

# The Pensions Authority Conference 2025

## Supervision of pensions 2025 – 2029



Wednesday 17 September 2025

The Round Room at the Mansion House Dublin 2

Time	Conference agenda
08.00	<b>Registration with tea/coffee/pastries</b>
08.45	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> David Begg Chairman The Pensions Authority
09.00	<b>Keynote Address</b> Dara Calleary TD Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
09.30	<b>The European Outlook</b> Matti Leppälä Secretary General/CEO of PensionsEurope
10.00	<b>The changing landscape of Irish pensions</b> Andrew Nugent Director of Supervision, Enforcement, Policy and Legal The Pensions Authority
10.30	<b>Tea/coffee break</b>
11.00	<b>Pensions Authority consultations – current and planned</b> Gillian Smith Policy Unit The Pensions Authority
11.15	<b>Fireside chat - Data at the centre of supervision</b> Fionnuala Ryan Supervision and Enforcement Unit John Gethin Director of Strategy, IT, Data and Operations The Pensions Authority
11.45	<b>Supervision of pensions 2025 – 2029</b> (round table discussion)  Matti Leppälä - Secretary General/CEO of PensionsEurope John Gethin - Director of Strategy, IT, Data and Operations Alan Boland - Head of Function - Domestic Life Insurance Supervision, The Central Bank of Ireland
12.15	<b>Closing comments</b> Brendan Kennedy Pensions Regulator The Pensions Authority
12.30	<b>Conference closes</b>

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### Speakers

	<p><b>David Begg</b> <b>Chairman</b> <b>The Pensions Authority</b></p> <p>Dr. David Begg was appointed Chairman of the Pensions Authority in 2016. He is a former Secretary General of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and was CEO of Concern Worldwide from 1997 to 2001. He has served on the boards of a number of public and private sector bodies including the Central Bank, Aer Lingus and the Irish Times Trust.</p> <p>He is currently Chairman of the Mater Hospital and the Workplace Relations Commission. He holds master's degrees in International Relations and Theology from DCU and a PhD in Sociology from Maynooth University. He is adjunct professor at the Maynooth University Institute of Social Sciences.</p>
	<p><b>Dara Calleary TD</b> <b>Minister for Social Protection</b></p> <p>Dara Calleary is the Minister for Social Protection and also Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. He was appointed to these roles on 23 January 2025. Before this, he served as Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.</p> <p>A native of Ballina, Dara Calleary has been a TD for Mayo since first being elected at the 2007 General Election. He was previously Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with responsibility for Labour Affairs from 2009-2011 and Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Finance with responsibility for Public Service Transformation from 2009-2011. He served as Minister for Agriculture and as Government Chief Whip in 2020.</p> <p>Dara served as Deputy Leader of Fianna Fáil from 2018-2020 and has also served as Spokesperson on Justice, Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Public Expenditure and Reform and Social Protection portfolio.</p> <p>Prior to entering politics Dara was involved in the banking and business sectors. Dara studied Business and Politics at Trinity College Dublin and attended St Muredach's College Ballina and St Oliver Plunkett National School.</p>



**Matti Leppälä**  
**Secretary General/CEO**  
**PensionsEurope**

Matti Leppälä is the Secretary General/CEO of PensionsEurope, since 2011. Matti is a current Vice-Chair and a former member, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group of EIOPA. He was a member of the European Commission's High-Level Group of Experts on Pensions 2018 – 2019 and the Chair of the World Pension Alliance 2023 – 2024 and 2018 – 2019.

Before joining PensionsEurope Matti worked 11 years for The Finnish Pension Alliance TELA. In the 1990's Matti worked in collective bargaining, labour law and social policy. In 1986 he started his professional career at the Ministry of Justice in Finland. Matti has a LLM and an Executive MBA in Insurance and Financial services.



**Brendan Kennedy**  
**The Pensions Regulator**  
**The Pensions Authority**

Brendan Kennedy is Pensions Regulator and chief executive of the Pensions Authority. He has held this position since 2006. Brendan has spent almost his entire career in pensions.

Before joining the Authority in 2004, he held a variety of life insurance and consulting positions. Brendan qualified as an actuary and is a Fellow of the Irish Institute of Pensions Management. He also chairs the Technical Committee of the International Organisation of Pension Supervisors.






**Andrew Nugent**  
**Director**  
**The Pensions Authority**

Andrew Nugent joined the Pensions Authority in 2006 and worked on many policy issues during that time. Andrew has also been involved in pension policy issues at EU level including the negotiations on a Portability Directive and IORPs II. Andrew was appointed as a Director in the Pensions Authority in 2024 and has responsibility for Policy, Supervision and Legal. Andrew previously worked in a number of Government Departments.



**Gillian Smith**  
**Policy Unit**  
**The Pensions Authority**

Gillian is an Assistant Principal in the Pension Authority's Policy Unit. Before joining the Pensions Authority in 2020, Gillian worked in the Department of Finance Pensions Policy Unit and was an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Trinity College Dublin in the School of Social Work and Social Policy. She is currently leading the development of policy consultations in the Authority across several areas, including PRSA investment rules, DB consolidation and in-scheme drawdown. Gillian holds an MSc in Applied Social Research and a BA in Sociology and Social Policy.

	<p><b>John Gethin</b> <b>Director</b> <b>The Pensions Authority</b></p> <p>John was appointed as a Director at The Pensions Authority in September 2024. With significant international experience gained in complex and regulated financial services organisations John is a former director and branch manager of KBC Insurance and was instrumental in the setting up Ireland's first digital life insurer. Following the decision by KBC Group to exit the Irish market, John successfully led the orderly wind-down of KBC's insurance activities in Ireland. Prior to this John held a number of senior management positions with Aviva and AIB. John has recently completed an MSc in Sustainable Finance and Innovation with Maynooth University.</p>
	<p><b>Fionnuala Ryan</b> <b>Supervision and Enforcement Unit</b> <b>The Pensions Authority</b></p> <p>Fionnuala Ryan is a Higher Assistant Principal in the Master Trust Supervision Unit and has worked in the Authority since 2015. She has led several supervisory transformation projects such as the introduction of the Supervisory Review Process, and she has a broad range of supervisory experience. Prior to joining the Authority, Fionnuala worked in the Central Bank of Ireland.</p>
	<p><b>Alan Boland</b> <b>Head of Function - Domestic Life Insurance Supervision</b> <b>The Central Bank of Ireland</b></p> <p>Alan is a solicitor with 20 years' regulatory experience in the life assurance sector working in roles in William Fry's Insurance practice, AXA's pan-European life assurance firm head quartered in Dublin and finally, the Central Bank of Ireland's Insurance Directorate since 2018.</p>