



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Meeting of Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum
19th September 2019
Deloitte, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2
08.30am -10.30am

Minutes

Chair: Ms. Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications
Attendance and Apologies at Appendix A

1. Welcome and Opening Comments

The Chairperson, Ms Catherine Heaney thanked Mr. Harry Goddard, CEO of Deloitte for hosting the meeting. She also acknowledged the contribution which Deloitte has made to the CSR Forum since its inception and in particular, the involvement of Mr. Brendan Jennings, Deloitte (former Chairperson of the CSR Forum) and Mr. Gerry Fitzpatrick, Deloitte (former CSR Forum Member).

The Chairperson welcomed the CSR Network members in attendance.

The Theme for the meeting was Sustainability.

2. Minutes of the Meeting 5th March 2019

The Minutes were agreed.

Actions:

The Minutes will be uploaded to CSRhub.ie [*Minutes uploaded*]

3. Chair' Update

The Chairperson recapped on the CSR CEO / Leaders' Breakfast on 27th June 2019 which elevated awareness of the National Plan on CSR and the CSR Forum and Network. The Chair thanked the CSR Team in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI), and all those who contributed to the success of the event.

For 2019 / 2020, there will be five working groups of the CSR Forum:

- CSR in the Public Sector
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Environmental, Social and Governance Factors
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Sustainability

The Chair reminded all those present to actively promote CSR as CSRAmbassadors in order to amplify best practice CSR at every opportunity. Attendees were asked to submit outstanding CSR case studies to the Secretariat for publication on csrhub.ie.

The Chair advised that the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Business, Enterprise and Innovation would shortly confirm if the request, on behalf of the Forum, to present to the Committee would be granted.

Ms. Deborah Dignam DBEI gave an update on the Public Sector CSR Workshop which took place on the 10th September in collaboration with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) and the Central Bank of Ireland. The Workshop was kindly hosted by the Central Bank of Ireland. Presenters on the day included Mr. Bernard Sheridan, Director of Corporate Affairs, Central Bank of Ireland, Dr Lucy Fallon-Byrne, Head of Public Service Reform, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), and Ms. Deborah Dignam, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Ms. Bernadette Phelan and Ms. Elise McCarthy, BITCI delivered an expert workshop on CSR Trends, Strategy Development and hosted a panel session with Ms. Christina Van Der Kamp, Corporate Responsibility Manger, Gas Networks Ireland and Ms. Derval O'Brien, CSR Programme Manager, EirGrid.

A full report will be made available on csrhub.ie.

Ms. Bernadette Phelan, BITCI, provided an oral report on the workshop to Forum Members. Ms. Phelan outlined the value of the session to attendees and said that the Workshop was very successful. She emphasised how encouraging it was to see CSR embedded in the *Our Public Service 2020* Strategy as outlined by Dr Lucy Fallon-Byrne, DPER.

4. Meeting Theme: Sustainability Update from SDG Project Team

Mr. Fergal Fitzgerald, Team Lead, updated the Forum on the announcement from the Department of Communications, Climate Cation and Environment on the 12 organisations who have been chosen as SDG Champions.

The 2019 / 2020 SDG Champions are:

- An Post
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Carlow County Council
- ECO Unesco
- The GAA
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- Irish Men's Sheds
- Musgrave
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- Smart Farming
- Union of Students of Ireland
- Vodafone

Mr. Fitzgerald outlined how the SDG Forum in July focused on SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. The next SDG Forum in October would focus on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, the final SDG Forum of 2019 is scheduled for 17th December.

Mr. David Joyce, ICTU, spoke on how ICTU will use their role as an SDG Champion to highlight the role Unions and Social Dialogue play in achieving the SDGs.

[Presentation from Ms. Andrea Carroll, SME Business Programme Manager, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland \(SEAI\)](#)

Ms. Andrea Carroll outlined the new SME programme of supports available to businesses from the SEAI. The SEAI requested that any organisation large or small who are interested in testing their new online training platform to contact business@seai.ie

Forum members raised the matter of certification as being important for SMEs. Ms. Lorraine Corcoran, offered to engage with the SEAI further in relation to certification for SMEs.

