



**Mr John Webster**

Mr John Webster is the Scottish Government Representative to Ireland. He heads a team of four officials at the Scottish Government Office, located in the British Embassy in Dublin. John has been a career diplomat for 29 years. Before his current role, he was Political Counsellor in the British Embassy to Ireland from April 2012 until January 2016. Prior to Ireland, John was a political adviser for NATO in

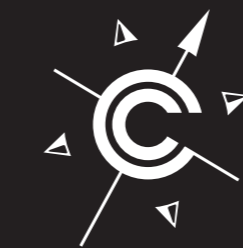
Helmand Province in 2010/11, before which he was Head of Humanitarian Policy in the UK Department for International Development, where he participated in humanitarian missions, including to the DRC and Chad. John served on postings in the UK's Mission to the UN in Geneva, the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and in Embassies in Cyprus, Romania, New Zealand and Mauritius, with spells in London between postings. Before joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, John served an apprenticeship as an air conditioning engineer in Glasgow, where he attended schools in Partick and Bearsden.



**Mr Michael D'Arcy**

Mr Michael D'Arcy was the joint editor of the seminal publication on the all-island economy *Border Crossings: Developing Ireland's Island Economy* (Gill & Macmillan 1995). Since then he has been involved in many all-island economic and business policy initiatives including research work for the Centre for Cross Border Studies; the ESRI; the European Economic and Social Committee; InterTradeIreland; Co-operation Ireland and Ulster University.

His most recent published report is *Delivering a Prosperity Process: Opportunities in North/South Public Service Provision* completed for the Centre for Cross Border Studies in 2012 and supported by the Department of Foreign and Affairs and Trade. Currently he is the Programme Lead for the Ibec/CBI Northern Ireland Joint Business Council initiative to protect the all-island economy as the UK leaves the EU and to scope the infrastructure investment needed for a prosperous island of 10m by mid century.



Centre for  
Cross Border Studies

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk  
8 & 9 March 2018

**#CCBSconf**



**THE GOOD FRIDAY  
AGREEMENT**  
in all its parts:  
safeguarding the totality of relationships

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# Welcome

As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement we must ask ourselves how we continue to put into practice our commitment to the totality of relations within and between these islands that it represents. The Strand 1 institutions (the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly) have not functioned since January 2017, and therefore without Northern Ireland Ministers, there have been no North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) meetings (Strand 2), although there remains cooperation at Departmental level and the NSMC Joint Secretariat continues to function. The Strand 3 bodies – the British Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference (BIIGC) – should in the context of Brexit be increasingly important mechanisms for cooperation. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has stated that under the Good Friday Agreement “if nothing’s devolved then everything is devolved to the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference” and that he would be calling for a meeting of the BIIGC early in 2018.

All of this, of course, coincides with the negotiations over the UK’s withdrawal from the EU in which issues related to Ireland/Northern Ireland are central. The negotiations have indicated that there are at least 141 policy areas/powers returning from the EU which intersect with the devolution settlement in Northern Ireland. While all parties to the negotiations have stated their support for the Agreement “in all its parts”, it is not clear if there is common understanding of what this means or what are their associated obligations.

The Centre for Cross Border Studies’ 2018 Conference will bring together some of the people centrally involved in drafting and implementing the 1998 Agreement and the Devolution settlement for Northern Ireland, people who have since had responsibility for its implementation and others whose work as peacebuilders and cross-border cooperation practitioners has given life and substance to the ethos and objectives of the Agreement through good times and bad.

