

Established by the Government to lead, drive and coordinate PPP in Ireland, the **Central PPP Unit** of the Department of Finance plays a key role in delivering on the roll out of the PPP approach to the infrastructure and public services element of the National Development Plan. The work of the Unit is complemented by that of sectoral units in other Government Departments and by the cooperation of the social partners.

The Unit is a focal point for the institutional structures established by Government to manage Ireland's PPP programme. The central direction given by the Unit ensures a consistent and co-ordinated approach and maintains a positive business climate for the private sector.

The current task of the Unit, as outlined in the Framework for Public Private Partnerships launched by the Minister for Finance on 1st November, 2001 is to take the necessary measures to ensure that:

PPP becomes a standard element of Government procurement methods;
and a stream of PPP projects is developed and a sustainable dynamic PPP market is created in Ireland in the long term.

A major communications and awareness-raising programme is also underway, led by the Central PPP unit and involving the social partners. This campaign is directed at key stakeholders, officials of public service procuring agencies, employees in sectors where PPPs will be developed and the general public. The first of a series of regional seminars was formally opened by Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., in Cork on 12th December, 2001 and was quickly followed by seminars in Waterford, Athlone, Galway. Seminars are planned in the near future for Sligo, Limerick and Dublin.

Reflecting the Government's high level commitment to the PPP process, the Central PPP Unit has recently expanded. The full team is introduced below together with extensive contact details, including those of the sectoral PPP Units in other Government Departments.

Director of the Central PPP Unit: EAMONN KEARNS

Eamonn Kearns is head of the Central Public Private Partnership Unit in the Irish Department of Finance. Eamonn chairs the Inter-Departmental Group on PPPs, whose role is to bring together key decision makers to ensure coherence and consistency in PPP policy, and the Public/Private Informal Advisory Group on PPPs that includes representatives of employers' organisations, the trade union congress and the construction and civil engineering sectors. Eamonn previously served as Head of Government Accounting with particular responsibility for developing a new accounting and financial reporting structure for Irish central government. He was educated at Trinity College Dublin, the

Irish Institute of Public Administration and the IMF Institute in Washington D.C.

Head of Policy and Communications: Mary McKeon

Responsible for policy development and the formulation and rollout of the PPP communications strategy, Mary joined the PPP Unit in autumn 2001. Since then she has led the Policy team and the Communications team in: developing and bringing to enactment legislation ensuring the power of State Authorities to enter into Public Private Partnerships; working with the other Government Departments and the Social Partners to develop and implement the Communications Strategy to inform and consult stakeholders about the PPP process; and progressing proposals and obtaining input for policy development and review. Mary has worked in a wide range of Government Departments and Offices. Prior to joining the PPP Unit she served in the Central Pay Policy Section of the Department of Finance, developing pay policy for the Public Service, and was previously Head of Communications for the Equality Authority. Mary was educated at the Institute of Public Administration, University College Dublin, Trinity College and the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Her qualifications include an M.Sc. (Econ) in Policy Analysis.

Programme Manager: PAT O'NEILL

Pat O'Neill has worked as a senior project specialist in the PPP Unit since January 2000 where he works with the line Departments / Agencies in the delivery of the pilot projects. Since the review of PPP structures in June 2001 his expanded role as programme manager now encompasses the management and delivery of the technical policy agenda. Prior to that, he worked for Dalkia in the UK, leading a sales team that bid for numerous PFI projects in the health, justice and education sectors. This he achieved by working as part of a number of different consortia, where he focused on the long-term management and lifecycle design of physical assets. Pat has an electrical engineering, facilities management and change management background and has an MBA from the Open University.

Projects

1) Central Guidance note on Corporation tax treatment of Public/Private Partnership Agreements available for viewing

Friday 4th July 2003

The Central PPP Unit has today published the first in a series of Central Guidance notes on PPP material. This note in particular focuses on Corporation tax treatment of Public/Private Partnership Agreements

See Press Release

[CG1_Corporate_Tax_Treatment_of_PPP_020703.doc](#)

2) Central Guidance note on the Provision of Infrastructure and Capital Investments through PPPs available for viewing

Tuesday 8th July 2003

The Central PPP Unit has recently published the second in a series of guidance notes on PPPs. CG2 focuses on the Provision of Infrastructure and Capital Investments through

See Press Release

[CG2_Interim_Guidance_PPP_07.07.03.doc](#)

3) Official Opening of the Dublin Bay PPP Waste Water Treatment Plant

Monday 30th June 2003

Monday, 30 June 2003 saw the official opening of the Dublin Bay Waste Water Treatment Plant. The plant was opened by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD, The Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Dermot Lacey.

The plant caters for sewage generated in the four Dublin local authorities; Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and Dublin City. The plant which is already operational is one of the most advanced of its type in Europe. It will make a huge contribution to the quality of water in Dublin Bay through the reduction of pollutants being discharged.

See Press Release

[PR_Dublin_Bay_30.06.03.doc](#)

4) Dublin Roadshow hosted by Minister of State Tom Parlon

Tuesday 3rd June 2003

The Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Mr. Tom Parlon today hosted an information seminar on PPPs in Dublin.

5) EU publish guidelines on PPP

Friday 9th May 2003

The European Union Directorate General on Regional Policy has published a document with guidelines for the conception and design of PPP arrangements.

See Press Release

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/ppp/ppp_en.pdf