



Paul McGowan Appointed as New Chairperson of the Commission for Energy Regulation

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Paul McGowan as the new Chairperson of the Commission.

Dr. McGowan, who is currently the lead Commissioner with responsibility for Energy Safety and Water Regulation, has been a member of the Commission since 2013. Prior to becoming a Commissioner, he held a number of roles in the CER, including the Director of Energy Safety and Director of All Island Energy Markets, having previously worked in the offshore oil & gas, education and construction sectors.

McGowan will succeed Commissioner Garrett Blaney in the role, who has been Chairperson of the CER since February 2014 and a member of the Commission since 2010.

The CER will continue to be led by three Commissioners, with each Commissioner taking a lead responsibility in a particular area. The Commission will continue to consist of Commissioner Paul McGowan (Chairperson), Commissioner Garrett Blaney and Commissioner Aoife McEvelly, with no significant changes to the current areas of responsibility.

Commenting on his time in the role, Commissioner Garrett Blaney said: *“It has been my great pleasure to chair this organisation over the last three years. The areas of energy and water regulation have seen significant changes and challenges during my time and my task has been made so much easier by the dedication of the staff across the organisation. I would like to offer my congratulations to Paul in his new role as Chair and I look forward to supporting him in any way possible.”*

The new Chairperson of the CER, Dr Paul McGowan, said: *“I would firstly like to thank Garrett for the positive contribution that he has made in the role of Chairperson and his support to the work of the CER over the last three years. I look forward to continuing to work with both Garret and Aoife MacEvelly, as well as the rest of the management and staff of the CER, in delivering on the ambitious work plan for the Commission in continuing to protect the interests of consumers in the water, energy and energy safety sectors.”*