



Appointments to the Board of the Child & Family Agency (Tusla)

Closing Date: 3pm on 27th September 2016

**State Boards Division
Public Appointments Service
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stateboards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that the PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which the PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Appointment to the Board of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla)

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government.

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and noncommercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

Tusla – The Child and Family Agency

Board Meeting Location: Dublin, with occasional meetings annually outside the Dublin area.

Number of Vacancies: 4

Remuneration: €11,970
Travel and Subsistence is payable at appropriate Civil Service Rates. (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 provided for under statute, e.g., the appointment of Worker Directors).

Time Requirements: As per Section 22 (2) of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 the Board shall hold at least 10 meetings a year. Meetings usually take a half-day. Some preparatory work (usually a half-day) will be necessary in advance of each meeting

1. Background

The Child and Family Agency (Tusla) was established on 1 January 2014 under The [Child and Family Agency Act, 2013](#). It brought together the child protection, welfare and family services which were formerly the responsibility of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the functions of the former National Education Welfare Board and the Family Support Agency. With the child at the centre, the mission of the Agency is "to design and deliver supportive, coordinated and evidenced informed services that strive to ensure positive outcomes for children, families and communities".

Tusla is committed to putting the needs of children first by keeping children safe from harm, enabling children and families to make good decisions about their lifestyles, helping children to engage in education and helping them to develop as active citizens capable of independence.

Under [Section 41](#) of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013, the Minister is obliged to "develop a Performance Framework to provide the Agency with specific policy guidance, direction, prioritisation parameters for the preparation of its corporate plan."

In addition, under [Section 44](#) of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013, the Minister is also obliged "to develop an annual Performance Statement to provide the Agency with specific policy guidance, direction, prioritisation and resource parameters in respect of each year for the preparation of its annual business plan". In 2015, Tusla commenced the delivery of its three year Corporate Plan 2015-17. The plan is underpinned by the Performance Framework received from the Minister under Section 41 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 based on an identification of need to improve outcomes for children.

Tusla has developed and introduced a Service Delivery Framework which clarifies intervention thresholds for child protection services while at the same time it enhances partnership, prevention and family support.

Tusla is committed to working in partnership with the NGO sector and other State organisations, particularly the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, which is the parent Department of the Agency and through which the Agency is funded.

2. Functions of the Board

The Agency is governed by its Board which has the power to perform the functions of the Agency. The Board is responsible for overseeing the development of corporate strategy in relation to major plans of action, risk policy, annual budgets and business plans. The Act provides that the Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board for the performance of his/her functions and the implementation of the Agency's Corporate Plan and Business Plan. The Agency is accountable to the Minister for the performance of its functions.

The Board shall consist of 9 members: the chairperson, the deputy chairperson and 7 ordinary members. The current composition of the Board is:

Name	Appointed	Date of Expiry	Position
Ms Norah Gibbons	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2018	Chairperson
Ms Gary Joyce	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2018	Deputy Chairperson
Ms Emer Egan	July 21, 2016	Dec. 31 2016	Board Member
Ms Noelle Spring	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2016	Board Member
Mr PJ Fitzpatrick	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2017	Board Member
Mr Rory O'Ferrall	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2019	Board Member
Ms Sylva Langford	Jan. 1, 2014	Dec. 31 2016	Board Member
Mr Paul White	Feb. 3, 2016	Dec. 31 2021	Board Member

The Agency has established the following committees to assist the Board:

- Audit Committee
- Quality Assurance and Risk Committee
- Governance Committee
- Organisational Development , Remuneration and Succession Committee

Membership of the Board sub-committees is comprised of Board members and external committee members. Every Board Member is expected to sit on 1 committee. The committees meet between 2 and 5 times a year.

3. Person Specification

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs intends to make four appointments to the Board with effect from 1 January, 2017. Please be aware that as a Board Member, you will be required to:

- Bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- Be prepared to be challenging, when necessary, while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- Be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- Be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

The Minister invites applications for membership of the Board from suitably qualified candidates who consider they possess the skills and experience necessary to fulfil one of the following roles:

a. Member with Accounting/Audit Experience

The Agency is responsible for effective and efficient financial management including financial planning, financial control and financial reporting.

Candidates must possess the following:

- Significant relevant professional experience at a senior level in accountancy and audit and hold membership of a professional body.

