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NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

PANEL DISCUSSION

2025

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**FROM INSIGHT TO IMPACT: FUTUREPROOFING
YOUR PROFESSIONAL VALUE**

9 DECEMBER 2025 • CROKE PARK

Sponsored by

THE IRISH TIMES



SCHEDULE

10:00am | Welcome and Opening Remarks

Meeting Supply: Real Cost of Deliverability

Speakers: Gerard O'Toole, SCSi President | Kim Hegarty, Linesight | Paul Mitchell, Mitchell McDermott | David Martin, EY | Marion St. John, KSN

11:00am | Meeting the Infrastructure Demands

Speakers: Stephen Seymour, Uisce Eireann

Undergraduate and Post Graduate Award

11:15am | Coffee Break

11:45am | Housing Affordability

Sustainable Champion Award

Speakers: Emer Byrne, TU Dublin | Eamon Ryan, EU Housing

New Practice Award

12:15pm | Digitising the Built Environment

Speakers: Hannah Dwyer, JLL | Dan Hughes, Alpha Property Insights | James Lonergan, SCSi



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SCHEDULE

12:50pm | Adding Client Value

Community Award

Speakers: Lily Ellis, NetApp | Nick Talbot, IVSC | Enda McGuane, LDA
| Fiona Mullally, Linesight

Presidents Award

1:45pm | Lunch

2:15pm | Culture within the Profession

Elevate Award

Speakers: Shirley Coulter, SCSi | Sandra Healy, Inclusio | Siobhan McKenna, Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform | Gerard O' Toole, SCSi

3:00pm | Building your Network

Speakers: Kingsley Aikins, The Networking Institute



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Gerard O'Toole

SCSI President



Gerard has worked in the Irish property market since 1998. He co-founded Tuohy O'Toole in 2007 and was a Director for more than 16 years. In September 2023, he established O'Toole & Co, where he is the Managing Director.

He is a Fellow of the SCSI & RICS and sits on both the Planning and Development Committee and the Northwest Region Committee. Gerard has been involved in a variety of SCSI reports, including the recent Real Cost of Renovation Report. He is an assessor for the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) and past chair of the Northwest Region. He was first elected as a Valuation Surveying member in 2001.



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Kim Hegarty

Linesight



Kim Hegarty is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and a Director at Linesight. She is one of only three female Directors in Europe responsible for project delivery.

Over the course of her career, Kim has gained a reputation as an excellent Cost Manager, delivering innovative solutions around cost control, value engineering and procurement processes on large-scale projects with multi-national clients.

A priority focus for Kim is to provide a supportive working environment, shift attitudes in the workplace and present a different perspective on how women can be successful within this Industry. She was instrumental in developing the Linesight Transition Year programme which is aimed at promoting the profession to young people.

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Paul Mitchell

Mitchell McDermott



Paul set up Mitchell McDermott with Anthony McDermott in 2015 which currently has 70 construction professionals.

Paul has a wide range of experience in the Public and Private sector including several specialisms most notably in financial modelling of development projects and construction law, an area where he holds a post graduate qualification from TCD.

. Paul is also a member of one of the working groups in the Housing Commission looking at viability and affordability.



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David Martin

EY



As Head Debt Advisory in EY Ireland, David works with all sectors of business in advising them on their appropriate debt structures.

David advises all types of companies in raising the most flexible, appropriate and competitive debt package from a range of Irish & International Banks & Alternative Lenders.

David spent 10 years working as a Senior Lender in Banking where he gained significant lending and restructuring experience leading teams in Business, Property and Corporate lending.

Since leaving Banking in 2014, David has worked for another large auditing firm as a Debt Advisory Director on some of the largest transactions in the Irish Market, in sectors including; large private companies, PLC's, hospitality and numerous Real Estate Investment and Development Projects. David is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



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Marion St. John

KSN



Marion joined KSN in 1995, became a Director in 2004, and has served on the Board for almost two decades.

With over 30 years' experience in cost management, Marion has led major programmes across residential, commercial, and mixed-use development. She brings a 360-degree perspective to complex projects, combining detailed cost control, commercial judgement and an understanding of the human and organisational factors that drive delivery.

Marion is a strong advocate for professional standards in the built environment and champions technical development across KSN. She is particularly focused on demonstrating the strategic role of cost management in improving outcomes for Ireland's housing and construction sector.



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Meeting the
Infrastructure Demands



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Stephen Seymour

Uisce Eireann

Stephen Seymour is a Chartered Engineer with 40 years experience in the construction industry working for construction companies, local authorities, consulting engineers and Uisce Eireann.

