



PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRIEFING

IRISH CABINET
2020-2025





Cabinet 2020-2025

Negotiations on a Programme for Government commenced on Thursday 7th May 2020 between Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party.

The Programme was overwhelmingly ratified by all three parties on Friday 26th June.

On Saturday 27th June, Micheál Martin (FF) was appointed to the position of An Taoiseach by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins following his election by TDs in Dail Eireann.

The fifteen senior cabinet positions comprise of six members of Fianna Fáil, six members of Fine Gael and three members of the Green Party.

There is also one Government Chief Whip (Fianna Fáil), one "super junior" Minister from Fine Gael and one from the Green Party. All three attend cabinet but do not have voting rights.

The Attorney General and the Secretary General of the Department of An Taoiseach also attend cabinet meetings.



Newly appointed Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, with President Michael D. Higgins after receiving his seal of office

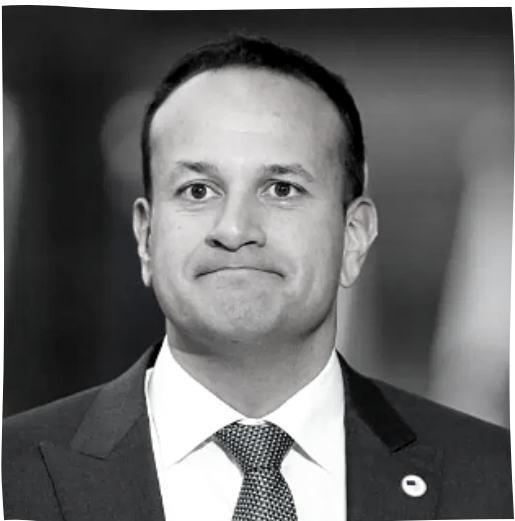
Micheál Martin TD | An Taoiseach



DOB: 01/08/1960
Constituency: Cork South Central
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 1989
Education: University College Cork
Profession: Teacher

- Leader of the Opposition (Feb 2011-June 2020)
- Leader of Fianna Fáil (Jan 2011-present)
- Minister for Foreign Affairs (2008-2011)
- Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment (2011-14)
- Minister for Health & Children (2004-2008)
- Minister for Education & Science (1997-2007)
- Lord Mayor of Cork (1992-1993)

Leo Varadkar TD | An Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment



DOB: 18/01/1979
Constituency: Dublin West
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2007
Education: Trinity College Dublin
Profession: Medical Doctor

- Taoisach (May 2017-June 2020)
- Leader of Fine Gael (May 2017-present)
- Minister for Health (2014-16)
- Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport (2011-14)
- Cllr. Fingal County Council (2004-2007) - highest first preference vote in the country
- Cllr. Fingal County Council (2003-2004) - co-opted
- Unsuccessful in 1999 local elections

Eamon Ryan TD | Minister for Climate Action, Communications, Networks & Transport



DOB: 28/06/1963
Constituency: Dublin Bay South
Party: Green Party
First elected: 2002
Education: University College Dublin
Profession: Environmental Advisor

- Leader of the Green Party (May 2011-Present)
- Re-elected to Dáil Éireann in May 2016
- Ran in 2014 European Parliament election
- Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources (2007-11)
- Sought party nomination to run for President of Ireland (2004) - Withdrawn
- Topped poll in 1999 Local Elections - Rathmines LEA
- Dublin City Councillor (1998) - co-opted

Simon Coveney TD | Minister for Foreign Affairs & Defence



DOB: 16/06/1972
Constituency: Cork South Central
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 1998
Education: UCC, Royal Agriculture College, Gloucester
Profession: Public Representative

- Tanáiste (Nov 2017-2020)
- Deputy Leader of Fine Gael (June 2017-present)
- Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade (2017-present)
- Minister for Planning, Housing, Local Govt. (2016-2017)
- Minister for Defence (2014-16)
- Minister for Agriculture, Food, Marine (2011-16)
- Re-elected to Dáil Éireann in 2007
- Member of the European Parliament (2004-07)
- Elected at the 1998 by-election, brought about by the death of his father - former TD and Minister, Hugh Coveney

