



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection**

www.welfare.ie

News Release: 28 June 2010

Minister Ó Cuív appoints new Chairperson to Pensions Board

Minister for Social Protection, Éamon Ó Cuív TD has today (Monday 28 June 2010) appointed Jane Williams, Managing Director of The Sia Group as the new Chairperson of the Pensions Board. Ms Williams replaces Tiarnan O Mahoney who has served in the role since 2005.

The appointment is with immediate effect.

Minister Ó Cuív said: "I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jane Williams as Chairperson of the Pensions Board. Jane Williams' wide-ranging business, financial and public sector experience combined with a strong background in policy and strategy development both in Ireland and abroad will bring a considerable level of professional knowledge and practical understanding to the position of Chairperson of this important statutory body."

The Minister added: "Jane Williams takes the role of Chairperson at a critical time for the Pensions Board; our pensions environment continues to change dramatically and we must continue to be able to respond to this changing environment. The new National Pensions Framework sets out our intention for reform of the Irish pension system. I wish Ms Williams every success in her position and I am confident that she will enable the Pensions Board to continue to build on the substantial progress it has made in recent years across the areas of safeguarding pension members' interests, regulation and policy advice."

Minister Ó Cuív said that Tiarnan O Mahoney had informed him in April that in view of the Government's recently published Pensions Framework, which is a long-term policy, that the recent launch of the 2009 Pensions Board Annual Report would be his last engagement for the Board. Mr O Mahoney is resigning immediately, "as he feels it is the most appropriate juncture to hand over the programme of work of the Board to a new Chairperson," said the Minister. "I would like to thank Tiarnan for steering the Pensions Board through a difficult economic environment by ensuring the highest standard of regulation was undertaken. He has made a significant public service contribution."

The Minister concluded: "I am committed to working with the Pensions Board and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable, efficient and effective national pensions system."



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**Biographical Note:
Jane Williams**

Jane Williams is the Managing Director of The Sia Group, a consultancy practice she established in 1988. Sia specialises in enterprise strategy and implementation across a wide range of organisations in both the private and public sector. She has just completed a nine month assignment as Chief Executive of Forfás, which she undertook on an interim basis.

Jane holds a Bachelor in Business Studies from Trinity College Dublin, a Masters in Psychology from Colombia University, New York and is finalising her thesis for a PhD from Trinity College Dublin on the topic of gender in decision-making in the public sector.

A member of the Forfás Board for 8 years, Jane has a strong background in enterprise policy and has been a member of the Board of the National Competitiveness Council, the Irish Universities Quality Board, the Tourism Council, Wicklow County Enterprise Board, the Strategy Forum for the Institutes of Technology and the EU Marketing Grants Board for the Tourism Sector. She was Chair of the Small Business and Services Forum and a member of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland. She is currently a member of the Institute of Management Consultants of Ireland, the International Association of Facilitators and the Irish Institute of Training and Development. She is a CEDR accredited mediator.

Jane's career includes two years in international banking with *Banque Nationale de Paris*, nine years in financial analysis and international marketing and sales with the IDA, both in Dublin and New York, a year with DL Taffner, New York, a TV production and animation company and over 20 years in consulting with The Sia Group. Jane is a member of the board of EirGrid plc, the Decentralisation Implementation Group and a number of private organisations.

Editor's Note

The term of office of the remaining members of the Pensions Board ends in December.

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