



Údarás um Fhorfheidhmiú Corparáideach
Corporate Enforcement Authority

PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTER, JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND UK & IRISH EXPERTS TO ADDRESS 2024 CONFERENCE

EMBARGO – 17 OCTOBER 12AM

The CEA's 2024 Conference will take place today, on 17 October 2024, in the historic surroundings of The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin. The Conference, which will be attended by policy makers, fellow regulatory and enforcement bodies, and renowned figures from the legal and accountancy professions, will be addressed by a host of subject matter experts on matters of relevance to the CEA's remit.

The conference will be opened by Dara Calleary, TD, Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Digital Transformation, who will speak about his policy agenda. The Minister will be followed by Mr. Justice Brian Murray, Judge of the Supreme Court, who will speak to '*The price of litigation: legal costs and third-party funding*'. Thereafter, during the day, attendees will hear addresses from distinguished members of the legal profession, the Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, a representative from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, leading members of the Irish accountancy profession, and of the UK's Insolvency Service and Serious Fraud Office respectively.

Speakers' addresses will cover subject matter that includes corporate offending and sentencing corporate offences, the enforcement of company directors' duties, challenges facing Boards arising from the sustainability agenda, and enforcement perspectives and insights from the UK.

Speaking to mark his opening of the conference, **Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Digital Transformation Dara Calleary, TD**, said:

'The CEA is now firmly established and firmly embedded in Ireland's corporate ecosystem. It is an agency which Government has resourced to deliver effectively and efficiently on its mandate, most notably through its strong advocacy programme providing relevant and accessible information on matters of company law and ensuring compliance with company law through proportionate enforcement where necessary.

The Companies (Corporate Governance, Enforcement and Regulatory Provisions) Bill 2024 which I am progressing through the Houses of the Oireachtas, will strengthen the State's capability to investigate company law breaches by equipping the CEA with increased powers to investigate

evidence of corporate wrongdoing. It will facilitate operational and administrative efficiencies through the streamlining of existing processes, ensuring that the CEA is in receipt of the most up-to-date information at the earliest possible time. It widens the statutory gateway for the sharing of information between competent authorities, assisting both the CEA and the listed authorities in the performance of their functions.'

Speaking to mark the Conference, **CEA Chief Executive Officer, Ian Drennan**, said:

'When one looks at the calibre of the speakers on the programme, it is unsurprising that this conference has been sold out for months. We are deeply grateful to our speakers - all of whom are authorities in their chosen fields of endeavour - who have been so generous with their time and expertise.

Encouragement is every bit as important as enforcement and it is a key component of our strategy. This conference is a core element of our advocacy programme. It is a means by which we connect with company directors and those who advise them. It is a means by which we raise awareness of the CEA, its statutory mandate, and of the information and guidance that we make available in order to assist company directors to comply with the obligations that go hand in hand with availing of the privilege of limited liability.

It is also an opportunity for us to continue to forge effective working relationships with the professions, upon whom we rely to both advise their clients and to report suspected wrongdoing to us. We are particularly delighted to welcome our guests from the UK, with whom we look forward to continuing to deepen and strengthen our relationships.

I would like to welcome all those who will attend the conference today and to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to be here in the King's Inns. They will leave having benefitted from the expertise and insights of our distinguished speakers and from the opportunity to connect with other leaders from a variety of backgrounds.'

ENDS//

**CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY
17 OCTOBER 2024**

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA)

The CEA is Ireland's company law enforcement agency. The CEA's functions include to:

- encourage compliance with the Companies Act 2014,
- investigate instances of suspected breaches of the Companies Act 2014,
- take appropriate enforcement action in response to identified breaches of company law,
- supervise the activities of liquidators of insolvent companies, and
- operate a regime of restriction and disqualification in respect of directors of insolvent companies.

The CEA discharges its mandate to encourage compliance with company law through a range of activities, including developing and publishing accessible guidance materials and through its outreach activities.

The CEA's enforcement remit is both civil and criminal in nature and, in discharging that mandate, the CEA has at its disposal an extensive suite of statutory powers including:

- the power to require the production of documents, including electronic documents, by companies and relevant third parties,
- powers of search and seizure,
- the power of arrest, i.e., by CEA officers who are seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and
- powers to request the courts to order certain additional investigative measures.

The CEA is a multi-disciplinary agency whose staff complement includes, amongst others, accounting and legal professionals, seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and digital forensics experts.

Conference speakers

Speakers at the conference will include:

- Dara Calleary, TD, Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Digital Transformation
- Mr Justice Brian Murray, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland
- James B. Dwyer, Senior Counsel
- Cliona Kimber, Senior Counsel

- Declan Hughes, Secretary General, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
- Sinead Donovan, Chair and Partner, Grant Thornton Ireland
- Derarca Dennis, Assurance Partner and Sustainability Services Lead, EY Ireland
- Henry Matthews, Head of Special Financial Crime Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions,
- Dean Beale, Chief Executive Officer, UK Insolvency Service
- Dave Magrath, Director of Investigations and Enforcement Services, UK Insolvency Service, and
- Emma Luxton, Interim Chief Operating Officer, UK Serious Fraud Office.

Further information

The CEA's most recent Annual Report is available [here](#).

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