# Programme

## THURSDAY

9.30 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

10.00 WELCOME

**Dr Helen Johnston**, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies

10.15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Brexit: The constitutional issues for the UK, Ireland and Northern Ireland*

**Dr Martin Mansergh**, Vice Chair, Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations

11.00 REFRESHMENTS

11.30 PANEL

*Human rights and the Good Friday Agreement*

CHAIR: **Dr Anna Bryson**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**Ms Paddy Kelly**, Director, Children’s Law Centre

**Prof Siobhán Mullally**, Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway

**Mr Daniel Holder**, Deputy Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice

**Mr Michael Farrell**, Member, Council of Europe’s Commission against Racism and Intolerance; and Member, Council of State

12.30 LUNCH

2.00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Cooperation under the Good Friday Agreement: past, present and future*

**Mr Hugh Logue**, Special Advisor OFMDFM 1998-2002 and former European Commission Official

3.00 PANEL

*Devolution agreements from the Good Friday Agreement to Brexit and beyond*

CHAIR: **Mr Colin Stutt**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**Mr David Brew**, Executive Committee Member, European Movement in Scotland

**Dr Etain Tannam**, Associate Professor, International Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin

**Ms Brid Rodgers**, Founder Member and Former Deputy Leader, SDLP

**Mr Jim Gibney**, Irish News Columnist and Sinn Féin member

**Ms Claire Sugden MLA**, Independent

4.00 PRESENTATION

*The new Common Chapter for cooperation within and between these islands*

**Dr Anthony Soares**, Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

4.20 REVIEW OF DAY ONE

**Ms Ruth Taillon**, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

4.45 END OF DAY ONE

6.30 RECEPTION

7.00 DINNER

Pre-dinner speaker: **Mr Tony Connelly**, Europe Editor, RTÉ

## FRIDAY

8.30 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

8.55 OPENING REMARKS

**Dr Helen Johnston**, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies

9.00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*How do we continue to moderate each other’s views through the Brexit process?*

**Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP**, Conservative Party

10.00 REFRESHMENTS

10.30 CONVERSATION

*Building and maintaining relationships*

CHAIR: **Dr Anthony Soares**, Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA**, Ulster Unionist Party

**Mr Fergal Mythen**, Director General, Ireland, UK and Americas Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Prof John O’Brennan**, Jean Monnet Prof of European Integration, Maynooth University

**Mr Justin McNulty MLA**, SDLP

**Dr Stephen Farry MLA**, Alliance Party

11.30 PANEL

*Safeguarding the totality of relationships*

CHAIR: **Mr Tony Kennedy OBE**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**Mr Earl Storey**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies

**Mr Owen Reidy**, Assistant General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

**Mr John Webster**, Head of the Scottish Government Office in Ireland

**Mr Michael D’Arcy**, Programme Lead, Ibec/CBI Northern Ireland Joint Business Council

12.30 CLOSING REMARKS

**Ms Ruth Taillon**, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

1.00 LUNCH AND END

## Conference Speakers



### Dr Helen Johnston

Dr Helen Johnston is Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. In her day job, Helen is a Senior Social Policy Analyst at the Irish National Economic and Social Council (NESCC). Helen previously worked at the Irish Combat Poverty Agency where she was Director for six years and Head of Research for eight years. During her time with Combat Poverty, Helen was involved in implementation of the Peace

Programme, with Pobal, in the Border Counties. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the early years of her career. She has qualifications in environmental science, town and country planning, business administration and a doctorate in governance.



### Dr Martin Mansergh

Dr Martin Mansergh is Vice-Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations. Between 2002 and 2011, he was a Fianna Fáil Senator, then TD (for Tipperary South) and Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Finance and the Arts. He was a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Body and of President McAleese's second Council of State. Former diplomat, then

political advisor to Charles Haughey, Albert Reynolds and Bertie Ahern, he was a back-channel to the Republican Movement, and contributed to the negotiation of the Downing Street Declaration and the Good Friday Agreement. He is author of *The Legacy of History* and co-winner of the 1994 Tipperary Peace Prize with Fr Alec Reid and Rev Roy Magee. He has been a columnist with the *Sunday Business Post*, the *Irish Times* and the *Irish Catholic*. He received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland in October 2017.



