



Annual Conference

Tuesday 22 October 2024

Meet Our Host



Clodagh Rice

Clodagh Rice is the Business Correspondent at BBC Northern Ireland best known for covering local and national issues facing business owners, consumers and the Northern Ireland economy. She has worked at the BBC across TV, radio and digital for over 10 years covering top stories like the economic impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Her job is to help explain to audiences how global trends will affect the pound in their pocket. Her recent coverage of the cost of living crisis in Northern Ireland won a Harold Wincott award for business journalism. She has lived in Dublin, Paris and Portstewart, graduating from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in Business and French, as well as a Master's degree in Journalism from Ulster University.

Meet Our Panellists



Julian Revell

Julian Revell is Head of Fiscal Analysis in the Welsh Treasury. His role covers the analytical aspects of the implementation and operation of the Welsh Government's fiscal framework agreement. He is responsible for revenue forecasts from the devolved taxes in Wales and projecting the overall size of the Welsh Government's budgetary envelope. Previously, Julian was on the secretariat of the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales, working on needs analysis and the fiscal impact of tax devolution. He has also worked on public finance forecasts and distributional analysis at HM Treasury and on balance of payments statistics at the Bank of Namibia.





João Sousa

João is a Senior Knowledge Exchange Fellow and Deputy Director at the Fraser of Allander Institute, where he works on fiscal issues, macroeconomics and business engagement.

João has over 10 years' experience as an applied economist. Previously, he was a Senior Fiscal Analyst at the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), where he led on analysis of long-term sustainability of the UK's public finances and on the effect of economic developments and fiscal policy on the UK's medium-term outlook. At the OBR, he also worked on Brexit-related modelling for the UK's new external tariff, and was the lead forecaster for public spending. João had previously worked at HM Revenue and Customs on tax modelling and tax gap estimation, and has experience in economic consulting.

João has recently concluded his PhD in Economics at Birkbeck, University of London. His research focusses on determining the impact of government spending on economic growth, for which he has collected and used archival data from the UK Parliament.

João's main areas of expertise include econometric analysis, tax and spending modelling, macroeconomic forecasting, government debt sustainability analysis, demand modelling and economic statistics. João is regularly asked to provide expert evidence to Parliament through the Finance and Public Administration Committee, and is a member of the ScotStat Board.



Joachim Wehner

Joachim Wehner is Associate Professor in Public Policy at the London School of Economics. He studied political science in Germany and South Africa and obtained his PhD at the LSE. Much of his research is on accountability and transparency in public finance, including a book on the role of legislatures in the budget process. He is currently working on a book about economists as policymakers. His policy engagement supports efforts to improve financial scrutiny and transparency, with evidence to parliamentary committees in Canada, Estonia, Germany, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, and contributions to the work of the OECD, the International Budget Partnership, and the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency. Before joining the LSE, he was at the Institute for Democracy in South Africa. He has also had visiting appointments at Harvard, Sciences Po Paris, the Hertie School, and Stellenbosch University.





Dorinnia Carville

Dorinnia graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a degree in Law, with Politics. Dorinnia is a Chartered Accountant who trained and worked in "Big 4" private sector accountancy firms in London and Belfast, before moving into public sector audit, joining the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and gaining experience auditing a wide range of public bodies in Northern Ireland. Over the course of 11 years, Dorinnia held a number of positions in the NIAO including Financial Audit Director and Director of Corporate Services. Following the review of public administration, Dorinnia moved into local government as Director of Corporate Services at Newry Mourne and Down District Council in 2016. She was the senior financial officer within the Council and was responsible for the Audit Committee of Council and the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee. Dorinnia also held the position of Deputy Chief Executive and was Acting Chief Executive of the Council from February to May 2022. Dorinnia has also held a number of voluntary roles in the public sector as well as the voluntary and community sector, before taking up post as Comptroller and Auditor General for the Northern Ireland Audit Office in August 2022.



Kenneth Gibson

Kenneth Gibson was educated at the University of Stirling, graduating with a BA in Economics.

Prior to his election, he worked in the steel and pharmaceutical industries for 15 years and served as Leader of the Opposition on Glasgow City Council, where he served from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, Kenneth was elected to the first Scottish Parliament in 292 years and in 2007 he won [Cunninghame North](#) by 48 votes, being subsequently re-elected in 2011, 2016 and 2021, most recently with a majority of 7,776.

He convened the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee, which scrutinises the Parliament's Budget and Financial Memorandum of every Bill, from 2011-2016. Since 2021 Kenneth has served as Convener of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, which deals with both financial matters and areas of public sector reform.

He is also Convener of the Cross-party Group on Life Sciences.





Stuart Stevenson

Stuart Stevenson is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and in June 2018 he was appointed as the Treasury Officer of Accounts and Head of Accountability and Financial Management Division within the Department of Finance. He previously spent eight years as a Supply Officer in the Department's Central Finance Group and five years as the Finance Director in the former Rate Collection Agency.

Before joining the Department of Finance in 2001, Stuart was a management accountant in local government and before that he worked in private practice for 7 years.

Outside of the office he is a respite carer with Positive Futures through their 'Shared lives' scheme. Stuart also volunteers at his local rugby club where he is the Chairperson and during the summer months he plays golf.