He has worked in Ireland, the UK and far east with 27 years of his career in the water and wastewater area. He has spent the last 11 years in Uisce Eireann delivering projects and programmes of work before moving to his current position as Head of Asset management.



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COFFEE BREAK



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Workshops Canal Cafe

11:45am



Mary Rose Lyons, AI Institute

Workshop:

AI & Marketing for Property Professionals

12:30pm



Deborah Leonard, Law Society

Workshop:

Speed up your Property Sale

13:15pm



Praschant Chauhan, Carbonly

Workshop:

*Sustainable Construction:
from Materials to Site*

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Maryrose Lyons

AI Institute



Maryrose Lyons is a leading Irish entrepreneur and expert in artificial intelligence

Maryrose best known as founder of the AI Institute - a company providing AI courses, business transformation services, and automation solutions mainly for engineering, construction, and professional sectors. She is recognised for a human-first, inclusive approach to AI adoption and has a reputation as an energetic keynote speaker and trainer in Ireland and internationally.



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Deborah Leonard

Law Society of Ireland



Deborah is the Executive Secretary to the Conveyancing Committee in the Law Society.

She achieved her Bachelor of Law degree from NUI Dublin in 2001 and subsequently qualified as a solicitor in 2006. Her post qualification experience has been gained both in practice and in an in-house property role. She has a particular interest in private client property matters and has acted in countless residential transactions over the years.

In her present capacity as committee secretary Deborah spends much of her time working with lenders, state agencies and other stakeholders. She also has a huge interest in conveyancing practice reform.



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Prash Chauhan

Carbonly



Prash Chauhan is a climate tech & sustainability enthusiast with over 10 years of experience in the tech industry.

Currently a TPM in applied AI at Google, he previously founded Carbonly, a carbon management software platform for SMBs.



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Housing Affordability



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Emer Byrne

TU Dublin

Emer Byrne is a Chartered Surveyor and respected academic with over 30 years of experience across the surveying and construction sectors.



Emer has served on the Council of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) for the past two years and was elected Second Vice President in 2025. She has chaired the SCSI Sustainability Working Group and contributed to key initiatives such as the 2025 Cost of Commercial Retrofit Report.

Her contributions have been recognised with the SCSI Sustainability Champion award and a Fellowship from the TU Dublin Enterprise Academy for her research into future-focused teaching methods. In 2024, she participated in the SCSI-sponsored Demolition Takedown research project hosted by IMMA, which explored construction waste and embodied carbon in the built environment.



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Eamon Ryan

Chair European Commission
Housing Advisory Board



Eamon is Chair of the European Commission Housing Advisory Board, which will input into the Affordable Housing Plan the Commission is due to present in 2026.

Eamon was the Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport in the Irish Government from June 2020-January 2025. In that time he was appointed EU climate finance negotiator in COP 27/28 and Ministerial pair with responsibility for Climate adaptation negotiations in COP 29.



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Digitising the Built Environment



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Hannah Dwyer

JLL



Hannah is a leading global commentator and spokesperson of the future of work, and is a regular speaker at large-scale industry events.

Hannah is an Executive Director and the EMEA Head of Work Dynamics Research and Strategy, and is responsible for shaping, leading and executing a connected, holistic research programme for Work Dynamics across the EMEA region and globally.

Her research spans across all of JLL's Work Dynamics business lines and encompasses companies in all sectors.



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Dan Hughes

Alpha Property Insight



Dan leads Alpha Property Insight and is an expert in the use of data, technology and innovation in real estate. Dan sits on a wide range of industry and government advisory groups.

Dan is a leader in the digital transformation of real estate. He also has experience in the application of data and technology across the real estate market and implications for business strategy; along with extensive knowledge of current and future data, analytics, AI and technology trends across the whole built environment life cycle including construction, planning, valuations, occupier needs and investment.

Dan's experience includes innovation, PropTech, future trends, business model strategy and culture change.



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James Lonergan SCSI



James Lonergan is the Director of Education & CPD at the SCSI, with over 15 years' experience working in Education.

Within James' role in SCSI he is responsible for providing guidance, support and advice to staff, the Board; the Education Standing Committee; relevant sub committees etc. on all matters relating to education and membership policy, procedures and strategy.

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Adding Client Value



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Lily Ellis

NetApp



In her role as Director of Workplace Experience, EMEA & APAC at NetApp Lily leads a dispersed and diverse team in curating workplace experience to support flexible, hybrid, people centred workplaces of the future.

A Property Economics Graduate with an MBA in Construction Real Estate, Lily is a Chartered Surveyor and Fellow of SCSI/RICS.

