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**Governance**  
FORUM

**Programme 2022**  
Promoting Good Governance  
in the Public Interest

# Governance FORUM

## Programme 2022

Promoting Good Governance  
in the Public Interest

The Governance Forum at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) provides advice, training, information and a range of supports on good governance, with a particular emphasis on state, public interest and public benefit organisations. The member organisations of the Forum include commercial and non-commercial state bodies and agencies, government departments, regulatory bodies, higher education institutions, local authorities, national sporting bodies and not-for-profit organisations.

The Forum continues to evolve and the programme for 2022 is designed, once again, to give greater value to the membership. The benefits for each Forum member include invitations for Board and Committee members, senior executives and staff to a series of highly relevant briefing events, conferences, training sessions and roundtable discussions. The Forum also includes the Chairpersons' Network and a Board Secretaries' Network (run in association with The Chartered Governance Institute), both of which successfully launched in 2019 and which have proven to be very successful. Members can also receive customised in-house governance advice, board and committee training, related consultancy services and access to advice and support from IPA governance specialists.

Since its establishment fifteen years ago, the Forum's services have grown and evolved in response to the needs of the members and in response to governance developments and reforms over the years. Topics addressed in 2021 have included many of the contemporary challenges to good governance, alongside the areas that those charged with governance need to be reflect on and embrace in their organisations. The areas of culture in good governance, cyber and information security, risk appetite, Board and committee effectiveness, strategy and performance management as well as periodic critical reviews and other obligations on gender, diversity and inclusion have all been integrated in the Forum agenda while sustaining enduring governance requirements on finance, assurance and leadership.

The programme is kept under constant review to ensure topicality and relevance and member feedback is always welcomed. We are particularly pleased with the positive feedback from the membership survey and the regular engagement of members at the 2021 events (all delivered via an online format). We are also indebted to the many expert speakers who shared their high levels of practical knowledge, experience and important lessons learnt at the events.





## Chairpersons' Network and Board Secretaries' Network

In light of feedback from members and the shared benefits of such networks, we launched a Chairpersons' Network and a Board Secretaries' Network in 2019, as additional features of Governance Forum membership. These networks allow for periodic roundtable and workshop events relevant to both Chairpersons and Secretaries, respectively, on topics of importance to these specialist positions. They also enable a useful peer network for members and the promulgation of good practices and approaches.

## Looking Back on 2021

As was the case for everyone, 2021 was a particularly challenging year with the Forum continuing to adapt to the new reality created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the various restrictions within which we needed to operate. From a situation of having delivered four in-person events in our auditorium up to mid- March 2020, every event since – 18 different events and webinars in 2021 – were delivered online utilising different platforms. The move to online has seen record numbers from membership organisations attending due to improved accessibility and having a programme calendar in place that allowed attendees to incorporate dates into their diaries. The feedback from the membership survey conducted in 2021 did indicate a desire to include some in-person events at a future stage, public health guidance permitting, and we will monitor the situation. For now we are confirming that we will deliver our 2022 Programme online, as in 2021.

In 2021, our events and webinars attracted upwards of 200–300 attendees per event with very positive feedback forthcoming, and our virtual roundtables for our Networks attracted strong attendance numbers and positive feedback in terms of content and the engagement made possible by the platform. The online training events were also very successful with record numbers engaging and we, based on the feedback, will continue to include these in the 2022 schedule.

We are, of course, deeply indebted to and very grateful to the broad range of speakers who inputted to our events, for their contributions, perspectives, experience and their subject matter expertise, shared openly and positively with the audiences.



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## Governance Team Services

The Governance team at the IPA provides a range of value-added services to state, public interest and public benefit organisations. A selection of these services are outlined below and the Governance Team is available to discuss how we can assist you and your organisation during the forthcoming year.

- **Board and Committee Evaluations** – during 2021 the team undertook Board and Committee evaluations and effectiveness reviews for a range of state bodies, government departments, higher education institutions, sporting bodies and not-for-profit organisations. We provide a genuine value-added service, comprising, in each case, a survey of members, one-to-one interviews, meeting observation and a Board or Committee workshop on the findings and next steps.
- **Governance Reviews** – the team supports organisations in assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance frameworks, manuals, policies and documentation. This can be on the basis of a 'health-check' or on foot of a particular concern.
- **Risk Management** – our specialists support organisations through external evaluations of their risk management frameworks and processes, the development and review of risk registers and risk appetite statements.
- **Strategy Development** – our team supports organisations in the development of new strategic plans and reviewing the effectiveness of their implementation.
- **Board, Committee and Member Training** – during 2021 we supported numerous Boards, Committees and senior teams with bespoke training, from coverage of governance roles and responsibilities, risk management, audit and assurance, the contents and implications of respective codes of governance and new member induction.

Our other services include control effectiveness and assurance reviews, providing professional advice and support to Boards and Committees, and governance gap analysis exercises. We also provide, as necessary, confidential advice and support for boards and those in key governance and leadership roles.