

Appointment to the Board of the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA)

Closing Date: 15:00 on Thursday 7th June 2018

**State Boards Division
Public Appointments Service
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stateboards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that the PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which the PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard and in accordance with 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, "it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards."

The [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016](#) (the Code) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

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| Location: | Dublin |
| Number of Vacancies: | 1 |
| Remuneration: | €7,695. (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors). Travel and subsistence is payable at appropriate civil service rates. |
| Time Requirements: | <p>Approx. 6 half day meetings per annum. Total time commitment including preparation for meetings and participation on sub-committees would be in the region of 10 days per annum.</p> <p>There is one sub-committee (Audit and Risk) of the Board which meets approx. 6 times per year for c. 1 hour, meetings are held on the same day as the Board meetings where possible. Approx. time requirement is included in the days noted above.</p> |

Candidate's attention is also drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to Audit and Risk Committee membership which can be found [here](#).

1. Background

The National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) was established on a statutory basis as a non-commercial state body with effect from 1st August 2007. NORA is responsible for:

- Ensuring that Ireland meets its obligations under EU legislation and International Energy Agency (IEA) rules to maintain a minimum of 90 days' stock of oil for use in the event of a physical shortage of supplies, and;
- Administering Ireland's Biofuels Obligation Scheme.

NORA operates in a highly commercial and regulated environment. The Agency currently manages almost 1.7 million tonnes of oil reserves stored in 17 oil storage facilities located in Ireland and in a number of other EU member states. In purchasing oil stocks and negotiating and managing oil storage arrangements, NORA competes actively with commercial oil companies, often multi-national, in order to secure the most cost-effective and strategically optimal outcomes for Ireland.

More information is available on NORA's website.

- a) NORA website – <https://www.nora.ie/>
- b) Annual Report - <http://www.nora.ie/fileupload/Financial%20Statements%202016.pdf>
- c) NORA Act - <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2007/act/7/enacted/en/pdf>

2. Functions of the Board

The Board operates in accordance with the provisions of the following:

- National Oil Reserves Act, 2007
- Biofuels Act, 2010
- Companies Act 2017
- Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)
- Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and 2001

NORA Board members are required to provide an annual Statement of Interests to the Standards in Public Office Commission and the Secretary to the Board.

Current membership of the Board: -

| Name | First Appointed | Reappointed | Expiry Date | Position type | Basis of appointment |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Terry Nolan | 14/10/2013 | | 13/10/2018 | Chairperson | Ministerial |
| Frank O'Connor | 14/05/2015 | | 13/05/2020 | Board Member | PAS Process |
| Frank O'Flynn | 14/05/2015 | | 13/05/2020 | Board Member | PAS Process |
| Pat Meehan | 01/01/2008 | 01/01/2018 | 04/03/2021 | Board Member | Ex officio. CEO of NORA |
| Rebecca Minch | 08/02/2017 | | 07/02/2022 | Member | DCCA Rep |

3. Person Specification

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment invites applications from suitably qualified candidates who consider they possess the skills and experience necessary to join the Board of NORA.

Specifically, candidates should demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Senior executive experience and knowledge of energy production and supply industries;
- Extensive expertise at a senior executive level in an oil or oil related industry;
- Experience, knowledge and an interest in energy security, and /or
- Compliance with EU Directives and national legislation in relation to reduction of carbon emissions.

In addition, candidates should demonstrate evidence of:

- Commercial skills in a related industry;
- Sound business judgement;
- Excellent communications skills;
- An ability to bring a regional and rural perspective to the considerations of the Board.

The Minister shall have regard to regional representation and the desirability for gender balance on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments.

In accordance with Section 14 of the National Oil Reserves Agency Act, 2007, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, appoints members to the Board of NORA.

Under [Section 14 of the National Oil Reserves Agency Act, 2007](#) persons shall, in the Minister's opinion, have experience and competence in one or more of the following areas;

- Oil or oil related industries;
- Chemical or chemical related industries;
- Finance;
- Economics;
- Legal matters; or
- Energy production and supply industries.

Candidate's attention is drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to the role of a Board member, where the principle states: -

- Each State body should be headed by an effective Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term sustainability of the body.
- Non-executive Board members should bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance resources, key appointments and standard of conduct.

Details on the role of Board Members can be found in Section 3 of the Code which can be found [here](#).

The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments.

4. Term of Appointment

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 5 years with an option to extend the term of engagement for a second term of 5 years, subject to:

- The membership of any member of the Board may be terminated by the Minister at any time, on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Minister.
- A member of the Board may resign his or her membership of the Board by notice in writing sent or given to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect on the day on which the Minister receives the notice.
- Members of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, from time to time determine.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board Members are described in the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available on the website of the Department of Finance [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies](#).
- A Board member shall cease to be a member of the board if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas

or as a representative in the European Parliament, elected to the European Parliament, or becomes a member of a local authority.

5. Submitting your Application

Before submitting your expression of interest, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an expression of interest - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet.

Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

1. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Authority position(s) specified in this booklet, and*
2. *That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board. **Please only include information that is directly relevant to the particular role for which you are applying.**

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

6. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the “Panel”) will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the applications received by PAS. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - Meeting¹/conference call; and/or
 - Referee checks; and/or
 - Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include PAS requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).
- arrive at a shortlist of suitable candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

Please note that the Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of our selection process.

7. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

8. Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

Should your name be forwarded to a Minister for consideration, please note that your cover letter and curriculum vitae will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant department and may be retained for up to one year.

For further information on Data Protection please follow the [link](#)

¹ The Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your application:

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

1. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
2. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
3. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
4. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page
5. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account, you will be asked to create one.
6. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
7. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form.
8. If there is a supplementary question, ensure that your response complies with the word limit and that it does not contain any special characters (i.e. %, & etc.) or you may receive an error message and will be unable to submit your application.
9. Click on "continue".
10. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
11. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.