

# Brexit Breakfast

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

7.45a.m. - 10.00a.m.

Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny

**Keynote speaker – An Tánaiste Simon Coveney T.D.,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade with responsibility for Brexit**



Mr. Coveney holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture and Land Management from The Royal Agriculture College, Gloucestershire. He was appointed Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Brexit on 30 November 2017. Previous Ministerial Appointments include Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Brexit on 14 June 2017; Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on May 6th 2016; Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food on March 9th 2011 and Minister for Defence on July 11th 2014.

He was elected to the Dáil in 1998 as one of Fine Gael's youngest TD's. Since then, he has also held shadow ministries in the following areas: Drugs and Youth Affairs; Communications, Marine and Natural Resources; Transport and the Marine.

# PANEL DISCUSSION MEMBERS



Chair of Panel

**Jim Power**, Jim Power Economics is a graduate of University College, Dublin with a BA in Economics & Politics, and a Master of Economic Science Degree. During a career within the financial services industry, he has worked as Treasury Economist at AIB Group and Chief Economist at Bank of Ireland Group Treasury and Friends First Group. He writes regular columns in both The Examiner and The Sunday Business Post online edition and contributes to numerous other newspapers and magazines on an occasional basis. He is also a frequent contributor to radio and TV on a variety of different shows.



**Terry Clune**, Founder & CEO - Taxback.com and The Taxback Group. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, Terry formulated the Taxback.com business concept while working in Germany as a student. Terry found himself paying about 50-60% tax in Germany and so he gave up his construction job and started figuring out how to get that tax back. Back in Ireland Terry used college computers at night to process tax refund applications for his friends and other students. The service was a hit and when Terry graduated he employed three staff and opened a small in office in Dublin. This was the start of rapid expansion and development of additional services for a diverse range of clients. The Taxback Group has a global presence of 32 offices in 24 countries.



**Michael Collins** - Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Connolly's RED MILLS. Michael trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with PwC in the South East, before spending time with the firm in Dublin and New Zealand. From there he moved into the food industry, worked with the Dawn Meats Group for 13 years in the role of Group Financial Controller and joined Connolly's RED MILLS as CFO in 2008. RED MILLS, established in 1908, is a family business in its fifth generation which specialises in the manufacture of animal feed, supplement solutions and healthcare products. Operating out of its manufacturing plants in Kilkenny & Dublin, the business currently exports its equine and pet products to over 50 countries worldwide.



**Ann-Marie McSorley**: CEO & Founder of Award Winning Veri. Ann-Marie has a Bachelor Degree in Science Management from DIT and over 15 years work experience in the education training sector as a trainer and management consultant. She held key training management positions in Northern Ireland Public Service, NSPCC Education & in various consultancy roles with Peter Quinn Consultants. In 2008, she created a training company, iResource on returning to her native Kilkenny. Identifying the problem and associate costs of paperwork for demanding legislation around quality standards, in 2016 Ann-Marie established her software company VERI. Winner of the Google Adopt-a-Start-up competition in 2017, Veri embarked on a funding round and secured €225,000, half from a private investor and half from Enterprise Ireland, which identified it as a High Potential Startup.



**Damian McDonald**, Director General, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) in January 2017. Damian holds an MA in Economics from UCD and a Degree in Economics and Mathematics also from UCD. Damian was appointed Director General of IFA in January 2017. Prior to this he was Chief Executive Officer of Horse Sport Ireland, the Governing Body for the sport horse sector. He was Chief Executive Officer of Macra na Feirme from 2001 to 2007. He has previously been a member of the Governing Body of the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and of the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB).



**Susan Maher**, Agricultural Development Manager with Bank of Ireland covering the Leinster Region. She is from a strong farming family and qualified with an Agricultural Science degree from UCD in 1999. She has 19 yrs banking experience as both an agri underwriter and as an agri business developer. She joined Bank of Ireland in April 2013 as Agricultural Development Manager with responsibility for supporting the agricultural sector for the Leinster Region. In this role she is actively involved in facilitating farmers to develop and grow their businesses with the support of Bank of Ireland. She has also been closely involved in the role out of the Banks agri recruitment strategy in Leinster. In addition, Susan's role also involves on-going engagement with all other sector stakeholders, IFAC, IFA, Teagasc, Co- Operatives etc. as well as intermediaries across the Leinster Region.