Paschal Donohue TD | Minister for Finance



DOB: 19/09/1974
Constituency: Dublin Central
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2011
Education: Trinity College Dublin
Profession: Sales & Marketing Director

- Minister for Finance (June 2017-Present)
- Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform (2016-17)
- Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport (2014-16)
- MoS for European Affairs (2011-14)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2011)
- Elected Senator (Administrative Panel) (2007-11)

Michael McGrath TD | Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform



DOB: 23/08/1976
Constituency: Cork South Central
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2007
Education: University College Cork
Profession: Chartered Accountant

- FF Spokesperson on Finance (2011-2020)
- Member of FF government negotiating team in 2016, 2020
- Elected TD (2007)
- Cllr. - Cork County Council, Carrigaline LEA (2004-07)
- Passage West Town Council, Cork (1999-2007)

Darragh O'Brien TD | Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage



DOB: 08/07/1974
Constituency: Dublin Fingal
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2007
Education: Trinity College Dublin
Profession: Financial Services

- Fianna Fáil government negotiating team (2020)
- Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Housing, Planning and Local Government (2018-2020)
- Main Opposition Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Trade (2016-18)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann for Dublin Fingal (2016)
- Lost Dáil seat. Elected to Seanad Éireann (2011-16)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann for Dublin North (2007)
- Elected to Fingal County Council (2004)
- Former President of Fingal Chamber of Commerce

Catherine Martin TD | Minister for Arts, Culture, Media, Tourism, Sport & Gaeltacht



DOB: 07/12/1972
Constituency: Dublin Rathdown
Party: Green Party
First elected: 2016
Education: University College Dublin
Profession: English & Music Teacher

- Green Party Spokesperson on Education & Skills (2016-20)
- Elected Chair of Irish Women's Parliamentary Caucus (2017)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2016)
- Elected to Dún-Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council (2014)
- Elected Deputy Leader of the Green Party (2011)
- Joined the Green Party (2007)

Stephen Donnelly TD | Minister for Health



DOB: 14/12/1975
Constituency: Wicklow/East Carlow
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2011
Education: UCD, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Profession: Management Consultant

- Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Health (2018-2020)
- Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Brexit (2017-2018)
- Former member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform
- Fianna Fáil Deputy (2017-present)
- Co-founder/leader of Social Democrats (2015-16)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann as an Independent (2011)

Helen McEntee TD | Minister for Justice



DOB: 08/06/1986
Constituency: Meath East
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2013
Education: DCU
Profession: Banking

- Elected Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP) (2019-Present)
- Minister of State for European Affairs (2017-2020)
- Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People (2016-17)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann in the 2013 by-election following the death of her father (2013)
- Political assistant to her late father, Minister Shane McEntee (2010-12)

Heather Humphreys TD | Minister for Social Protection, Community & Rural Affairs & the Islands



DOB: 14/05/1963
Constituency: Cavan-Monaghan
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2011
Education: University College Galway (NUIG)
Profession: Banking

- Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation (2017-2020)
- Minister for Arts, Culture, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (2014-2017)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2011)
- Elected to Monaghan County Council (2004-11)
- Monaghan County Council (2003) - co-opted

Barry Cowen TD | Minister for Agriculture & Marine



DOB: 28/08/1967
Constituency: Laois-Offaly
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2011
Education: Cistercian College, Roscrea (second level)
Profession: Public Representative

- Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Public Expenditure and Reform (2018-2020)
- Fianna Fáil government negotiating team
- Spokesperson for Housing, Planning and Local Government (2012-18)
- Spokesperson for Social Protection (2011-12)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2011)
- Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council (2000-01)
- Offaly County Councillor (1991-2011)
- Brother of Brian Cowen (former Taoiseach, 2008-11)
- Son of Bernard Cowen - former TD, Senator and MoS.

