



Climate Change Advisory Council

Freedom of Information Act 2014

Publication Scheme

February 2026



A. Information about the Climate Change Advisory Council

Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts

Establishment of the Organisation

The Climate Change Advisory Council was established under the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015](#) and was signed into law on the 18th January 2016, and amended in 2021.

Roles, responsibilities and functions

The Climate Change Advisory Council is an independent advisory body providing evidence-based advice and recommendations on policy to support Ireland's just transition to a biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, climate neutral and resilient society.

The Council is specifically tasked with advising and making recommendations to the Minister and wider Government on:

- Climate action plan
- National Long term climate action strategy
- National adaptation framework
- Carbon budgets

The Council shall also advise and make recommendations to the Government, the Minister and any other Minister of the Government in respect of any policy of the Government, or any policy that is proposed to be submitted to the Government for approval relating to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the State.

For the purposes of the performance of its functions, the Advisory Council may gather such information as it considers necessary or appropriate, and meet and consult with such persons (including members of the public) as it considers appropriate.

The Secretariat is also established under Section 9 (18) 'Membership of Advisory Council' and related matters.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's roles and responsibilities are outlined in [Section 11 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015](#)

Governance/Management arrangements

Please see the Governance section of our website www.climatecouncil.ie

Corporate Plans and Strategies

Corporate Governance documents can be seen on our website www.climatecouncil.ie

Annual Report (as mandated under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act).



Each year the Climate Change Advisory Council reviews Ireland's performance for the previous year in:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
- meeting Ireland's EU and international obligations,
- complying with the carbon budget and each sectoral emissions ceiling for that period,
- moving towards achieving the National Climate Objective and preparing Ireland for the adjustments needed to be ready for the impacts of climate change.

The Review summarises the most recent greenhouse gas emissions data and projections for each sector of the economy and makes recommendations for sector specific actions to support complying with the sectoral emissions ceilings. Published annually and can be found online at www.climatecouncil.ie.

As per the 'How we spend' section, the Secretariat is hosted by the EPA and all financial processes are completed by the EPA, costs associated with the Council and the Secretariat are covered in the EPA's Annual Report which can be found <http://www.epa.ie/about/foipublicationscheme/>

Organisation and Pay/Grading Structures

The Secretariat are employed by the EPA. Please see the EPA's ['About Us'](#) section

Locations and Contact details for the Council

Please see the Contact Us section of the website

Climate Change Advisory Council
McCumiskey House
Richview
Clonskeagh Road
Dublin 14
D14 YR62

Phone: 01 2680180

Email: info@climatecouncil.ie

Links to agencies/other bodies under the FOI body's remit

N/A

Details of Service Level Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding

1. The Climate Change Advisory Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the EPA in regards to the functions of the EPA and Climate Change Advisory Council, the MoUs purpose, practical measures and operational liaison, budget and human resources, corporate governance, administration, the secretariat, recruitment, procurement, premises, Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment, publications, data and knowledge and the review process of the MoU.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Climate Change Advisory Council and all relevant Government Departments and Agencies. The primary aims of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are to:
 - a. Support the Climate Change Advisory Council in its work, in providing



recommendations to government for more evidence-based climate policy making, and particularly regarding the formation of economy-wide carbon budgets as established in the Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended;

- b. Support the Department in its work, advising the Minister in developing climate action plans, a national long term climate action strategy, sectoral emissions ceilings, meeting EU climate reporting requirements and other related matters;
 - c. Avoid ambiguity in providing access to the necessary government data, analyses, and models in all relevant Departments and agencies where appropriate;
 - d. In turn, provide access to the underlying sectoral data, assumptions and models utilised by the Climate Change Advisory Council, in particular noting if or when these differ from those utilised by the departments and agencies, in finalising recommendations for government regarding economy-wide carbon budgets; and
 - e. Promote transparency that allows for the interrogation of climate decision-making processes and provides for an accountable and collaborative climate crisis approach.
3. The Climate Change Advisory Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Just Transition Commission. The purpose of this Memorandum is to:
1. Confirm the complementary role of the Advisory Council and the Commission, based on their mandate as articulated in their terms of reference or in legislation¹, in order to avoid duplication of efforts in their work towards a unifying goal of the National Climate Objective whilst also enhancing and supporting the actions of both bodies;
 2. Outline the working arrangements between the Advisory Council and the Commission to support the above.

To view the Memorandums of Understanding, please see the Governance section of www.climatecouncil.ie

Customer Charters

N/A

Codes of Practice or Guidelines

A copy of the Climate Change Advisory Council's Operational Guidance Document, which includes a Code of Practice can be found online at the Governance section of www.climatecouncil.ie

¹ Oireachtas (2021). Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. Source: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/act/32/enacted/en/html>



B. Services provided or to be provided to the public

The services we offer

Details of the functions and services that the organisation provides and the decision making process

Under the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 \(as amended\)](#) the Climate Change Advisory Council is tasked with providing regular reports regarding Ireland's progress in achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions against the 2020 and 2030 targets set by the European Union.

