

## Periodic Critical Reviews - Considering Methods and Practice

Thursday, 25 April 2019, 8.00am – 10.30am

Institute of Public Administration, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin D04 TC62

A light breakfast will be served at 8am and the proceedings will commence at 8.30am

One of the most notable aspects of the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)* is the requirement for Periodic Critical Reviews (PCRs) of non-commercial state bodies, which are to be conducted by parent Departments at least once every 5 years. The reviews are designed to “ensure that the ongoing business case for State bodies, including those newly established, will be subject to periodic scrutiny and assessment”. This assessment is to, *inter alia*, “scrutinise objectively the case for rationalisation and consolidation of public bodies in light of changing requirements, demands and priorities”. Over two and a half years on from the publication of the Code, however, there is limited evidence of PCRs, as envisaged, having taken place. There are over 200 non-commercial state bodies to be reviewed, and the Code suggests that PCR reports will be “routinely published”.

In this context, this timely session will provide a collaborative forum in which to consider the possible approaches to PCRs. It will include consideration of:

- PCR Case Study: The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government’s recent PCR of an aegis body
- Evaluation Case Study: Critical Review of (the then) proposed merger of Ordnance Survey Ireland, the Property Registration Authority and the Valuation Office
- PCR methodology options and implications
- What should be the key elements of a PCR?



**Emma Reeves** is Principal Officer at the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, where her main interests centre on the governance of state bodies under the aegis of the Department as well as local government HR. Emma is a Chartered Management Accountant who worked in the private sector for over 10 years in Ireland, the UK and Spain, including in Budget Travel, the Walt Disney Travel Company and Bass Leisure. Emma was involved in leading a recent PCR of an aegis body.



**John Laffan** is Head of the Civil Governance Unit at the Department of Justice and Equality where he has direct oversight responsibility for some ten state agencies, including a number of regulatory bodies. He also has a general role in coordinating compliance by the 30 statutory agencies/bodies under the aegis of the Department with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. He has acted as Project Manager for the Agency Governance workstream of the Department's Reform Programme, which has resulted in a more structured and formalised governance relationship with each statutory agency



**Dr. Tom Ward** is a Governance Specialist at the IPA, involved in delivering a range of governance services to clients in the public and non-profit sectors, many of which are evaluation exercises requiring project scoping and quantitative and qualitative data gathering and review. Tom has worked on strategy, organisation, workforce planning and governance reviews with a range of clients, and is experienced in leading stakeholder engagement exercises such as interviews, focus groups and workshops.

### Time & Location

The briefing will take place on Thursday, 25 April 2019 at the IPA, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 TC62.

A light breakfast will be served from 8.00am. The presentations and open forum discussions will commence at 8.30am and conclude at 10.30am.

### Cost and Bookings

Members of the Forum may nominate up to two participants to the briefing without charge. The cost for additional nominees is €100 per person. The cost for non-forum members is €250 per person but subject to availability. Bookings can be made using the attached booking form or by contacting Jane Greer (jgreer@ipa.ie)