

PRESS RELEASE



To: News Editors, Features Editors, Political Editors

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In a new book from the IPA entitled: *City and County Management in Ireland, 1929–2020*, includes contributions by renowned academics and practitioners describing the origins and development of the local government management system and its role in local and national development. The second part of the book focuses on the 172 individuals who have held the office of city and county manager (and since 2014, chief executive) from 1929 to 2020.

Peter Burke, TD. Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will be the guest of honour at the launch of *City and County Management in Ireland, 1929–2020*, at the CCMA Dinner, Fota Island Hotel, Cork, 4th November 2021.

City and County Management in Ireland, 1929–2020, includes contributions by renowned academics and practitioners describe the origins and development of the local government management system and its role in local and national development. For example, Emeritus Professor of Contemporary Irish History at TCD, Eunan O’Halpin, describes the origins and development of Ireland’s system of city and county management. Aodh Quinlivan and Colin Copus compare the Irish local government management system to that of a number of other countries, and speculate how the introduction of directly elected mayors in Ireland might affect the manager-elected representative relationship.

The second part of the book focuses on the 172 individuals who have held the office of city and county manager (and since 2014, chief executive) from 1929 to 2020. At its heart are brief career profiles of those who have held the office. Richard Boyle and Fergal O’Leary provide a brief analysis of the profiles. Amongst their findings are:

- 94 per cent of managers/chief executives have been male, and just 6 per cent female (though this proportion has changed since the first female manager was

appointed in 1998. In 2020, the split was 68 per cent male and 32 per cent female).

- The average age at time of appointment is 47, ranging from 33 to 67.
- Most managers and chief executives started their career in local government serving as a clerical officer, subsequently working their way up through the system.
- Most managers/chief executives serve in a number of local authorities during their career. Only one in ten have spent their whole career in one local authority. Most have served in four or more authorities.
- With regard to place of birth, Dublin city has provided most managers, with 25. The county that has provided most managers (16) is Tipperary. Only four managers or chief executives were born outside the island of Ireland, three in England and one in Wales.

The profiles themselves give a fascinating glimpse of the men and women who have been attracted to the service. For example we learn that:

The youngest appointed manager, Denis A. Hegarty, was 33 when appointed manager of Waterford Corporation in 1940. He is also the only manager to start their career as a trade union official

- The oldest appointed manager, Michael J. Egan, was appointed manager to Mayo County Council in 1942 at the age of 67. In 1920, during the Irish war of independence, he was arrested and court-martialled for refusing to disclose to the Local Government Board the name of the treasurer of Mayo County Council
- Patrick d'Arcy, manager of Kerry County Council from 1991-1997, was a former international rugby referee
- Thomas Sinnott, manager of Wexford County Council from 1942-53, was a member of the Irish Volunteers and imprisoned and interred in several camps and prisons between 1916 and 1921
- Joseph Wrenne, manager of Cork County Council from 1942-54, wrote three full-length plays. One of these, *Sable and Gold* (written under the pseudonym Maurice Dalton), was first performed in the Father Mathew Hall, Cork, on 15 May 1918. The same year, it played in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

The final part of the book includes a chronology that highlights developments in local government over the period examined, and a bibliography that provides an overview of selected literature available on local government in Ireland.

City and County Management in Ireland, 1929–2020, is published by the Institute of Public Administration. It is available in all major bookshops and from the Sales Division of the IPA, Tel: (01) 240 3764 and sales@ipa.ie or online at www.ipa.ie. For review copies contact Carolyn Gormley, Tel: (01) 2403760, cgormley@ipa.ie.

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