Norma Foley TD | Minister for Education



DOB: 1970
Constituency: Kerry
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2020
Education: University College Cork
Profession: Teacher

- Proposed Micheál Martin for Taoiseach (February & June)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2020)
- Ran in the 2007 General Election - finished 5th (3 seats)
- Kerry County Councillor (1994-2020)
- Tralee Urban District Councillor (1994-2014)
- Her father Denis Foley was a Fianna Fáil TD for Kerry North 1981-89 and 1992-2002.

Dara Calleary TD | Government Chief Whip



DOB: 10/05/1973
Constituency: Mayo
Party: Fianna Fáil
First elected: 2007
Education: Trinity College Dublin
Profession: Public Representative

- Lead negotiator for the FF party in government formation talks
- Fianna Fáil Deputy Leader (2018-present)
- FF Director of Policy Development (2018-2020)
- Spokesperson for Public Expenditure & Reform (2016-18)
- FF Spokesperson for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (2011-16)
- MoS for Labour Affairs (2009-11)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2007)
- Son of former Mayo-East TD, Sean Calleary
- Member of Fianna Fáil National Executive since 2007

Simon Harris TD | Minister for Higher Education, Innovation & Research



DOB: 17/12/1986
Constituency: Wicklow/East Carlow
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2002
Education: DIT
Profession: Public Representative

- Minister for Health (2016-2020)
- Ran unsuccessfully in 2014 European Parliament elections
- MoS at Dept. of Finance (2014-16)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2011)
- Topped poll in 2009 Local Elections - Wicklow County Council & member of Greystones Town Council
- Worked for Senator (now MEP) Frances Fitzgerald (2008)

Roderic O'Gorman TD | Minister for Children, Equality, Disability & Integration



DOB: 12/12/1982
Constituency: Dublin West
Party: Green Party
First elected: 2020
Education: TCD, London School of Economics
Profession: Law Lecturer

- Member of government formation negotiating team
- Contributes to DCU Brexit Institute focusing on how Ireland manages the challenge of Brexit.
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2020)
- Unsucessfully stood in 2007, 2011, 2016 elections
- Fingal County Councillor (2014-2020)
- Chairman of the Green Party (2011-19)
- Joined Young Greens at Trinity College (Early 2000s)

Hildegard Naughton TD | Minister of State, Climate Action & Transport



DOB: 01/05/1977
Constituency: Galway West
Party: Fine Gael
First elected: 2016
Education: NUI Galway, St Patrick's College, Dublin
Profession: Teacher

- Member of government formation negotiating team
- Chair of the Committee on Communications, Climate Action and the Environment (April 2016-2020)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2016)
- Senator (Taoiseach's Nominee) (2013-16)
- Galway City Councillor (2009-13)

Senator Pippa Hackett | Minister of State, Agriculture



DOB: 10/05/1973
Constituency: Agricultural Panel
Party: Green Party
First elected: 2019
Education: Aberystwyth University, University of Essex, University of Limerick (PhD)
Profession: Public Representative

- Re-elected to Seanad Éireann (2020)
- Elected unopposed to the Agricultural Panel of Seanad Éireann at the 2019 by-election
- Unsuccessful Green Party candidate for the Laois-Offaly constituency at the 2020 general election
- Offaly County Councillor (2019) - first Green Party representative elected in the history of the county.

Paul Gallagher SC | Attorney General



DOB: 20/03/1955
Constituency: N/A
Party: Non Party
First elected: N/A
Education: UCD, The Honourable Society of King's Inns, Cambridge University
Profession: Barrister

- Adjunct professor at UCD
- Fellow of the International Society of Barristers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.
- Represented Ireland in an action taken by the European Commission re: illegal State aid case against Apple
- Attended meetings of the Bilderberg Group (2010-12)
- Advised government on its decision re: bank guarantee - September 15th 2008
- Appointed Attorney General (2007-2011)
- Senior Counsel (1991)
- Called to the Bar (1979)

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