

Just Transition Commission

Minutes of Fourth Meeting

15 May 2025

**Department of Environment, Climate and Communications,
Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin 4**

1. Attendees

Commission Members:

- Ali Sheridan Chair
- Conor Minogue
- Dr Diarmuid Torney
- Michelle Murphy
- Oisín Coghlan
- Tanya Ward
- Vanessa Kiely O'Connor
- Dr Evan Boyle

Secretariat (Department of Environment, Climate and Communications)

- Caroline Lyons
- Greta Szabo
- Michael Keegan
- Rónán Stokes
- Conor Reynolds

Apologies:

- Seamus Boland
- Ryan McKinney
- Suresh Kumar

External Invitees:

- Dr John Fitzgerald, Trinity College Dublin
- Fionn Jenkinson, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
- David Owens, Department of Finance
- Conor Ó Raghdhaigh, Department of the Taoiseach
- Niall Farrell, The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
- JP Corkery, National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)
- Meaghan Carmody, Business in the Community
- Dr Matt Kennedy, IDA Ireland
- Dominic Schone, Enterprise Ireland
- Gillian Power, International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE)
- Deirdre Mortell, Rethink Ireland
- Bernie Roe, Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)
- Karen Somers, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Alana Ryan, Pobal

- Melanie Steinhardt, Community Foundation Ireland (CFI)
- Helen Mulhall, Kildare County Council
- Liam Quinn, Water Area Partnership

2. Welcome and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chair acknowledged the departure of Frank Maughan from the Secretariat and welcomed new head of function, Caroline Lyons. Chair and Members adopted the minutes of the third meeting of the Commission in March 2025.

Chair outlined that the priority of the meeting would be a discussion on the financing of a just transition, including presentations followed by roundtable discussions and reflections. The Commission would be listening to a wide range of views on sharing the costs of a just transition.

Chair briefed the Commission on events attended since the last meeting.

Since the last meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) and the Commission has been signed and has been published on the Commission's website. A meeting with the CCAC is envisaged later this year.

Secretariat met with the International Climate Councils Network, which draws together climate councils from around the world with mandates to advise governments on climate policy. The secretariat also met with the Secretariat to the Scottish Just Transition Commission to discuss its recently published report on just transition indicators. The Secretariat will also engage with counterparts in the Secretariat to the Northern Ireland Just Transition Commission in coming weeks. The Commission expressed an interest in engaging with IHREC – initial contact had been made by Secretariat earlier in the year.

Preparations have commenced for the meetings with representatives of the agriculture sector scheduled in September.

3. Introductory Report and Discussion

Chair and Members discussed the draft Introductory Report of the Commission, reviewing and agreeing its content. Point was raised regarding publishing a child-friendly version (14–17-year-olds) of the report, as well as accounting for other accommodations for accessibility.

4. Finance Presentations

One of the pillars of the just transition framework is equity and cost-sharing, to ensure that existing inequalities are not exacerbated as we transition to climate neutrality. This pillar and the need for social dialogue provided the framework to the Commission's exploration of current approaches to financing a green and just transition.

Chair provided a brief summary of a just transition and the work of the Commission to stakeholders, followed by presentations by David Owens, Principal Officer for Climate Finance and Sustainable Finance, Department of Finance, on the central budget; Dr John Fitzgerald, adjunct professor of

economics at Trinity College Dublin on Decarbonising Ireland: What is the cost and who pays?; and by Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland on their role as social innovation fund.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A.

5. Roundtables

Attendees explored the topic of financing a just transition and cost sharing in three groups. Groups were divided up according to three levels of actions: national; intermediary (private-public cooperation); and local levels of action, to discuss three core questions centring on the enablers, tools and costs associated with our just transition:

- Do we know enough to finance the climate transition in a fair way—or are there gaps that exist? What assumptions are we making?
- How can we fairly allocate the costs of the climate transition across different actors while ensuring vulnerable communities are protected?
- What policy, financial, or institutional enablers or tools can unlock more effective and equitable just transition financing?

Reflections and main takeaways were presented by each group in a plenary session.

6. JTC Internal Session

The Commission expressed its thanks for the different perspectives provided by those who attended. It was acknowledged that time allocations will be reviewed for future roundtables to allow for more in-depth exploration of these complex issues. There is an appetite to revisit the question of financing through the ongoing work of the Commission.

7. Actions:

Secretariat

- Compile reflections and inputs to roundtables. Chair and secretariat to compile notes on the roundtables and circulate to commissioners for input/agreement.
- Chair and secretariat to continue work on the introductory report with mid-June for publication date.
- Secretariat to progress engagements with Northern Ireland and IHREC

Chair & Members

- Chair requested input from members into the necessary research on the workforce impact brief.
- Sign-off on the Commission's Introductory Report.