A regional outreach event of the CSR Stakeholder Forum is scheduled to take place in March 2020. The SEAI were invited to participate in the outreach event.

A copy of this presentation is available on csrhub.ie

Presentation from Mr. Neil Menzies, Transdev

Mr. Neil Menzies gave a presentation on the experience of Transdev in implementing sustainability practices in their business, and the evolving role of a Sustainability Manager in any organisation which has moved from a nice-to-have to now being at the heart of business operations, strategy and stakeholder relations. Sustainability = resilience = competitive advantage.

The Chair thanked Mr. Menzies for his role as a CSR Ambassador following the numerous presentations he had made on the topic at various events.

A copy of this presentation is available on csrhub.ie

Presentation by Mr. James Kiernan, Chambers Ireland

Mr. James Kiernan, Chambers Ireland gave a presentation on how Chambers Ireland will promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the Chambers network nationwide.

All Chambers have now signed the Irish Chambers Pledge for the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG Pledge provides a basis to educate Chambers staff, change internal culture, and align policy outputs to the SDGs. Chambers Ireland champion SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11 and SDG 13.

The former Chambers CSR Council has now become the Chambers Sustainability Council and a new Climate Action Task Force has been established.

A copy of this presentation is available on csrhub.ie

Actions:

All presentations to be uploaded to CSRhub.ie [Presentations uploaded]

5. Work Programme and Project Teams

Ms. Deborah Dignam, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation spoke to the Forum on the Work Programme for 2019 / 2020. Members were asked to discuss in their project teams' topics for consideration and revert to the Secretariat of the Forum with their initial plans for the months ahead.

The call for case studies was re-iterated, and also that useful news and information from Forum Members be shared with the Secretariat to be included in the regular Forum email updates and published on the csrhub.ie where appropriate.

6. 2020 Onwards

Ms. Céline McHugh, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, confirmed the Departments support for the CSR Forum going beyond 2020. Ms. McHugh asked the Forum to think about how the CSR Agenda may be shaped going forward, what should the focus be and what is the role of business and Government. Detailed discussions will take place at the CSR Forum meeting scheduled for February 2020, where the only item on the Agenda will be beyond 2020.

7. AOB & Date of Next Meeting

The Chair thanked all those in attendance and wished any Members who had entered the Chambers Ireland Awards the very best of luck at the Awards ceremony on the evening of 19th September.

The next meeting of the CSR Stakeholder Forum is 26 November 2019 in the Abbey Theatre.

APPENDIX A**Attendance:**

Chairperson: Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications

Members

Organisation	Attendee
Abbott	Sinéad Hickey
Afanite	Lorraine Corcoran
BITCI	Bernadette Phelan
Chambers Ireland	James Kiernan
Deloitte Ireland	Claire Bergin
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	Céline McHugh
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection	Kathryn McGinn
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection	Jacinta Gray
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Padraig MacCoscair
Department of Health	Biddy O'Neill
Department of Justice and Equality	Una Ní Dhubhghaill
Department of the Taoiseach	Pamela Malone
DCU	Sabina Cotter
Enterprise Ireland	Lydia Rogers
Ernst & Young	Lorraine McCann
ESB	Fergal Fitzgerald
IBM	Deirdre Kennedy
ICTU	David Joyce
IDA	Tim Costello
Pramerica	David Roche
Transdev	Neil Menzies

Members Apologies:

Bank of Ireland	Audrey Nolan
Hotel Doolin	Aine Martin
Kemmy Business School, UL	Briga Hynes
KPMG	Karina Howley
LIDL	Deirdre Ryan
Northside Partnership	Paul Rogers
Ulster Bank	Suzanne Johnston
Vodafone	Natalie Hodgess
Volunteer Ireland	Terri O'Brien

CSR Network Members:

Age Action	Caroline O'Connell
Arthur Cox	Jean Maxwell
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Kevin Collins
National Paediatric Hospital Development Board	Ingrid McElroy
Tetrarch Capital Limited	Ray Gilmore
UCD	Eleanor O'Higgins

Presenters (excl Members):

Andrea Carroll	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
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Guests

Bobby Lambert	Ecomerit
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Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Deborah Dignam	Helen K MacDonough
Sandra Mullen	