

Statement in response to the appointment of 12 members
to the new National Science Advice Forum

26 February 2026

Irish Humanities Alliance



We note the important announcement on 24 Feb 2026 by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, of the appointment of [12 members to the new National Science Advice Forum](#).

[Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy](#) set out the intention to develop a new science advice structure across Government. In the first key step towards implementing a new structure Professor Aoife McLysaght was appointed as Government Science Advisor in January 2025.

Given the 'cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary advisory needs' it was agreed that Prof. McLysaght would lead the establishment of a National Science Advice Forum to assist in providing advice and in developing science advice capacity across Government.

On 26 September 2025, this [invitation for expressions of interest](#) was published noting that the forum will be comprised of specialists who can advise the Government Science Advisor on 'quality science that can contribute to the issues at hand.' The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) welcomed this call which notably included expressions of interest from humanities academics and practitioners.

While we welcome the scope within this significant Forum for valuable expertise in the Social Sciences, we note with disappointment the absence of any provision for membership by experts from the Humanities whose knowledge, insight, and participation are crucial.

In the view of the IHA, the National Science Advice Forum would be greatly enhanced by Humanities involvement. IHA thematic [Working Groups](#) provide prime evidence of how climate change and health and wellbeing research need arts and humanities approaches. There are no areas of major scientific challenge (from pandemic preparedness to AI and technological innovation) where the work of the Forum would not benefit from Humanities input.

The IHA calls on the Government Science Advisor to recognise the value of the Arts and Humanities, in dialogue and partnership with scientific and technological research.

Further information

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