



# Irish Government 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 Dáil 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

- Elected President of the Eurogroup (July 2020)
- 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)

## Hildegarde 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)



# Ministers of State not attending Cabinet

## Damien English TD | Minister of State for Employment Affairs & Retail Businesses



**DOB:** 21/02/1978  
**Constituency:** Meath West  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2002  
**Education:** DIT, Dublin Business School  
**Profession:** Accountant

- Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development (2017-20)
- Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal (2016-17)
- Minister of State for Skills, Research and Innovation (2014-16)
- Deputy Spokesperson for Finance (2010-2011)
- Deputy Spokesperson on Enterprise (2007-2010)
- Member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (2002- 07)
- Deputy Spokesperson for Justice and Community Affairs (2004)
- Deputy Spokesperson for Arts, Sports and Tourism (2002-2004)
- Secretary of the Fine Gael parliamentary party (2002)
- Meath County Councillor (1999-2002)

## Josepha Madigan TD | Minister of State for Special Education & Inclusion



**DOB:** 21/05/1970  
**Constituency:** Dublin Rathdown  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:** TCD  
**Profession:** Solicitor

- Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (2017-20)
- Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Oversight (2017)
- Member of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (2014-2016)

## Colm Brophy TD | Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid & Diaspora



**DOB:** 22/06/1966  
**Constituency:** Dublin South-West  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:** DIT  
**Profession:** Business owner

- Chair of the Dáil Committee on Budgetary Oversight (2017)
- Member of South Dublin County Council (2008-2014)

## Patrick O'Donovan TD | Minister of State for OPW & Flood Relief



**DOB:** 21/03/1977  
**Constituency:** Limerick County  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2011  
**Education:** UCC  
**Profession:** Industrial Chemist, Teacher

- Minister of State for Public Procurement, Open Government & eGovernment (2017-2020)
- Minister of State for Tourism & Sport (2016-2017)
- Member of Limerick County Council (2003-2011)

## Peter Burke TD | Minister of State for Planning & Local Government



**DOB:** 22/10/1982  
**Constituency:** Longford-Westmeath  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:** NUI Galway  
**Profession:** Accountant

- Member of Westmeath County Council (2009-2016)

## Frank Feighan TD | Minister of State for Public Health, Well-being & National Drugs Strategy



**DOB:** 04/07/1962  
**Constituency:** Sligo-Leitrim  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2007  
**Education:** NUI Galway  
**Profession:** Retailer

- Seanad Spokesperson on Mental Health and Older People (2016-2020)
- Appointed to Seanad Éireann (2016)
- Lost his Dáil seat (2016)
- Frontbench Spokesperson on Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs (2010)
- Deputy Spokesperson on Transport and Education (2007-10)
- Elected to Dáil Éireann (2007)
- Elected to Seanad Éireann (2002)
- Member of Roscommon County Council (1999-2004)

## Anne Rabbitte TD | Minister of State for Disabilities



**DOB:** 11/10/1973  
**Constituency:** Galway East  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:** UCD  
**Profession:** Bank official

- Represented FF in Government formation talks (2020)
- Front Bench Spokesperson for Children and Youth Affairs (2016-20)
- Member of Galway County Council (2014-16)

## Mary Butler TD | Minister of State for Older People & Health



**DOB:** 29/10/1966  
**Constituency:** Waterford  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:**  
**Profession:** Retailer

- Chair of the Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (2016-20)
- Spokesperson for Older People
- Chair of Oireachtas Cross Party group on Dementia
- Vice-Chair of informal Cross-Party Committee on Diabetes
- Member of Waterford City and County Council (2014-16)



## Robert Troy TD | Minister of State for Trade Promotion



**DOB:** 24/01/1982  
**Constituency:** Longford-Westmeath  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2011  
**Education:** Athlone Institute of Technology  
**Profession:** Post Office Operator

- Frontbench Spokesperson on Business, Enterprise and Innovation (2018-20)
- Frontbench Spokesperson on Transport, Tourism & Sport (2016-18)
- Frontbench Spokesperson on Children (2012-16)
- Frontbench Spokesperson on Arts and Heritage (2011-12)
- Member of Westmeath County Council (2004-11)

## Jack Chambers TD | Minister of State for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance



**DOB:** 21/11/1990  
**Constituency:** Dublin West  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2016  
**Education:** Trinity College Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons  
**Profession:** Public Representative

- Frontbench Spokesperson on Defence (2018-2020)
- Member of Fingal County Council (2014-2016)
- Deputy Mayor of Fingal County Council 2015-2016)

## Thomas Byrne TD | Minister of State for European Affairs



**DOB:** 01/06/1977  
**Constituency:** Meath East  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2007  
**Education:** Trinity College Dublin  
**Profession:** Solicitor

- Frontbench spokesperson on Education and Skills (2016-20)
- Senator for the Cultural and Educational Panel 2011 to 2016.
- Member of Seanad Éireann (2011-16)

## Martin Heydon TD | Minister of State for R&D, Farm Safety & New Market Development



**DOB:** 09/08/1978  
**Constituency:** Kildare  
**Party:** Fine Gael  
**First elected:** 2011  
**Education:** Kildalton Agricultural College  
**Profession:** Farmer

- Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party (2016-2020)
- Member of Kildare County Council (2009-2011)



Ossian Smyth TD | Minister of State for Public Procurement & eGovernment



**DOB:**  
**Constituency:** Dublin Rathdown  
**Party:** Green Party  
**First elected:** 2020  
**Education:** Trinity College  
**Profession:** Computer scientist

- Member of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (2014-20)
- Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (2018-19)
- Contested the leadership of the Green Party (2011)

Joe O'Brien TD | Minister of State for Community Development & Charities



**DOB:**  
**Constituency:** Dublin Fingal  
**Party:** Green Party  
**First elected:** 2019  
**Education:** University College Cork  
**Profession:** Advocate (Social Rights)

- Elected a Member of Dáil Eireann (2019 bye election)
- Member of Fingal County Council (2014-2019)

Charlie McConologue TD | Minister of State for Law Reform



**DOB:** 04/10/1977  
**Constituency:** Donegal  
**Party:** Fianna Fáil  
**First elected:** 2011  
**Education:** UCD  
**Profession:** Farmer

- Frontbench Spokesperson on Agriculture (2016-2020)
- Represented Fianna Fáil in talks on government formation (2016)
- Member of Donegal County Council (2009-2011)

Malcolm Noonan TD | Minister of State for Heritage & Electoral Reform



**DOB:**  
**Constituency:** Carlow Kilkenny  
**Party:** Green Party  
**First elected:** 2020  
**Education:**  
**Profession:** Community and environmental activist

- Member of Kilkenny County Council (2004-20)
- Mayor of Kilkenny (2009-10)
- Contested the leadership of the Green Party (2011)



