

Seamus Murray

Seamus worked within the voluntary and community sector for 8 years in Belfast and then with HM Customs and Excise in London dealing with European policy matters. He worked with inner city regeneration in Belfast with the Department of Environment before joining the Voluntary and Community Unit (VCU), Department for Social Development. In the VCU Seamus has been responsible for volunteering policy, social economy, finance and governance and charity policy in Northern Ireland. He is currently taking forward the review of charities legislation and administration in Northern Ireland.

Sheila Nordon

Sheila Nordon is Executive Director of Irish Charities Tax Research Ltd a sister organisation to the ICTRG with the specific brief of providing research, information and education on fiscal and regulatory issues that affect charities. Sheila has previously worked at senior management level in local development and the private sector. She is a graduate of TCD and holds a Masters in Applied Linguistics (Univ. of Reading) and an MBA (University of Ulster).

Patricia Rickard-Clarke

Patricia Rickard-Clarke is the permanent Commissioner with the Law Reform Commission having been a part-time Commissioner since 1997. Up until 2002 she was a partner in the Private Client Department of McCann FitzGerald Solicitors where she was in private practice for over 20 years specialising in taxation and trusts.

Pat Nolan

Pat Nolan, M.A., Diploma in European Law, is the Principal Officer heading up the Company Law Review Section in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. He is leading the major programme to modernise and simplify Irish company law. Currently, his main task is drawing up the General Scheme of the Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Company Law Review Group. In this task he is hugely assisted by the Company Law Review Group, the statutory advisory body on company law to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Pat serves as Secretary to and works closely with the Review Group. Pat is also national delegate to the OECD Steering Group on Corporate Governance.

Caroline Casey

In June 2000 Caroline Casey (CEO) set up the Aisling Foundation, as an adventurous, major fund-raising initiative "to inspire people into thinking of disability in a positive way. I wanted to help open people's eyes." From January – May 2001, Caroline trekked 1,000 Km across southern India on the back of her elephant Bhadra, raising awareness of what people with a disability can do. A former management consultant, Caroline is visually impaired to the degree that she is registered legally blind. The Foundation aims to create inspiration through adventure, create awareness of ability, not disability and to encourage employment by running work experience programmes in leading private sector organisations.

IRISH CHARITIES TAX REFORM GROUP

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Charity Law Reform

– what to expect

Irish Charities Tax Reform Group

13th Annual Conference

Tuesday 28th September 2004

The Gresham, Dublin

Keynote address by Jane Ryder, Scottish Charity Regulator

Supported by **Triodos Bank**

Programme

- 9.45am** Registration with tea/coffee
- 10.15am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Niamh Ní Chonghaile (Chair)
- 10.20am** **Keynote Address – Regulating Charities – The Scottish Approach**
Jane Ryder (CEO Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)
- 10.50am** **Review of Charity Regulation in Northern Ireland**
Seamus Murray - Voluntary and Community Unit (VCU),
Department for Social Development N.I.
- 11.15am** **Report on Consultation on Charity Regulation in Ireland**
Sheila Nordon (ICTR Ltd)
- 11.35am** **Questions to the Panel**
- 11.50pm** **Short Break**
- 12.00pm** **Charity Trust Law Reform – proposals**
Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Law Reform Commissioner)
- 12.25** **Company Law Reform - proposals**
Pat Nolan (Dept. Enterprise Trade & Employment)
- 12.50** **Questions to the Panel**
- 1.00pm** **Lunch**
- 2.30pm** **Setting up a charity in Ireland**
Caroline Casey (The Aisling Foundation)
- 3.00pm** **Closing Remarks**
- 3.30pm** **ICTRG AGM (Members only)**

Keynote Speaker – Jane Ryder

Jane Ryder is CEO of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). OSCR is the new national organisation set up to regulate charities in Scotland. OSCR aims to develop a regulatory framework in which the public have confidence and in which charities can grow and flourish, clear in the knowledge of their rights and responsibilities. It is also charged with managing the transition of the organisation from an Executive Agency to a statutory public body following the enactment of the proposed charity legislation.

Jane Ryder is on secondment from the Scottish Museums Council where she was Director. Jane is an experienced solicitor, and was a member of the Law Society's charity committee and of the Council of the Law Society. She was also a member of the Expert Panel advising on the Code of Conduct for new MSPs. Jane was on the Board of a number of different charities and was previously the Vice Chair of Stevenson College and the Chair of the Scottish Refugee Council.

Charity law reform

– what to expect

Irish law as it affects charities is about to change. The Dept. of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is preparing new legislation on the regulation of charities following a period of consultation that ended on the 28th May, 2004. The Law Reform Commission is in the process of developing proposals for reform of Trust Law including reform of Charity Trust Law that will impact upon the sector. Also underway is a fundamental review of Company Law, which will lead to major changes with implications for incorporated charities.

The "Charity Law Reform" Conference will explore the changing legal landscape for charities focusing on what we can expect from a new charity regulator, how charity trust law will be updated and how company law reform may provide an opportunity to develop a company model that more closely matches the needs of charities.

We can learn from the Scottish experience about the practicalities of setting up and implementing a regulatory body for charities similar to what is proposed in Ireland. We are happy to welcome the CEO of the recently established Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to give us a first-hand account of their approach and experience so far.

Our nearest neighbours in Northern Ireland are also engaged in a review of charity legislation and we will hear about their reform proposals from a senior official in the Department for Social Development. We will also be giving feedback on the main issues raised in submissions received during the consultation process undertaken earlier this year by the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

On charity trust law, the permanent Commissioner with the Law Reform Commission will bring us up to date on their proposals for reform. The Secretary to the Company Law Review Group will explain what is in store in relation to company law and in particular proposals to introduce Designated Activity Companies (DAC) and the potential for a subset to specifically meet the needs of charities – Charitable Designated Activity Companies (CDAC).

The CEO of a recently formed foundation will give us the benefit of her experience of what it has been like setting up a new charity, having to decide what legal structure to adopt and how she dealt with the legal and regulatory issues involved.

The Conference is designed for Board Members, Trustees, Chief Executives and Development and Financial Executives of charities and voluntary organisations.

ICTRG is a membership organisation of 138 Irish Charities working to increase funding to the sector through tax reform.