Analysis, Central Bank (panellist)

13:05 **Hot Lunch**

Session 4: Data Skills – ‘Data Literacy: A Strategic Enabler’

This session will highlight the critical role of data literacy in unlocking the full potential of the NDI. You’ll hear about initiatives that strengthen capabilities across the public sector, support more effective policymaking and build public trust. We’ll also look ahead to emerging needs and the additional skills and capabilities required to stay future-ready.

14:00	Introduction – Look Back on Last Year & Forward	Pamela Lafferty, Senior Statistician, Central Statistics Office
14:10	Presentation	Sara Philpott, Head of Data Analytics & Strategy, Commission for Communications Regulation (presenter/panellist)
14:25	Panel Discussion	Paul Morrin, Assistant Director General, Central Statistics Office (facilitator) Rowena Dwyer, Principal Officer, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (panellist) Anne-Marie Sherkle, Chief Information Officer, Department of Education and Youth (panellist) Eimear O’Connor, Head of Recruitment Operations & Service Delivery, Public Jobs (panellist)

Final Address

15:15	Closing Remarks	Paul Morrin, Assistant Director General, Central Statistics Office
15:30	Conference Close	

