

# eolas Digital Government

CONFERENCE 2026

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Tuesday 24th February  
Croke Park, Dublin

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## Benefits of attending:



### Development

Learn about the latest developments in digital transformation

### Impact

Examine how this will impact your organisation



### Speakers

Gain inspiration from speakers and thought leaders

### Networking

Network with peers and colleagues



### Learning

Share ideas and solutions



## Digital Government 2026

This popular, interactive conference is a must-attend event. It provides a valuable opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to gain insight into the government's objectives for digital transformation and hear directly from those responsible for driving this forward. Take the time to reconnect and network with your peers and colleagues, key senior policy makers and decision takers. The conference also features a busy exhibition zone featuring some of Ireland's most committed and innovative technology and solution providers.

The move towards digital public services continues to gather pace. Strategies including *Better Public Services* and *Connecting Government 2030* are shaping the way our public services are designed and delivered – aiming to create a trusted, human-driven and inclusive digital government by the end of the decade. The latest update from the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation outlines progress in embedding user-centred design, strengthening data governance, and building digital capability across the State.

The Government's *2025 Programme for Government* reaffirms commitments to digital transformation, aligning national targets with the EU's Digital Decade objectives. This includes the provision of all key public services online by 2030, the integration of once-only data sharing, and meeting EU benchmarks for user-centricity and availability.

AI will also have a transformative effect and it is increasingly being used across our public service organisations. The publication of the Responsible AI Guidelines for the Public Service earlier in 2025 marked a turning point in how the State approaches AI adoption.

There are a number of challenges posed by rapid digital transformation, such as the increasing cybersecurity challenge, overcoming legacy systems, the need to drive forward digital inclusion, addressing critical skills gaps and the challenge of ensuring a user-centric approach to design and delivery. Services must be scalable, yet personalised.

**This conference will feature a range of expert speakers who will talk about their digital transformation journey and look ahead to what's next as organisations prepare for a digitally driven future.**



# This is why you need to be at Digital Government 2026

## Key themes covered:

- ✓ Future-proofing public services – **digital ambitions for the next decade**;
- ✓ A **user-centred design** approach;
- ✓ **AI-powered technologies** to deliver public services;
- ✓ **Building public trust** in the use of AI;
- ✓ Delivering **secure, scalable and innovative technology** to meet **citizen expectations**;
- ✓ **Putting service design** at the front-end of technology transformation;
- ✓ Enhancing digital content with **inclusive design**;
- ✓ Building **cyber resilient** organisations;
- ✓ Transforming public services **cloud-first**;
- ✓ Driving innovation through **collaboration**;
- ✓ Connecting citizens – supporting **digital inclusion** for people-centred services;
- ✓ **Digital skills**: Recruitment and retention;
- ✓ **Best practice case studies** in digital delivery from outside Ireland.

## Who will attend?

The event will be of interest to senior managers and decision-makers working across Ireland's public and private sectors. Not just for CIOs, it is also for those within organisations in policy-making and service delivery roles. Delegates will include:

- Chief Executives / Directors / senior managers
- Chief Information Officers / IT Directors
- Local government officers
- Policy makers
- Corporate planners
- Board members of public sector agencies
- Voluntary / community sector leaders / NGOs
- Health / education sector professionals
- Services organisations – IT / telecoms / advisory



## Networking

The conference is structured in such a way to provide a high level of interaction between speakers and delegates. There will be plentiful opportunities for questions as well as discussion in each of the sessions. In the margins of the event there will also be ample scope for business development during the busy networking breaks that take place in the exhibition area.