The Council must also adhere to the review structures and preparation of key reports including:

- an annual review and report (Section 12 of the Act);
- the periodic review and report (Section 13 of the Act);
- proposing carbon budgets (Section 6a)

All publications are available on the Climate Change Advisory Council website available <http://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/>

Services provided for public including administration of an enactment/scheme (e.g. grants)

N/A

How such services can be accessed

N/A

How much such services cost to access, if any

N/A

Administration of such services

N/A

Review or appeal rights relating to such services

N/A

Research projects undertaken in respect of these functions/services

All of the Council's commissioned research is available online <https://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/> by selecting Working Papers.

C. Decision making process for major policy proposals

How we make decisions on policies

Decision making process and records of decisions

Major policy proposals including any public consultation exercises



The core remit of the Climate Change Advisory Council is to provide advice to government on policy, not to develop policy. Therefore it is not envisaged that the Climate Change Advisory Council will conduct public consultation exercises as part of its work.

Background information relating to major policy proposals and decisions

All of the Climate Change Advisory Council’s [reports and publications](#) are published online at www.climatecouncil.ie with a full rationale provided and data sources are attributed.

Reports on the operation of public services by the FOI body

In 2021, an independent evaluation was published of the functioning and effectiveness of the Council. This report can be found here:

<https://www.climatecouncil.ie/aboutthecouncil/governance/independentevaluation/>

Expenditure reviews, policy assessments

N/A – please see answer to first question above.

D. Financial Information

What we spend

Financial information relating to income and expenditure

Financial Statements

As the Secretariat is hosted by the EPA and all financial processes are completed by the EPA, costs associated with the Council and the Secretariat are covered in the EPA’s Annual Report which can be found <https://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/governance/>

Costs associated with the Council and Secretariat (excluding Secretariat pay) for 2025 was approx. €852,000

Major plans for Capital Expenditure

N/A

Payments or Purchase Orders for goods and services

The Climate Change Advisory Council publishes information on payment or purchase orders for goods and services over €20,000. For more information can be found on the [Published information from the Council section](#) of the website.

Governance Board Member remuneration

Please see non ex-officio Council member’s remuneration fees, and a list of institutions that are reimbursed to cover their involvement with the Climate Change Advisory Council.

Total Amount paid to Council Members in 2025	
Member Name	Amount
Marie Donnelly	€16,250
Julie Sinnamon	€3,266.67**
Professor Morgan Bazilian	€9,800



Jillian Mahon	€9,800
Liam Delaney	€9,800
Patricia King*	€0
Total Amount	€48,916
*Declined payment	
** Pro-rata for 2025 term	

Total amount paid to institutions for reimbursement of time of Ordinary Council Members

Member Name	Institution	Payment
Professor Peter Thorne	Paid to Maynooth University	€9,800
Dr. Cara Augustenborg	Paid to UCD	€9,800
Prof. Yvonne Buckley	Paid to Trinity College Dublin	€9,800
Prof. Edgar Morgenroth	Paid to DCU	€9,800
TOTAL		€39,200

Funding/Sponsorship of non-public bodies

The Climate Change Advisory Council does not provide any funding or sponsorship of non-public bodies.

E. Procurement

How we spend

As the Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat is hosted by the EPA, goods and services procured by the Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat is subject to the EPA's procurement and tendering policies. For more information, please see:

<https://www.epa.ie/who-we-are/corporate-compliance/procurement/#d.en.85880>

Procurement policies

As outlined in the Climate Change Advisory Council's Operational Guidance Document and following the EPA policies and procedures on procurement, the Council adheres to Government Procurement policies.

A link to all current tender competitions on the eTenders website

All current tender competitions are available on



<https://www.climatecouncil.ie/news/researchandprocurement/> or www.etenders.gov.ie.

Public contracts awarded including contract type, contractor, value, award date, duration and brief description (tabular format) over €10,000 for ICT and over €25,000 (ex VAT) for other contracts.

The Climate Change Advisory Council publishes a report on public contracts. See here:

<https://www.climatecouncil.ie/aboutthecouncil/governance/accesstoinformation/publishedinformationfromthecouncil>

F. FOI Disclosure Log and Other Information to be Published Routinely

Other information

FOI Disclosure log

This is updated on an ongoing basis and can be viewed in the Governance section at <https://www.climatecouncil.ie/aboutthecouncil/governance/accesstoinformation/Freedomofinformationfoi>

Reports

All reports and publications can be found at <http://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/>. Press releases and other communications can be found at <http://www.climatecouncil.ie/news/>

Commercial publications and relative charges

N/A

Information held by the body which is sought regularly

Access to minutes and agendas of meetings can be found <http://www.climatecouncil.ie/aboutus/governance/>. The Activities of the Council is also published each year as part of the Annual Review process.