She was recognised by her peers as a Top Workplace Leader in 2023 and has consistently led her teams to win and retain industry accredited awards year on year including People Development, Client Partnership and ROSPA Awards.



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Nick Talbot

International Valuations
Standards Council



Nick is CEO of International Valuations Standard Council.

Nick has overseen the introduction of technical standards boards for all valuation asset classes and also places a strong focus on the adoption of IVS which has seen its use increase significantly throughout the world over recent years. He has led efforts to foster and enhance partnerships and collaboration with governments, leading financial and market regulators and other global standards setters. Nick is a graduate of Lancaster University.



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Enda McGuane

LDA



Enda McGuane is a Past president of the SCSI and a highly experienced senior manager and real estate professional with over 20 years' experience in a broad range of organisations.

In addition as a former army officer, Enda is a highly developed project management, problem solving, risk analysis, strategic planning and social skills.

Enda has dual status as a Chartered Surveyor in the areas of Planning & Development and Property and Facility Management as well as a RICS registered Red Book valuer.



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Fiona Mullally

Linesight



Fiona Mullally is a Strategic Growth Director specialising in Global Client Account Management, elevating client partnerships, driving strategic growth, and embedding global consistency across major accounts.

Fiona supports the strategic direction, governance, and performance of key global accounts with a focus on delivering measurable client value. Fiona is a strong advocate for digital automation and innovation, championing tools and processes that reduce administrative effort, increase accuracy, and free up teams to focus on strategic development and value creation.

Her leadership drives stronger client relationships, and long-term account growth ensuring that every engagement delivers clear, measurable, and meaningful value.



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Lunch



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Culture within the Profession



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Shirley Coulter

SCSI



As CEO of the SCSI since 2020, Shirley works with the Board and members to strengthen the unique position of the SCSI as the only professional body providing guidance and representation across the full life cycle of the property, land and construction sector.

Shirley is a Chartered Director with extensive experience in governance, strategy, policy development and organisational transformation, and oversees the SCSI's work to advance research, policy, member guidance, education, regulation and professional accreditation that recognises the sector's changing needs in addressing key issues including housing supply, sustainability, diversity, and market trends. In addition, Shirley represents SCSI on a number of external groups including the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform's Construction Sector Group and the Construction Industry Council and she was appointed a Board member of Tailte Eireann in March 2023.

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Sandra Healy

Inclusio



Sandra Healy' has over 20 years of experience working in engineering and leadership roles within the globally technology industry.

In 2016 Sandra spun the idea for inclusio into Dublin City University, and over four years of research and development, joined by two co-founders Deborah Murphy and Arthur Lubambo, inclusio spun out in 2020.

Sandra observed a significant gap in the way organisations measured and reported on their people, culture and social sustainability efforts. Companies lacked the data and insights necessary to measure the impact of their DEI and culture initiatives. As a result, such initiatives were not a top priority for CEOs.

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Siobhan McKenna

Dept of Public Expenditure and
Reform



Siobhán is the Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion at the Public Appointments Service (publicjobs.ie), Ireland's centralised provider of recruitment services across the civil and public service.

Siobhán returned to Dublin in 2021 having spent 20 years in the non-profit and public sectors in London. She worked for 5 years in international development at the Open Society Foundation where she supported the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

Siobhán recently joined the board of Black & Irish, a non-profit organisation that aims to empower and amplify the voice of black and mixed-race Irish people. Siobhán holds a Batchelors degree in Social Science (International) from UCD and an MPhil in Ethnic and Racial Studies from Trinity College Dublin.



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Build your Network



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Kingsley Aikins

The Networking Institute



Dublin born Kingsley Aikins is an Economics and Politics graduate of Trinity College Dublin who has worked in six countries around the world. He returned to live in Ireland in 2011 and established The Networking Institute.

For ten years he worked for IDA Ireland and The Irish Trade Board and was based in Sydney. While there he established The Lansdowne Club – now one of the biggest Irish business networks outside Ireland. He then ran Ireland's largest diaspora organisation, The Ireland Funds, and was based in Boston. During his 21 years with The Ireland Funds over a quarter of a billion dollars was raised for projects of Peace, Culture and Charity in Ireland.

Since returning to live in Ireland he has worked extensively with other countries helping them develop successful diaspora strategies. He authored a Global Diaspora Strategies Toolkit which was launched by then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington. With his colleague Dr. Martin Russell he has worked with over 50 countries in the rapidly growing field of diaspora engagement and has established with Martin The Diaspora Institute in Ireland whose mission is to be a world leading centre of training, research and solutions on diaspora engagement