# Conference plenary

- 09.00 Chair's welcome and introduction: **Bill McCluggage**, Managing Director  
**Laganview Associates**
- 09.05 **Ministerial address:**  
**Frank Feighan TD, Minister of State for Public Procurement, Digitalisation and eGovernment**
- Ireland's digital future: Looking to the next decade*  
**Barry Lowry**, Government CIO, **Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation**
- Building a digital society: Delivering world-leading public services*  
**Petra Holm**, Digital Transformation Advisor, **e-Estonia**
- Meeting citizens' expectations: Delivering secure, scalable and innovative technology*  
**David Scanlon**, Government Lead, Ireland, **AWS**
- Unlocking digital transformation across housing and local government*  
**Mihai Bilauca**, Chief Information Officer  
**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**
- Question & answer session / Panel discussion
- 11.00 **Networking break**
- 11.30 *The journey towards responsible, ethical design for AI*  
**Abeba Birhane**, Founder and PI, **AIAL** and Assistant Professor of AI  
**Trinity College Dublin**
- Safeguarding AI: The Critical Role of Data & AI Governance in Government Innovation*  
**William Flanagan**, Director of Technology and Commercial, **OpenSky Data Systems**
- People-centred services: Supporting digital inclusion*  
**Danny Lynch**, Head of IT, **Longford County Council**
- A digital strategy to support wider transformation goals*  
**Graeme Roche**, Head of Digital Transformation, **Transport Infrastructure Ireland**
- Question & answer session / Panel discussion





# Conference plenary

13.00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14.00 *The way forward for digital procurement in Ireland*

Erika Bozzay, Acting Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, **OECD** (invited)

*Delivering Successful Digital Transformation*

Gary Comiskey, Partner, Government & Health, **EY**

*Quantum Cryptography: Implications for public services in Ireland*

Hazel Murray, Cybersecurity Lecturer, **Munster Technological University**

*Transforming the delivery of Ireland's ambulance services through technology*

Brian McKeon, Head of Technology, **National Ambulance Service**

*Regulating the digital world*

Garrett Blaney, Chair, **ComReg**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

16.30 **Chair's summary followed by conference close**





## Ireland's digital future: Looking to the next decade

Barry Lowry, Government CIO  
**Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation**



## Building a digital society: Delivering world-leading public services

Petra Holm  
Digital Transformation Advisor  
**e-Estonia**

## Ministerial address

Frank Feighan TD  
Minister of State for Public Procurement,  
Digitalisation and eGovernment

# Digital Government 2026



Unlocking digital transformation across housing and local government  
Mihai Bilauca  
Chief Information Officer  
**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**



## The journey towards responsible, ethical design for AI

Abeba Birhane  
Founder and PI, **AIAL**  
and Assistant Professor of AI,  
**Trinity College Dublin**





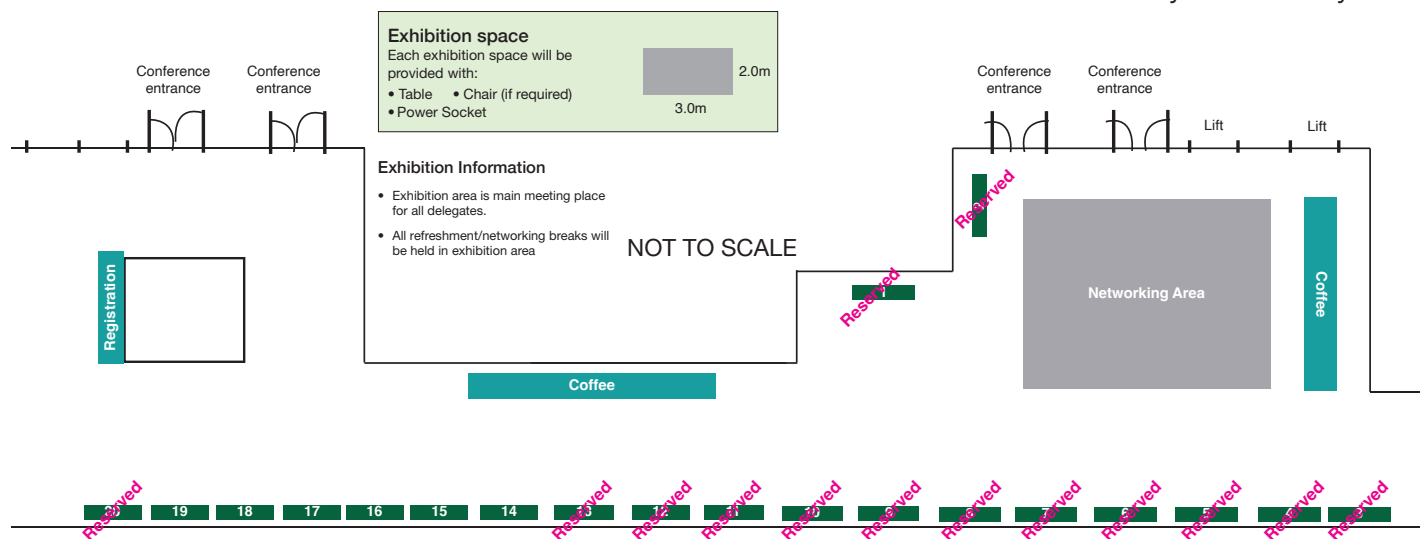
## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