Desired Skills/experience

- Experience of board membership
- Experience of chairing committees
- Experience at an appropriately senior level in a relevant regulatory environment

b. Member with Education Expertise/Experience

The Agency is responsible for education welfare services including statutory Education Welfare Services (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000), supported by non-statutory services, School Completion Programme, and the Home School Community Liaison Scheme.

Candidates must possess the following:

- Significant senior management and leadership experience in an academic or research background within the area of education which demonstrates an understanding of both Statutory and Non-Statutory Education Welfare services.

Desired Skills/experience

- Experience of board membership

c. Member with Public Sector Experience

Effective administration systems and good governance have a critical role to play in the implementation of government policy. The continuous improvement and reform of governance systems is crucial in achieving the Agency's goal of improving the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Candidates must possess the following:

- Extensive senior management and leadership experience and knowledge of public administration with a keen awareness of the particular challenges involved in managing the sector, or an ability to quickly acquire such understanding and awareness

Desired Skills/experience

- Sectoral Knowledge/Experience

d. Member with Quality Assurance/Risk Expertise/Experience

The Agency's Quality Assurance and Risk function focuses principally on the support and implementation of quality, risk and service improvement systems throughout the Agency. The Agency is committed to continuous improvement and the delivery of consistently high quality services.

Candidates must possess the following:

- Significant relevant experience at a senior level and knowledge of Quality Assurance and Risk in an area that demonstrates that the candidate has either extensive knowledge and/or experience of Social Policy and Care.
The appointee will be expected to chair the Quality Assurance committee of the Board.

Desired Skills/Experience

- Experience of board membership
- Knowledge/Experience of social care
- Experience in a relevant regulatory environment

4. Term of Appointment

- Each member of the Board shall hold office for a period which the Minister shall determine, not exceeding 5 years from the date of appointment to the office.
- An appointed member who completes a term of office is eligible for reappointment to the Authority, but may not serve as a member for more than 2 consecutive terms.
- An appointed member may resign from office by letter addressed to the Minister and the resignation takes effect from either
 - a) the date specified in the letter, or
 - b) the receipt of the letter by the Minister.
- If an appointed member resigns, dies, ceases to hold office (other than on completing a term of office), ceases to be qualified for office or is removed from office, the Minister as soon as

practicable shall appoint a person to fill the casual vacancy so occasioned. This person will hold office for the unexpired portion of his or her predecessor's term of office.

- An appointed member, with the consent of the Board, may vacate his or her office for a specified period of time if, in that member's opinion, he or she has a conflict of interest in relation to a matter being considered by the Board.
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- The Minister may at any time remove an appointed member of the Board from office if—
 - a) in the Minister's opinion—
 - (i) the member has become incapable through ill-health of performing the functions of the office,
 - (ii) the member has committed stated misbehaviour, or
 - (iii) the member's removal from office is necessary for the Board to perform its functions in an effective manner,
 - b) the member has contravened, or failed to discharge a duty imposed by, a provision of the [Ethics in Public Office Act 1995](#) that by a regulation made under section 3 of that Act applies to that member, or
 - c) in performing functions under this Act, the member has not complied with a code of conduct under section 10 (3) of the [Standards in Public Office Act 2001](#).
- A person immediately ceases to be a member of the Board if the person—
 - a) is adjudicated bankrupt,
 - b) makes a composition or arrangement with creditors,
 - c) is convicted of an indictable offence,
 - d) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty,
 - e) has a declaration under section 150 of the Companies Act 1990 made against him or her or is subject or is deemed to be subject to a disqualification order by virtue of Part VII of that Act, is sentenced to a term of imprisonment by a court of competent jurisdiction, or
 - f) is removed by a competent authority for any reason (other than failure to pay a fee) from any register established for the purpose of registering members of a profession.

5. Submitting your Expression of Interest

Before submitting your expression of interest, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an expression of interest - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may arise if appointed to this board.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

1. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Board position(s) specified in this booklet, and*
2. *That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

6. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the “Panel”) will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the expressions of interest received by PAS. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- 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 (this may include PAS requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).
- arrive at a shortlist of suitable candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

7. 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.

8. Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

For further information on Data Protection please follow the link

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your expression of interest

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

- i. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
- ii. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
- iii. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
- iv. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page.
- v. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to create one.
- vi. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
- vii. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
- viii. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
- ix. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.