

**The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015**  
**Designated Public Officials - Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

The [Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015](#) provides that the Standards in Public Office Commission will establish and maintain an online Register of lobbying activity. [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie). The purpose of the Register is to make information available to the public on the identity of those communicating with designated public officials on specific policy, legislative matters or prospective decisions. Lobbyists must report on their interactions with the Designated Public Officials.

Section 6(4) of the Act requires each public body to publish a list of designated public officials of the body. The purpose of the list is twofold:

1. To allow members of the public identify those persons who are designated public officials;  
and
2. As a resource for lobbyists filing a return to the Register who may need to source a designated public official's details.

The Designated Public Officials of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General are:

**Mr Andrew Harkness** - Secretary and Director of Audit

Andrew is the Accounting Officer for the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and is accountable to Dáil Éireann and the C&AG for the general administration of the Office including finance and budgeting, human resources, ICT and facilities, corporate strategy, corporate reporting and partnership.

Andrew is also responsible for

- the appropriation account audits of central government departments and offices, the audit of the Finance accounts, and financial sector audits
- reporting on the social protection and financial sectors
- exchequer control.

He is a qualified accountant with over 25 years experience in public audit.

**Ms Patricia Sheehan** - Director of Audit

Patricia is responsible for

- financial audits in the semi state, health and enterprise sectors
- reporting on the health sector.

Patricia also has responsibility for the management of the contracting of audit and the Office's technical and training unit. Patricia is a qualified accountant with over 20 years experience in public audit and holds a masters degree from Trinity College Dublin in economic policy studies.

**Ms Colette Drinan** - Director of Audit

Colette is responsible for

- reporting across the public sector including value for money examinations (other than health, social protection and financial sectors)

- financial audits of revenue and education sectors.

She is also responsible for report publication, reporting standards and international relations.

She qualified as an accountant in 2001. She has experience in audit practice and formerly held a number of management roles in financial institution supervision in the Central Bank of Ireland. She holds a masters degree in accountancy from Smurfit School of Business, UCD.