There are a limited number of opportunities to become involved with this conference as a sponsor or exhibitor. This is an excellent way for organisations to showcase their expertise and raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision-makers from across Ireland's public services. This interactive conference provides an excellent opportunity for making contacts and networking. For further information on how your organisation can benefit contact Jillian Wallace on **01 661 3755** or email **[Jillian.Wallace@eolasmagazine.ie](mailto:Jillian.Wallace@eolasmagazine.ie)**.

# eolas Digital Government Conference

## Exhibition Layout

Tuesday 24 February



For further information, or to discuss exhibition opportunities at Digital Government, contact Jillian Wallace on: **+353 (0) 1 661 3755** or email [jillian.wallace@eolasmagazine.ie](mailto:jillian.wallace@eolasmagazine.ie)



# Speakers



**Mihai Bilaucu** is responsible for driving the Government digitization agenda for Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, inherently directing the digital transformation programme across the agencies under its remit and especially the Local Government sector by fostering effective partnerships for a coherent governance and strategic direction in line with the wider public service. Dr. Bilaucu has responsibility for shaping the strategic direction for Digital platforms, Data and ICT, leading and directing staff and other resources; providing support and advice on digital technologies and transformation to DHLGH senior management and all agencies under its remit.



**Abeba Birhane** founded and leads the TCD AI Accountability Lab (AIAL). She is an assistant professor of AI at the School of Computer Science and Statistics in Trinity College Dublin. Dr Birhane researches AI accountability with a particular focus on audits of AI models and training datasets – work for which she was featured in Wired UK and TIME on the TIME100 Most Influential People in AI list in 2023. Dr. Birhane also served on the United Nations Secretary-General's AI Advisory Body and currently serves at the AI Advisory Council in Ireland.



**Garrett Blaney** joined the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) as Commissioner on 7 January 2019 and Chairperson from then until January 2022. He is the ComReg representative for the Digital Regulators Group. Garrett was previously a member of the Commission at the Commission for Regulation of Utilities since February 2010 and Chairperson from February 2014 to February 2017. In 2017, he was elected the Chair of the ACER Board of Regulators (Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators) and also the President of the Council of the European Energy Regulators (CEER). Prior to becoming a Regulator Garrett had over 20 years of experience working in the energy industry. He was previously Strategic Development Director for Viridian Power and Energy, Commercial Director for Huntstown Power, Ireland's first independent power producer, and Asian regional director for ESB International.



**Gary Comiskey** is a Partner in EY Ireland, working with the Advisory team to deliver services to government and health sector clients. He leads a wide range of complex projects enabling public sector and health care transformation initiatives across central Government and other public sector bodies. With an extensive experience gained over more than 16 years, Gary worked on projects including program design, implementation, review and assurance. These projects covered processes and systems, IT applications and systems, organisational structure and people. Prior to joining EY, he worked as Director for another Big Four firm. Gary received a BA in Economics from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a Graduate Diploma in Information Technology from the Dublin City University.



**Frank Feighan TD** is Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation with special responsibility for Public Procurement, Digitalisation and eGovernment. He was appointed to this role on 18 November 2025.



