

Call for Expressions of Interest

Members of the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption

The Minister for Justice invites expressions of interest for consideration for appointment as ordinary members of the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption

Closing Date: 15:00 on **01 May 2025**

Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption

The Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption was established in 2022 as recommended in the *Review of Structures and Strategies to Prevent, Investigate and Penalise Economic Crime and Corruption*¹. The review was led by James Hamilton, the former Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption advises and make proposals on strategic and policy responses. The Council is responsible for developing a multi-annual strategy to combat economic crime and corruption.

The Terms of Reference for the Council are attached as an appendix. These also include the key responsibilities of the Advisory Council.

Membership of the Advisory Council

The Advisory Council comprises 19 members and an independent Chairperson:

- 13 members are drawn from across the public sector, including the relevant government departments, enforcement and regulatory agencies. These bodies nominate their own representatives.
- Two are members who have an understanding of the interests of businesses, the financial sector, and employers, and who possess a good knowledge and understanding of the particular issues faced by the Irish corporate and financial sector in relation to economic crime and corruption.
- Two members are academics specialising in anti-corruption, economic crime, or a related field.
- Two are members who have an understanding of the interests of civil society, particularly those of employees, consumers, victims of economic crime and corruption, etc.

Secretariat

The Secretariat to the Advisory Council is provided by the Criminal Justice Policy function in the Department of Justice.

Conditions for Members

Time Requirement

The Advisory Council will meet at least once per quarter. Members are expected to read the relevant documents that are circulated in advance of the meetings and be prepared to discuss and comment on them at the meeting. Sub-committees may form as the need arises.

¹ Accessible online here:

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Hamilton_Review_Group_Report.pdf/Files/Hamilton_Review_Group_Report.pdf

On that basis, the expected time commitment is 12 days' work a year for the ordinary members.

Term of appointment

The term for ordinary members is three years.

Remuneration

For ordinary members, the annual fee is €7,695 per annum. It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for. Travel and subsistence expenses are payable at appropriate civil service rates and can be claimed through the Department of Justice for expenses incurred in travelling to meetings.

Person Specification

The Minister for Justice is seeking to appoint up to five suitably qualified candidates to the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption. It is proposed to appoint:

- a) Two members with experience representative of business and the financial sector,
- b) Two members with academic expertise in the field of economic crime and corruption,
- c) One member with experience representative of civil society.

Those interested in the role of ordinary member must be able to demonstrate the following essential experience.

(a) Members with experience representative of business and the financial sector

Candidates must demonstrate in their application:

- significant experience of working in business or on behalf of business, particularly in the financial sector, and
- an understanding of the specific issues faced by Irish businesses and the financial sector in relation to economic crime and corruption.

(b) Members with academic expertise in the field of economic crime and corruption

Candidates must demonstrate in their application:

- significant academic experience which demonstrates a deep understanding of the issues of economic crime and corruption or related fields.

(c) Members with experience representative of civil society

Candidates must demonstrate in their application at least one of the following:

- experience which demonstrates understanding of the issues of economic crime and corruption,

or

- a proven track record in an advocacy or representational role on behalf of employees/consumers/victims of economic crime and corruption

or

- a proven track record in a role communicating to the public about issues related to economic crime and corruption.

Desirable attributes for applicants across the three categories include but are not limited to:

- experience of effective leadership at a senior level in an applicant's area of expertise,
- previous experience of board membership,
- demonstrated understanding of the policy development process,
- critical thinking skills with a proven ability to grasp the detail of a wide range of issues,
- experience of participation on similar committees or groups,
- excellent communication skills, both oral and written,
- excellent analytical skills, a commitment to an evidence-based approach and an ability to make important and objective decisions within fixed timeframes,
- the ability to work as part of a team and with a small secretariat and have a proven track record of collaborative working.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from suitably qualified persons with relevant expertise for consideration for appointment as ordinary members of the Advisory Council. These persons should be at an appropriately senior level.

As is evident from the Terms of Reference for the Council, the Council and its members will be required to consider and take account of a wide range of important national and sectoral policy issues in relation to economic crime and corruption.

Although the Advisory Council is not a State Board, applicants should be aware of the contents of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies² which provides a framework for the application of best practice. All members of the Council should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interests of the Council, subject to the objectives set by Government.

In order to qualify for appointment, a person must not have any legal impediment or conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role of ordinary member or Chairperson of the Advisory Council. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

Application Process

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to secretariat@anticorruption.ie by 15:00 on 01 May 2025.

² Accessible online here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0918ef-code-of-practice-for-the-governance-of-state-bodies/>

An expression of interest should include:

- a cover letter expressing interest and outlining suitability and relevant experience for the role;
- a detailed CV; and
- an indication of which role you wish to be considered for.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15:00 on 01 May 2025.

Selection Process

An Assessment Panel (the 'Panel') will be convened to consider and assess the expressions of interest received.

