

**Gary McGhee****Partner and Head of Planning and Environmental Law, Carson McDowell LLP.**

Gary's experience includes: the co-ordination of major planning applications; representation at over 50 planning / enforcement appeals and major public inquiries; and instigating / defending judicial reviews of planning and environmental decisions. Gary is ranked in Band 1 in Planning and Environmental Law by both the Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500. In addition, Gary is a Legal Associate of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a member of the Environmental and Planning Law Association of NI and a member of the UK Environmental Law Association. Gary's clients include Tesco, Belfast International Airport, The Port of Belfast, Northern Ireland Electricity, SONI, Gaelectric Developments Limited, ABO Wind (NI) Limited and TCI Renewables Limited.

**David Fry****Senior Policy Adviser, CBI Northern Ireland**

David is Senior Policy Adviser at CBI Northern Ireland. Within the CBI David acts as the secretariat for three of the four Northern Ireland committees - Improving Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Employment and Skills. David joined the CBI in August 2012 and has a background in policy, public affairs and public relations roles both at Westminster and Stormont.

**Michael Atkinson****Head of Generation Connection, NIE**

Michael Atkinson is Head of Generation Connections at Northern Ireland Electricity, with responsibility for managing the connection of renewable technologies and the relationships with a range of stakeholders and developers. He has some 30 years experience in the electricity sector in Northern Ireland, working in generation, supply and networks before heading up NIE Powerteam in 1998. In 2006 Michael took the role of Project Director for delivering the Enduring Solution, the largest IT project NIE has undertaken so far, which enabled market opening and unlimited customer switching between electricity suppliers. Michael is an engineering graduate of Queens University Belfast with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering, an MBA and an MSc in Corporate Leadership. In an earlier life Michael competed at international level in athletics and weightlifting and held a number of Northern Ireland records.

**Sam McCloskey****Director, Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy**

Sam was appointed as Manager of CASE in November 2012, becoming Director in May 2013, following a career in consultancy. She therefore has a clear working knowledge of the practical application of sustainability at operational levels from the shop floor to the Board Room. Since 2011, CASE has been working with Northern Ireland business and academia to identify industry research needs in three priority areas; energy from biomass, turbines and demand side management. The Centre has access to £5m funding for the research projects from Invest NI.

**Kenneth Matthews****Chief Executive - IWEA**

Kenneth joined IWEA as CEO in September 2011. He has over 14 years experience in the energy industry in Ireland having worked with Intel, EirGrid and ESB. He worked in power system operation, protection and

transmission access planning in EirGrid. Kenneth has also worked in ESB Power Generation holding numerous management roles including Production Manager Poolbeg Power Station and Station Manager Ardnacrusha Power Station. He has been involved in delivering numerous projects across power generation from safety to power plant overhauls, he also developed and led a stakeholder management and engagement programme for ESB's hydro portfolio. A BEng Hons graduate from University of Ulster, he holds a diploma in Industrial studies.

**Anna Lo****MLA, Chairperson, Committee for the Environment, Stormont**

Anna was born in Hong Kong and worked in London for a year prior to coming to live in Northern Ireland in 1974. For several years, she made regular contributions to the BBC Chinese Service about the Chinese community and Northern Ireland affairs. In 1978, she started the first ever English evening class for Chinese people in Northern Ireland in a further education college. Following a career break she joined the Chinese Welfare Association in 1987 as a community interpreter. Four years later she returned to full-time education and qualified as a social worker from the University of Ulster in 1993 and worked in a health and social services trust and Barnardos. She took up the post of Director of the Chinese Welfare Association in 1997. Anna was the first vice chair of the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities and a founding commissioner for the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. She was also the first chair of the South Belfast Partnership Board. Anna was awarded an MBE in 1999 for services to ethnic minorities. In March 2007, she was elected to serve as the MLA for South Belfast for the Alliance Party, and was consequently the first Chinese-born person to be elected to a legislative parliament in Europe. Anna currently sits on various equality committees including the Bill of Rights Forum and the South Belfast Roundtable on Racism. Anna is Chair of the Environment Committee, deputy Chair of the Committee for Standard and Privileges, as well as a member of the Audit and Employment & Learning Committees; she is also the party spokesperson for Culture, Arts and Leisure.