**William Flanagan** is a visionary leader at the forefront of powering digital government solutions with Data & Intelligence. Co-founder of OpenSky, a leading provider of Gov-tech engagement solutions for 20 years, William has been instrumental in bringing future-ready, transformational solutions to many of Ireland's and the UK's major public sector agencies. By harnessing the power of connected data and artificial intelligence, OpenSky is demonstrating the transformative potential of Data & Intelligence in enabling a more responsive, transparent and high-quality public service ecosystem.



**Petra Holm** is a Digital Transformation Adviser at the e-Estonia Briefing Centre, where she shares Estonia's pioneering digitalisation journey with governments and organisations worldwide. She specialises in citizen-centric digital government, secure data exchange, and public sector innovation. With an education in law and experience across both public and private sectors, Petra brings a governance-focused perspective on how collaboration and trust underpin successful digital transformation.





# Speakers



**Barry Lowry** is CIO for the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, a position he was appointed to in 2016. He is tasked with delivering the Public Service ICT Strategy. Prior to 2016, he spent almost 35 years in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) on work ranging from the programming of mainframe

computers to operating as a team leader in the design of client server systems. For the five years prior to his appointment, Barry was the director who oversaw the establishment of ICT shared services in NICS. He also operated as the Head of Profession for ICT. In 2011 he was voted the Northern Ireland IT Professional of the Year by his associates.



**Danny Lynch** Danny Lynch is Head of Information Systems and Innovation with Longford County Council, with responsibility for leading the organisation's digital strategy and delivery of modern, secure digital services, and for advancing the county's community digital transformation agenda. Danny is a recognised

leader in digital transformation, digital inclusion and innovation. He developed and delivered Longford's citizen-focused Digital Strategy, which is the recipient of a number of national awards. A strong advocate for partnership-driven delivery, Danny has successfully secured significant external funding to scale digital education and inclusion initiatives, including the expansion of the Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase, bringing digital skills to hundreds of students across the county.



**Bill McCluggage** is Managing Director of Laganview Associates Ltd. He became the first CIO for the Irish Government in 2013 and was CIO for the Northern Ireland Civil Service (2005 – 2009). He joined the Cabinet Office in 2009 as deputy UK Government CIO. While in the Cabinet Office he was the Executive Director responsible for the UK Government's ICT

Strategy and was instrumental in the development of the Government G[1]Cloud, and was SRO for the Identity Assurance Programme, now GOV.UK Verify.



**Brian McKeon** currently holds the position of Head of Technology, Data and Business Analytics at the **National Ambulance Service**, leading digital transformation, data strategy and analytics to support national ambulance operations and clinical services. He previously worked as General Operations Manager at the

HSE and served as a Lecturer on the M.Sc. in Health Informatics in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems from 2019 to 2025.



**Hazel Murray** is a cyber security lecturer and researcher at **Munster Technological University**. She leads two Research Ireland national challenge fund projects: Cyber Safety for Vulnerable populations and Digital resilience for Small businesses, both in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Centre. She leads the QCloud project which provides free access to

quantum computing to all Irish researchers. Hazel's research interests are password security, authentication, cyber risk and quantum cryptography. She completed her PhD in mathematics at Maynooth University in 2021.



**Graeme Roche** is Head of Digital Transformation at TII, where he leads initiatives to enhance digital capability and data-driven decision-making across Ireland's national transport infrastructure and services. He has extensive experience directing complex programmes in the financial services and

technology sectors, having delivered global transformation initiatives for Citigroup and Microsoft. His background spans strategy, governance, compliance, and innovation leadership in highly regulated environments.



# Conference location



## By train

The closest railway station is Drumcondra at the intersection of Drumcondra Road (N1) and Clonliffe Road, a 5 minute walk from the stadium. The closest DART stations are Connolly and Clontarf. Connolly is a 15-20 minute walk and Clontarf a 20-25 minute walk to the stadium. The closest Luas & Intercity Rail stop is also at Connolly Station.

