



Emily O'Reilly

National Ombudsman of Ireland

National Information Commissioner of Ireland

Ombudsman agus Coimisinéir Faisnéise na h'Éireann

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Curriculum Vitae

Emily O'Reilly is currently the **National Ombudsman** and the **National Information Commissioner of Ireland**. She was appointed by the President of Ireland to both positions in 2003 and was re-appointed for a further six-year term in 2009. On both occasions she received the support of every political party and every independent member of the Irish Parliament (Oireachtas).

She is an active and high-profile member of the global and **European Ombudsman and Information Commissioner** networks and has delivered papers, advice and seminars on the future of both institutions throughout the world including South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, the United States and also throughout Europe.

Ms O'Reilly served as the **first Irish Chairperson of the British and Irish Ombudsman Association** (now The Ombudsman Association) between 2007 and 2009.

Her high profile and proactive tenure in office has led to **significant reforms in critical areas of public administration** including a major expansion of remit, far reaching and progressive proposed amendments to freedom of information legislation, and enhanced engagement with parliament through the creation of a dedicated parliamentary committee.

Under her tenure, the role of the Ombudsman has been significantly expanded to include a key role in the protection of **people with disabilities**.

In 2007, Ms O'Reilly was appointed Ireland's first **Commissioner for Environmental Information**.

She serves on the **Irish Commissions on Standards in Public Office, Public Service Appointments, Constituencies, and Referendums**.

As a member of the Standards in Public Office Commission **she supervises electoral and ethics legislation** including the investigation of complaints under the relevant acts.

As a member of the **Referendum Commission** she was involved in the creation and implementation of impartial public information campaigns for the Irish referendums on the Treaty of Lisbon and the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union.

A former political editor, broadcaster and author, her career attracted significant domestic and international recognition including a **Harvard University Fellowship** in 1988 and multiple national awards. She has written three critically acclaimed books on Irish politics and media and is a current member of the International Advisory Board of Harvard's Nieman Foundation.

She was conferred with an **Honorary Doctorate in Laws** by the National University in Ireland in 2008 for her work in promoting **human rights** throughout her career.

She is a graduate of University College Dublin with a Degree in European Languages and Literature (1979) and holds a Graduate Diploma in Education from Trinity College Dublin (1980).

She has a working command of French, Irish and Spanish.

Born in Tullamore, County Offaly, Ireland on 20 October 1957, she is married with 5 children.