The Panel will

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this call for expressions of interest;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - meeting/conference call; and/or
 - referee checks; and/or
 - any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate.

The Panel will arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister for Justice.

The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Advisory Council as the Minister considers appropriate.

Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

Questions and inquiries

If you have any questions or require any clarification related to this call for expressions of interest, please email secretariat@anticorruption.ie

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption

1. The establishment of the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption (“the Council”) was one of the recommendations made in the *Review of Structures and Strategies to Prevent, Investigate and Penalise Economic Crime and Corruption*³. The review was led by Mr James Hamilton, the former Director of Public Prosecutions.

Governance

2. The Council is an advisory, non-statutory body. The Council shall provide strategic and policy advice, proposals and recommendations relating to economic crime and corruption to the Government through the Minister for Justice. The Council shall keep the Minister for Justice informed of its activities on a regular basis and the Chair shall be afforded the opportunity to present the key findings and recommendations of its work to the Minister, as necessary, and at least once a year.

Independence of members

3. The independence of the regulatory and enforcement agencies which participate in the Council as well as of its members is recognised and these Terms of Reference will reflect and be consistent with their independent status.

Structure

4. The Council will consist of senior persons drawn from relevant Government Departments, State regulators and law enforcement agencies, along with a number of representatives from industry, academia and civil society with an expertise in anti-corruption activities. To the extent practicable, there should be an appropriate gender balance in the membership of the Council.
5. The Chair of the Council will be an independent person of appropriate experience and expertise, who will be selected subject to Government approval. The role of the Chair will be to lead the work of the Council and the Secretariat which supports the Council, seek to find consensus among the Council members so that recommendations can be given to Government, and represent the Council. The Chair role will be part-time and the Chair will have a four-year term, renewable once. The Council will meet at least four times a year.
6. The Council will be supported by a Secretariat established in the Department of Justice and tasked with supporting the work of both the Council and the Economic Crime and Corruption Forum (“the Forum”). The Secretariat’s functions will include facilitating meetings, drafting reports, organising events, supporting the development and drafting of the National Strategy and Action plan, etc.

³ Accessible online here:

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Hamilton_Review_Group_Report.pdf/Files/Hamilton_Review_Group_Report.pdf

Membership

7. Membership of the Council will consist of representatives of:

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (1) (*ex officio*)
- Department of Finance (1) (*ex officio*)
- Department of Justice (1) (*ex officio*)
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (1) (*ex officio*)
- Department of Social Protection (1) (*ex officio*)
- Chair of the Economic Crime and Corruption Forum (1) (*ex officio*)
- An Garda Síochána (1) (*ex officio*)
- Central Bank of Ireland (CBI) (1) (*ex officio*)
- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) (1) (*ex officio*)
- Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA) (1) (*ex officio*)
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) (1) (*ex officio*)
- Office of the Revenue Commissioners (1) (*ex officio*)
- Standards In Public Office Commission (SIPOC) (1) (*ex officio*)
- Business and financial sector (2)
- Academia (2)
- Civil society (2)
- Independent Chair (1)

8. This amounts to 13 public sector representatives, six representatives from outside the public sector, plus an independent Chair, for a total of 20 members.

9. *Ex officio* members are nominated to sit on the Council by the public sector bodies they represent from time to time. Other members are appointed for a term of three years.

Terms of Reference

10. The following functions of the Advisory Council have been agreed:

- (a) To develop a set of procedures for the Advisory Council, including those relating to its operation, meetings and reporting.
- (b) To determine the scope of topics comprising '*economic crime and corruption*' and define the terminology associated with each.
- (c) To develop, in consultation with the Economic Crime and Corruption Forum, a draft multi-annual strategy for combatting economic crime and corruption, together with an accompanying action plan, and to submit them to the Minister for consideration. The Minister will subsequently bring the final strategy and action plan to government for approval.

- (d) To report on progress periodically to the Minister.
- (e) To measure the implementation of the strategy and action plan through periodic evaluations that monitor the delivery and effectiveness of legislative, policy and operational initiatives to combat economic crime and corruption.
- (f) To provide strategic leadership through serving as a 'centre of excellence', one which coordinates research and analysis, training, public education and awareness-raising, and promotes best practice, in relation to economic crime and corruption.
- (g) To engage and consult with international agencies and bodies, as well as relevant authorities in other jurisdictions where appropriate, in relation to transnational developments and in relation to Ireland's adherence to relevant international conventions, recognising that the ability of certain members to share information will be subject to confidentiality and professional secrecy obligations, both at national and EU level.
- (h) To make evidence-based proposals and recommendations to Government arising from emerging trends and national/international developments to address economic crime and corruption.
- (i) To assess the levels of resourcing and expertise or experience in relevant bodies and, where appropriate, make recommendations for additional resources and/or expertise to be pursued through existing mechanisms.
- (j) To promote and to advise stakeholders on enhanced co-operation and information-sharing within and between the public and private sectors.