### Dr Anna Bryson

Dr Anna Bryson is a Senior Lecturer in the Queen's University Belfast School of Law. She is currently working on two ESRC-funded projects - 'Apologies, Abuses and Dealing with the Past' and 'Brexit and Northern Ireland: The Constitutional, Conflict Transformation, Human Rights and Equality Consequences'. Anna is the author of two monographs and a textbook on research

methodology. She has served on the advisory board of more than a dozen conflict-related projects including those initiated by the Maze-Long Kesh Development Corporation, Diversity Challenges, INCORE and the Verbal Arts Centre. She has also acted as a consultant for both statutory and voluntary organisations with regard to the design and development of sensitive oral history projects. Anna is an executive board member of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Diversity Challenges and the Centre for Cross Border Studies.



### Ms Paddy Kelly

Ms Paddy Kelly is a Barrister by profession. After leaving the Bar, Paddy worked with a range of NGOs including Save the Children. In 1997, Paddy established the Children's Law Centre (CLC), the lead Northern Ireland children's rights organisation. She remains its Director. CLC has led the children's sector in Northern Ireland in considering the impact

of Brexit on children's rights and children's lives and in advocating for the retention and future proofing of children's rights protections post Brexit. This work has included consultation with young people on their fears and concerns about and hopes for Brexit. Recognising the cross-border nature of children's lives on the island of Ireland, CLC has worked closely with the Children's Rights Alliance in Dublin in taking forward this work.

Paddy sits on the Board of the Human Rights Consortium which advocates for a strong Northern Ireland Bill of Rights and has been one of the lead Northern Ireland NGOs advocating for human rights protections through the Brexit process.

Paddy is a former Human Rights Commissioner.



### Prof Siobhán Mullally

Prof Siobhán Mullally is Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway. She has published widely in the fields of gender, women's rights, migration, asylum and multiculturalism. She is currently the President of the Council of Europe anti-trafficking body, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA). She is a Commissioner

with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. She is the founding Joint Editor-in-Chief of the Irish Yearbook of International Law (with Prof Fiona de Londras), published by Hart Bloomsbury, Oxford. Siobhán has worked as an adviser and consultant on human rights, migration and asylum law, gender and justice sector reform for UN bodies (including UNIFEM, UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and international organisations in many parts of the world. She is a graduate of the European University Institute, Florence (PhD), the London School of Economics (LLM) and University College Cork (BCL).



### Mr Daniel Holder

Mr Daniel Holder has been Deputy Director of Belfast-based human rights NGO Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) since 2011. Through this role, Daniel is also Co-Convener of the Equality Coalition, the network of trade unions and NGOs co-convenered by CAJ and UNISON and a member of the BREXITLawNI research team - a partnership between CAJ and the law faculties of the Queen's

and Ulster universities. Prior to CAJ, Daniel worked in the policy team of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for five years, and before that he led a migrant worker equality project run by the South Tyrone Empowerment Programme and Dungannon Council. He previously worked in Havana, Cuba as a language professional for the University of Havana, press agency Prensa Latina and national broadcaster, ICRT. He has a primary degree in Spanish and Sociology and an LLM in Human Rights Law, both from Queen's University Belfast.



### Mr Michael Farrell

Mr Michael Farrell is a solicitor, a member of the Council of State and the Irish member of the Council of Europe's Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). He was the senior solicitor with Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) from 2005 to 2015 and before that a solicitor with Hanahoes in Dublin. He is now a consultant on Human Rights law. While working with FLAC, he represented transgender

woman Lydia Foy who obtained the first declaration of incompatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights to be made under the ECHR Act

2003. This led to the enactment of the Gender Recognition Act 2015 which provides, for the first time, official recognition of transgender persons.

Michael lectures on the ECHR and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights for the Law Society's Human Rights Certificate course and is a consultant to the Law Society's Human Rights Committee. He was a member of the Irish Human Rights Commission from 2001 to 2011 and is a former Chair of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. He has taken cases to the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee on Social Rights and the UN Committee on Human Rights.