## By Luas

Croke Park is a 16 minute (1.3km) walk from Connolly Red Line Luas stop. The stadium is also just 15 minutes (1km) walk from both Parnell and Marlborough Green Line Luas stops.

## By bus

Dublin Bus offers a high-frequency, accessible and easy to use service from all over Dublin. A number of services bring you quite close to Croke Park and many others will get you to the city centre from where the stadium is a 15 minute walk.

### Bus Routes that serve Croke Park

1, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 27a, 27b, 29a, 31/a, 31b, 32, 33, 40, 40b, 40d, 41, 41b, 41c, 42, 43, 44, 53, 123, 13

## By bike

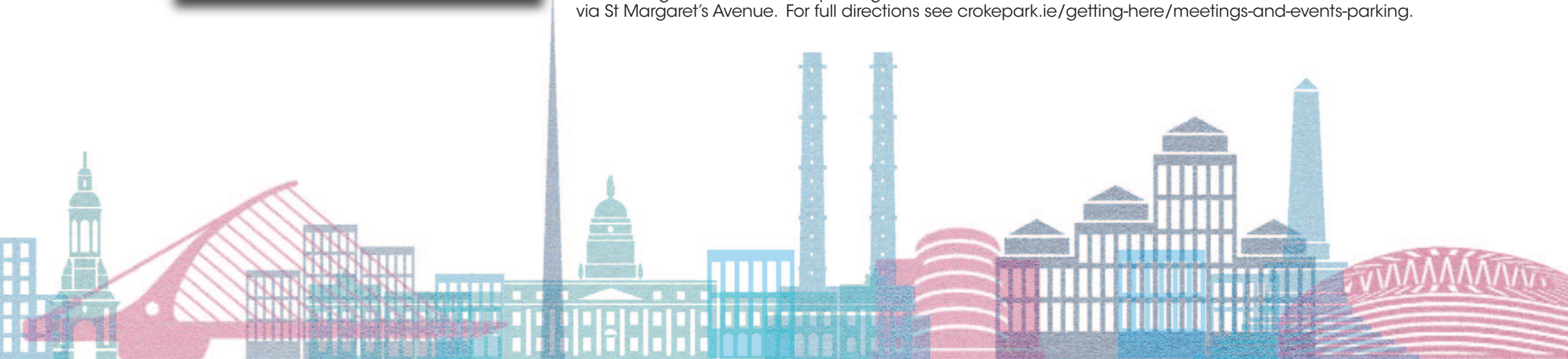
Croke Park is just a cycle from the City Centre. The nearest Dublin Bike stations are located on North Circular Road and Mountjoy Square.

For further information visit [dublinbikes.ie](http://dublinbikes.ie)

There is also bicycle locking facilities around the stadium, including two-tier bike storage in the Davin Stand car park.

## By car

For the Hogan Stand, free car parking is available in the Davin Car Park and accessed off the North Circular Road via St Margaret's Avenue. For full directions see [crokepark.ie/getting-here/meetings-and-events-parking](http://crokepark.ie/getting-here/meetings-and-events-parking).





**I WISH TO:**

- ☐ Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Digital Government conference  
Delegate fee €345 + VAT @ 23%
- ☐ Public sector delegate fee  
Delegate fee €295 + VAT @ 23%
- ☐ Receive details of exhibition opportunities at the conference

## Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment options

- ☐ I enclose a cheque for € \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to 'bmf Business Services E&P Ltd.'
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Card number

[illegible]

Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_

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## Other ways to book...



**By email**  
registration@eolasmagazine.ie



Online  
[www.digitalgovernment.ie](http://www.digitalgovernment.ie)



**By telephone**  
+353 (0)1 661 3755

QR code



## Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be emailed to all delegates following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours of registering, please contact us at [registration@eolasmagazine.ie](mailto:registration@eolasmagazine.ie) to confirm your booking.

## Terms and conditions

\* For those unable to attend, a substitute participant may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Please note once purchased delegate places cannot be cancelled.



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Clifton House  
Lower Fitzwilliam Street  
Dublin, D02 XT91  
Tel: +353 (0)1 661 3755

