



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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Tánaiste announces Ita Mangan as Chairperson Designate of the Citizens Information Board

The Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton T.D., today (Thursday, 21 May 2015) announced that she has appointed Ms Ita Mangan as Chairperson Designate of the Citizens Information Board for a period of 5 years. The appointment is subject to the Chairperson Designate appearing before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Social Protection.

The Citizens Information Board (CIB) is the statutory body responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice (including money and budgeting advice) and advocacy services to citizens on a wide range of public and social services. CIB's remit includes a focus on vulnerable groups, in particular people with disabilities.

The Tánaiste said: **"I am delighted to propose Ms. Mangan as Chairperson of the Citizens Information Board and am happy that she has agreed to take on this important role of leading the Board to deliver a quality and independent service nationwide."**

Ms. Mangan's appointment is being made in accordance with the new procedures for State Board appointments, which provides for the Minister to appoint a person who is evidently and objectively highly qualified and capable of effectively discharging the role of Chair of a State Board and who has not otherwise applied through the stateboards.ie process.

Ms. Mangan is an eminent, high calibre and highly qualified candidate for the position of Chair of the Citizens Information Board. She is a Barrister who has specialised in citizens' rights and has been extensively involved in public policy issues. She has written widely on citizens' rights issues for the Citizens Information Board, its predecessors in title and for bodies such as the Law Reform Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority. She was the Chair of the Tax and Social Welfare Advisory Group from 2011 to 2014 and a member of the Tax and Social Welfare Integration Group in the 1990s. Ms. Mangan was also a member of the Commissions of Investigation in to the Archdiocese of Dublin and the Diocese of Cloyne. She has been actively involved in the voluntary sector and is currently the Chair of Age and Opportunity, an organisation which promotes the active involvement of older people in society.

Amongst the key priorities for the Chair of CIB will be to continue the implementation of CIB's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015, including the optimisation of resource and governance arrangements across its network of local services.

Paying tribute to the former Chairperson, the Tánaiste said: **“I want to thank Sylva Langford for her enormous contribution as Chair of the Board for the last five years. She brought great energy and commitment to the role.”** The Tánaiste added: **“I am confident that Ms Mangan will bring a commensurate level of skills and breadth of experience to the position.”**

ENDS

Note for Editors

The Citizens Information Board (CIB) is the statutory body which supports the provision of information, advice (including money advice and budgeting) and advocacy services on a wide range of public and social services. It provides some services directly to the public through the citizensinformation.ie website and a number of microsites and has a prominent link on the gov.ie homepage. It also produces a range of publications and periodicals. It provides core developmental supports and directly funds and supports an extensive range of services through its delivery partners:

- 42 Citizens Information Services (CISs)
- The Citizens Information Phone Service
- 53 Money Advice and Budgeting Services
- The MABS helpline
- The National Advocacy Service (NAS) for People with Disabilities
- The Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS)

State funding of €46 million has been made available to CIB in 2015. Of this, €17.9m is allocated to the network of MABS companies, €14.1m to CIB regional services (salaries and supports for the Citizens Information Services and Citizens Information Phone Service) and €3.8m to advocacy services.

Governed by the Comhairle Act 2000, the Citizens Information Act 2007, the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008, and the Social welfare and Pensions Act 2011, the Board comes under the remit of the Department of Social Protection. The Citizens Information Board's mandate, as defined by the Acts, is:

- to ensure that individuals have access to accurate, comprehensive and clear information relating to social services
- to assist and support individuals, in particular those with disabilities, in identifying and understanding their needs and options
- to promote greater accessibility, coordination and public awareness of social services
- to support, promote and develop the provision of information on the effectiveness of current social policy and services and to highlight issues which are of concern to users of those services
- to support the provision of, or directly provide, advocacy services for people with a disability.
- to support the provision of advice on personal debt and money management through the Money Advice and Budgeting Service.