### Mr Hugh Logue

Mr Hugh Logue is a former European Commission official, joining in 1984. He is a former civil rights leader, member of Northern Ireland Civil Rights Executive and Vice-Chair of North Derry Civil Rights Association. Hugh is a founder member of the SDLP and was elected to the Stormont Assembly for the SDLP in 1973, 1975 and 1981.

Hugh was a member of the New Ireland Forum, 1983-84. Following the 1994 ceasefire, Hugh, along with two colleagues, was asked by EU President Delors to consult all parties in Northern Ireland and their recommendations became the blueprint for the first EU Peace Programme. In 1997, new EU President Santer asked Hugh and his team to return and advise on a renewed Peace II programme.

Following the Good Friday Agreement, Hugh was seconded from the EU to Northern Ireland as Special Advisor to the First and Deputy First Ministers from 1998 to 2002. He has been a board member of InterTradeIreland, a director of three renewable energy companies and an elected board member and treasurer of EASE (European Association for Storage of Energy) in Brussels.



### Mr Colin Stutt

Mr Colin Stutt studied economics at King's College Cambridge, after which he joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service where he rose to become Head of Economic Policy. In 1988 Colin left the civil service to take up a career in consultancy. He was the partner in charge of KPMG Consulting in Northern Ireland and headed up both KPMG's economic consulting across Ireland and its work for

the European Commission. In 1994 he established his own consultancy business which has clients in Ireland, North and South, the European Union and internationally. Colin is a member of the board of the Centre for Cross Border Studies and is also an Associate Strategic Adviser to the Strategic Investment Board for Northern Ireland.



### Mr David Brew

Mr David Brew is a former senior civil servant who has worked for the EU Commission, the UK Government and the Scottish Government. A past Chief Executive of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, he is currently a Non-Executive Director of Creative Scotland and Meadhanan Gàidhlig ALBA (the Gaelic Media Service). In the late 1990s, under the first Blair

Labour Government, David led the devolution team in the UK Cabinet Secretariat, culminating in the establishment of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. On the establishment of the British-Irish Council, he became its first Joint Secretary from the UK side. He also represented the UK in Council of Europe consideration of regional autonomy issues.

A member of the Council of the European Movement in Scotland, David previously advised Scottish Ministers on a range of European policy issues and brings a wealth of EU negotiating experience.



### Dr Etain Tannam

Dr Etain Tannam is Associate Professor in International Peace Studies at Trinity College Dublin. She is author of *International Intervention in Ethnic Conflict: a comparison of the European Union and United Nations* (2014, Basingstoke, Palgrave) and *Cross-Border Co-operation in Ireland* (1999, Basingstoke, Palgrave) and has published various book chapters and international journal articles. Her

research interests are in the areas of Northern Ireland and British-Irish relations, including the impact of Brexit, international organisations and conflict resolution, United Nations and European Union politics. She is currently writing a book entitled *British-Irish Relations in the 21st Century*, 2020, forthcoming, Oxford, Oxford University Press.



### Ms Brid Rodgers

Ms Brid Rodgers was born in the Gaeltacht area of Gweedore and moved to Lurgan in 1960 on marriage to Antoin. Following her involvement in the Civil Rights movement she joined the SDLP and was Party Chairperson 1978-80, General Secretary 1980-83 and Deputy Leader 2001-2003. Brid was educated at St Louis Convent, Monaghan and University College Dublin, where she graduated

with a degree in modern languages. She was nominated to Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach Garrett Fitzgerald (1983-87). Brid was Chair of the SDLP team in the lead up to Good Friday Agreement and was Minister for Agriculture in the first Northern Ireland Executive. She retired in 2003.