# "A Sustainable Energy Future"

## NIRIG 2015 Policy Workshop

Thursday 29th January 2015  
Hilton Hotel > 4 Lanyon Place > Belfast

Main Sponsor



Supporting Sponsors

**Brookfield**

## Exhibiting Companies





# A Sustainable Energy Future

NIRIG 2015 Policy Workshop

Thursday 29th January - Hilton Hotel, Belfast

8:00am	Registration, Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing	
<b>Session 1: "Keynote Session"</b>		
		<b>Chair: Patrick McClughan - NIRIG Chairperson</b>
09.20	<b>Patrick McClughan - NIRIG Chairperson</b> Head of Corporate Affairs, Gaelectric Developments	"Welcome Address"
09.30	Keynote Address (Speaker Confirmed)	"Keynote Address"
09.50	Questions & Answers	
10.10	Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing	
<b>Session 2: "Driving Sustainable Development"</b>		
		<b>Chair: Richard Murphy - Head of Energy &amp; Natural Resources, Pinsent Masons</b>
11.00	<b>John Mills - Head of Energy, DETI</b>	"SEF Review"
11.20	<b>Maf Smith - Deputy Chief Executive, Renewable UK</b>	"Transition to the CfD"
11.40	<b>Jo Aston - Director, NIAUR</b>	"Regional Integration"
12.00	Questions & Answers	
12.20	Lunch	
<b>Session 3: "Planning for Sustainability"</b>		
		<b>Chair: Angela Larkin - Project Manager, Asset Development, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group</b>
13.40	<b>Angus Kerr - Director of Planning Policy Division, DOE</b>	"Planning Frameworks for Sustainable Development"
14.00	<b>Derek McCallan - Chief Executive, NILGA</b>	"Local Government Planning for Sustainability"
14.20	<b>Gary McGhee - Partner, Carson McDowell</b>	"Legal Update on Renewable Case Law"
14.40	Questions & Answers	
15.00	Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing	
<b>Session 4: "Pathways to a Sustainable Future"</b>		
		<b>Chair: David Fry - Senior Policy Adviser, CBI</b>
15.30	<b>Michael Atkinson - Head of Generation Connections, NIE</b>	"Project 40 Progress"
15.50	<b>Sam McCloskey - Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE)</b>	"Perspectives on New Opportunities"
16.10	<b>Kenneth Matthews - Chief Executive, IWEA Ltd</b>	"Reaching 2020 - Focusing 2030"
16.30	<b>Anna Lo, MLA - Chair of the Environment Committee, Stormont</b>	"Closing Address"
16.50	Workshop Close - <b>Patrick McClughan - NIRIG Chairperson</b>	

## Conference Speakers



### Patrick McClughan

**MRICS - Head of Corporate Affairs, Gaelectric Developments Ltd.**

Patrick joined Gaelectric Developments Ltd over 4 years ago and is responsible for Corporate Affairs in NI. Having extensive development and M & A experience across a range of sectors Patrick is a passionate advocate for the Renewable Energy industry. He is a proven communicator and influencer when voicing the opinions and concerns of the industry. Patrick completed a BSc degree at the University of Ulster and is also a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.



### Richard Murphy

**Head of Energy & Natural Resources, Pinsent Masons**

Richard Murphy is a partner at leading international law firm, Pinsent Masons LLP, advising public and private energy clients on a range of regulatory, advisory and transactional matters. Richard leads the Energy & Finance team in Ireland with a strong track record in the renewable energy sector, securing a range of high profile mandates including the recent appointment to advise Full Circle Power/Bombardier on the 15 Mega Watt Energy from Waste plant in Belfast Harbour Estate. Richard is recognised as an energy policy expert, ranked as a leading lawyer in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500. Richard sits on the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group Committee (NIRIG) and is a regular speaker at energy industry events and conferences.



### John Mills

**Head of Energy Division in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)**

John Mills has been Head of Energy Division in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) since January 2014. The Division's functions cover policy development and implementation relating to electricity, gas, sustainable energy in Northern Ireland and the all-island energy market. John has previously been Director of Water Policy in the Department for Regional Development including dealing with the establishment of Northern Ireland Water as a regulated utility. Prior to this he has held a variety of posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service with a focus on policy and legislation.



### Maf Smith

**Deputy Chief Executive of Renewable UK**

Maf Smith is the Deputy Chief Executive of Renewable UK - the trade and professional body for the UK wind and marine renewables industries. Formed in 1978, and with over 580 corporate members, RenewableUK is the leading renewable energy trade association in the UK. Prior to joining RenewableUK Maf worked at grid and regulatory consultancy Xero Energy, and for much of this time was seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to work on Electricity Market Reform. Between 2006 and 2011, Maf worked as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Scotland for the Sustainable Development Commission, acting as advisor and scrutiny body to the Scottish Government. Between 2002 and 2006 Maf was Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, Scotland's leading renewable trade association.



### Jo Aston

**Director, NIAUR**

Jo is a Chartered Civil Engineer; she has worked for both the private and public sector, predominantly in the Utility Sector. Her experience includes the design and construction of major civil engineering projects, operational management; Public Private Partnerships and Asset Management planning. Jo has worked for the Utility Regulator since 2007, initially as Director of Water Regulation and since February 2014, as Director of Wholesale Energy Markets. She is responsible for regulation of the current Single Electricity Market and its re-design to an integrated European market – I-SEM.



### Angela Larkin

**Project Manager, Asset Development, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group**

Angela Larkin has worked in the renewable energy sector since joining SWS Energy in 2008 and has over 10 years' experience in Project Management, Planning and EIA experience in the delivery of renewable and capital infrastructure projects. Angela currently works as part of the Asset Development team in Brookfield Renewable Energy which is responsible for the delivery of the company's Northern Ireland wind farm portfolio. Angela's previous experience is in private consultancy with responsibility for securing planning for residential and capital infrastructure projects. Angela has been involved with the NIRIG Steering Committee and Planning & Environmental Committee since 2008. Angela is a graduate of University College Dublin.



### Angus Kerr

**Director of Planning Policy Division, DOE**

Angus Kerr is Director of Planning Policy Division with 22 years experience and is responsible for policy, legislation, reform and transfer. He worked in the team that prepared the original Regional Development Strategy and has more recently worked on several development plans across Northern Ireland. In his previous post Angus led the team developing the new Development Plan system for Northern Ireland as part of the wider Planning Reform process. He was then involved in the team that took the Planning Reform Bill through the Assembly, which is the largest Bill to go through the Assembly thus far.



### Derek McCallan

**Chief Executive, (NILGA)**

Derek McCallan has been Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association since April 2011. Derek is responsible for advising / supporting the NILGA political leaders, Executive and 157 elected members, taking forward policy and legislation as the representative body of the 26 councils. This includes negotiations with central government departments and agencies including the DoE, regarding the major Local Government reform initiative within the NI Executive's Programme for Government. Derek represents NILGA within the Local Government Group as part of the UK / devolved assembly national body for councils and is contracted by various Departments fulfilling Strategic Migration, EU, Waste Management and other key services for the sector. Derek is a graduate in Politics and English from Trinity College, Dublin.