### Mr Jim Gibney

Mr Jim Gibney is a columnist for the Irish News. A life-long republican activist, he has been to jail on three occasions. Jim was centrally involved in the campaign for Republican prisoners during the hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981. He was subsequently part of the Sinn Féin party team during the negotiation of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and following the establishment of the

Northern Ireland Assembly, worked in the party's Stormont office and supporting the constituency work of Sinn Féin MLAs. Jim is currently involved in the party's Oireachtas team working on cross-border issues.



### Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Ms Claire Sugden is an Independent MLA representing the East Londonderry constituency. Claire is the only Independent member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and is the first Independent to hold Ministerial office. When she assumed Ministerial office she was the youngest Minister in the Executive with full Departmental responsibility. Claire is a graduate of

Queen's University Belfast where she studied for a BA in Politics and a MA in Irish Politics. Before becoming a MLA, Claire was studying for a second Masters in Political Lobbying and Public Affairs at Ulster University. Claire is an alumnus of the Washington Ireland Program when she worked within the US government in the Department of Health and Human Services in 2010. She managed the Program in 2012. In May 2014 Claire was appointed as a MLA for East Londonderry following the passing of David McClarty MLA.

# THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT IN ALL ITS PARTS: safeguarding the totality of relationships

Claire was David's Parliamentary Assistant for six years. Claire also served on Coleraine Borough Council for two years during this time.

As Minister in the Department of Justice, Claire prioritised tackling domestic violence, rural crime and crimes against the elderly. She also wants to reduce the numbers of young people and people with mental health issues coming into contact with the criminal justice system.



## Dr Anthony Soares

Dr Anthony Soares is the Deputy Director at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, leading the Centre's Research & Policy team. His role includes the development and advocacy of policies at regional, national and European levels that support sustainable cross-border and transnational cooperation. This has increasingly led to coordinating CCBS's responses to the UK's referendum on EU membership and its aftermath, publishing a series of Briefing Papers, submitting evidence to parliamentary committees in both Westminster and Dublin, and consulting with a range of political representatives and organisations.



## Ms Ruth Taillon

Ms Ruth Taillon is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Ruth has many years' experience working with a range of public and community-based organisations in both jurisdictions. Prior to joining the Centre, Ruth was Research Coordinator for Border Action, a partnership between Pobal and the Combat Poverty Agency, working on European funding programmes Peace and INTERREG. She was Director of the West Belfast Economic Forum and involved with the management of a number of community-based initiatives throughout the 1990s. Ruth has also worked as an independent research and evaluation consultant, specialising in gender, equality, and peace and conflict issues. She is currently a member of the Irish Government's Oversight Group for the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and an expert advisory group for a EU Commission study on obstacles to cross-border cooperation. Ruth also writes and lectures on Irish women's history, about which she has a strong personal interest.



## Mr Tony Connelly

Mr Tony Connelly is Europe Editor for RTÉ, Ireland's public broadcaster. He has been covering EU and European Affairs from Brussels since 2001. Tony has reported extensively on the period before and after the Brexit referendum, and before that covered the European refugee crisis, the Greek debt situation, the Irish bail-out and the financial crisis dating back to 2008. Tony has also reported on conflicts in Ukraine, Lebanon/Syria, Georgia, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Angola and Rwanda. He is the recipient of two ESB National Media awards, a European Journalism Award and a New York Festivals radio award for his radio documentary on the Shakhtar Donetsk football club in Ukraine. He has also worked for the Irish Independent, Time Magazine and United Press International (UPI). Tony is the author of *Brexit and Ireland: the Dangers, the Opportunities and the Inside Story of the Irish Response*, published by Penguin Books on October 5, 2017. His other book, *Don't Mention the Wars: A Journey Through European Stereotypes*, was published in 2014 by New Island. Tony was born in Portstewart, County Derry in 1964, and was educated at St Columbs College, Derry, at Trinity College Dublin and the London School of Journalism. He is married with two sons.



## Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP

Rt Hon Dominic Grieve is a Barrister and has been the MP for Beaconsfield since 1997. He was the Shadow Attorney General from 2003-09, Shadow Home Secretary from 2008-09 and Shadow Justice Secretary from 2009-10. Under the Coalition Government, Dominic was the Attorney General for England and Wales and the Advocate General for Northern Ireland until July 2014. Dominic was educated at Westminster School and went on to Magdalen College, Oxford where he studied Modern History. Then he studied Law. He was called to the Bar in 1980 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 2008. He is a bencher of his Inn of Court, the Middle Temple. During the 1980s, Dominic served as a local councillor in Fulham. He was Chairman of the Research Committee of the Society of Conservative Lawyers between 1992 and 1997. Dominic was elected Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee in September 2015. He has been a Member of the Standards and Privileges Committee and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society of Conservative Lawyers from 2015 to 2017. He is the President of the Franco-British Society and Vice-Chairman of the Franco-British Council. He is Honorary Recorder of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, a member of the Council of Management of Ditchley Park and a Trustee of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. Dominic is bilingual in French. He is married to Caroline, a practising Barrister and they have two adult sons: James and Hugo.



## Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA

Dr Steve Aiken is the Chief Whip of the Ulster Unionist Party and is the MLA for South Antrim. Steve has had a varied career pre-politics, including being the Chief Executive of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce and CEO at a major University. Previously he served for 30 years in the Royal Navy in many senior operational roles, including commanding two nuclear powered submarines, being Joint Plans Officer for operations in the Middle-East in 2002-04 (for which Steve was awarded the OBE and the US Meritorious Service Medal) and working as a senior staff officer in various NATO maritime operational headquarters. Steve also headed up the UK MoD's Global Strategic Trends programme and worked on the UK and NATO's security strategy, he co-authored classified studies on European Security, the High North and was a lead author on the Future Character of Conflict study; a study which critically examined the role of western military power, hybrid and asymmetric conflict and predicting the extensive use of non-state actors and modern social media in the spectrum of conflict. Steve holds a PhD and MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a MA from KCL in Defence Studies.



## Mr Fergal Mythen

Mr Fergal Mythen is currently Director-General, Ireland, UK and Americas Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dublin, having taken up this post in August 2017. He first joined the Department in 1990 and has spent significant periods of his career working on Northern Ireland issues, including Justice and Security issues (1999-2003 and 2005-2007) and Political issues (2007-2009), as well as a secondment with the International Fund for Ireland (1990-1992). Fergal's other Departmental assignments in Dublin have included Deputy Director, Human Rights Unit (1997-1999), and Director-General, Corporate Affairs Division (2013-2017).

He has also represented Ireland overseas. He served on two occasions in Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU, Brussels (Middle East issues

2003-2005 and coordinator for the Permanent Representatives Committee 2009-2013), contributing to the delivery of Ireland's last two EU Presidencies (2004 and 2013). He has also served as Consular Officer in the Irish Embassy to Italy, Rome (1992-1996), and as desk officer to the UN General Assembly - Third Committee (Human Rights) in 1994. During Ireland's EU Presidency in 1996, Fergal was seconded to the EU Monitoring Mission to the Former Yugoslavia, Sarajevo, covering political affairs. Fergal spends his free time playing and coaching GAA, running, and providing taxi and other support services to his family at weekends.



## Prof John O'Brennan

Prof John O'Brennan is Jean Monnet Chair of European Integration and Director of the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies at Maynooth University, and Vice President of the Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies (IACES). His main specialisation is in EU Enlargement policy and secondary specialisation in Ireland's relationship with the EU. He has published 15 articles in international peer reviewed journals including: *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, the *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *European Political Science*, the *Journal of European integration and Parliamentary Affairs*. In addition to publishing three books, he has written 25 book chapters and been a regular contributor to international publications such as *Europe's World*. He has published more than 100 opinion articles on EU politics and is one of the most frequent contributors to Irish media on EU issues, including regular appearances on leading radio and TV shows.



## Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Justin McNulty entered the political arena in 2015 when he received more than 12,000 votes in the Westminster election. He was first elected to the Assembly in May 2016 and has been a member of the Committee for Infrastructure. Justin has campaigned on and been vocal in the Assembly Chamber on such issues as Brexit, Newry Train Station, Daisy Hill Hospital, broadband and the RHI scheme.

In his career in engineering, high performance and finance, Justin has built up a wide network of contacts in business and commerce from across this island which he is determined to leverage to bring jobs and economic development to Newry and Armagh.

With Brexit looming, Justin believes Newry and Armagh is arguably going to be the worst hit constituency on these islands, and is determined to ensure that the rights of Irish citizens that are intrinsic in the Good Friday Agreement are protected in the aftermath of the UK leaving the EU.



## Dr Stephen Farry MLA

Dr Stephen Farry is an Alliance Party MLA for North Down. He was first elected in 2007 and has served as Minister for Employment and Learning 2011-2016. He has been Alliance Party Deputy Leader since December 2016. Before this, he sat on North Down Borough Council representing Abbey DEA, 1993-2011 and was the Mayor 2007-2008 and Deputy Mayor 2002-2003.

Stephen worked as a Consultant Trainer for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Croatia and Bosnia, completing five missions between 1997-2000 and was a Senior Fellow for the United States Institute of Peace, 2005-2006

Stephen graduated Queen's University Belfast with a BSc (1st Class) in Politics and also holds a PhD in International Relations (United Nations in the post-Cold War Era).



## Mr Tony Kennedy OBE

Mr Tony Kennedy enjoys an active retirement, serving on a number of bodies in a voluntary capacity. This includes Director of the John Hewitt Society, and board membership of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Arts and Business Northern Ireland and Poleglass Community Association. When working full time, Tony was Area Housing Manager, North Belfast, with the Housing Executive from 1974 to 1979 and Regional Director, North West, from 1979 to 1983; Chief Housing Officer, Wakefield Council, from 1983 to 1992; and Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland from 1992 to 2008. In 2003 he was awarded an OBE for services to cross border co-operation in Ireland.



## Mr Earl Storey

Mr Earl Storey is Editor of the Church of Ireland Gazette. He is also responsible for the Protestantism: A Journey in Self-Belief project at Maynooth University ([www.journeyinselfbelief.org](http://www.journeyinselfbelief.org)). He is an IMI qualified Executive Coach. Ordained as a Church of Ireland clergyman in 1982, Earl has served in both jurisdictions in Ireland. He left active ministry in 2003 to become involved in unionist politics, as a contribution towards reconciliation. He stood in the Westminster and local council elections in Foyle in 2005. He stepped out of any political affiliation in 2005 to become Director of the Church of Ireland Hard Gospel Project. This was an all-Ireland project set up in 2005 to address sectarianism and living constructively with difference. In 2008 he founded Topstorey Communications ([www.topstorey.org](http://www.topstorey.org)). He has worked with organisations as diverse as the GAA, Orange Order, development agencies, Churches, businesses and individuals. Earl is a board member of the Centre for Cross Border Studies and is based in Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



## Mr Owen Reidy

Mr Owen Reidy took up the position of Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions with particular responsibility for Northern Ireland, in November 2016. Prior to this he worked with SIPTU, Ireland's largest trade union for 18 years. During that period he represented and organised workers in both the public and private sectors. From 2013-2016 he served on the union's management team as one of SIPTU's five Divisional Organisers leading a team which organised and represented 25,000 workers in the transport, energy, aviation and construction sectors.

Since commencing his role with the ICTU, Owen has worked with other social partners in Northern Ireland such as the business, farming community and voluntary sectors seeking to build a consensus on Brexit. He is also involved in developing the roll out of the major trade union campaign, *Better Work Better Lives* which seeks to challenge low pay and insecure work, declining public investment and the 1% public sector pay cap.