The Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards

Ken McGrath, head of public sector at Three Ireland, presenting the Best ICT Project of the Year Award - Public Sector to the team from An Garda Síochána *Pictures Maura Hickey*

Aislinn Gannon, client director of 4OC presents Bhavesh Patadiya of Clare County Council with his award

Barry Lowry, Government CIO, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Cormac Deady, consulting partner & head of government & public sector at KPMG

Government CIO wins lifetime award

The Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards were held at the Round Room of the Mansion House on Thursday, October 10.

Hosted by broadcaster Ivan Yates, the awards recognised and celebrated excellence and innovation in the delivery of public sector digital transformation. They showcased cutting-edge technologies and innovative approaches that have made a real impact, improved service delivery, and enhanced citizen experiences. The evening was attended by over 400 guests and the diverse range of categories and organisations shortlisted highlighted transformation using big data, AI, cloud technology, health technology and sustainable innovation to name a few.

The awards were judged by panel of industry experts including:
- Aislinn Gannon, client director, 4OC
- Allan Chapman, managing director, Comit Communications
- Brendan Ring, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Bronagh Riordan, chair of industry steering board of CeADAR and member of Ireland's AI Advisory Council
- Cathal Lee, senior adviser in Government Affairs, Strategy and Corporate Affairs
- Dr Fred Creedon, lecturer and programme director, MTU
- Jakub Christoph, CEPIS and ITPE secretary general
- James Louttit, founder, Impactful Project Management

As well as the 15 nominated awards, the judging panel also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award to a seasoned leader in the industry worthy of distinct acknowledgement.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was Barry Lowry, Government chief information officer, Office of the Government CIO, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. Barry has been a lifelong public servant and has worked in government in a variety of roles for more than 40 years. He began his career in Northern Ireland Civil Service. In April 2016, Barry became the chief information officer for the Irish government. In this role, his focus is on developing the government's digital agenda to better serve the people of Ireland and ensuring that Ireland is well placed to influence and exemplify the EU's digital ambitions. The judges noted that Barry has revolutionised the culture of digital government in Ireland and continues to

be a driving force in the digital transformation of the Irish public service, making the Office of the Government CIO one of the key enablers of transformation across the civil and public service today.

The second Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards were organised by iQuest & Business Post with KPMG as Platinum Sponsor. Cormac Deady, consulting partner and head of government and public sector at KPMG said: "We are

enthusiastic about acknowledging excellence and innovation in driving digital transformation within the public sector. The advancement of digitalisation within Ireland's public service is set to revolutionise interactions among citizens, businesses and policymakers.

"This transformation is already helping with greater interoperability across all government and public service levels, ultimately bringing societal and economic benefits along with enhancing citizen experience.

"These awards provide an excellent platform to showcase the remarkable accomplishments of public sector organisations, teams and individuals who have played a pivotal role in advancing digital transformation across Ireland."

The awards category sponsors included HP/Datapac, Vodafone, Storm, Three, Target Integration and Version 1. Award partners on the event were Dublin Chamber, ICS – Irish Computer Society, Innovation Value Institute, Ireland's Blue Book and the charity partner was Goal.

Winners of the Best Use of Cloud in Digital Transformation Award were the HSE Technology & Transformation team including John Kelly, InterSystems Ireland, Pauline Fitzgerald, programme manager SCS-CMS, technology & transformation and James Ormonde, InterSystems UKI.

Winners announced on the night:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award Sponsored by KPMG**
  Barry Lowry, Government CIO, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
- **Best Community Engagement**
  Meath County Council
- **Best Use of Open Source Technology**
  HSE Social Inclusion & Open Plan IT & Maynooth University
- **Outstanding Contribution to Planet Earth**
  Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- **Rising IT Star in the Public Sector**
  Bhavesh Patadiya, Clare County Council
- **AI Innovation of the Year**
  Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
- **Most Collaborative Public Sector Project**
  Innovation Value Institute, Maynooth University
- **Best ICT Project of the Year - Education Sector**
  Education Authority Northern Ireland (EAConnect)
- **Best ICT Project of the Year - Public Sector**
  An Garda Síochána
- **HealthTech Innovation of the Year**
  Tallaght University Hospital (TUH)
- **Digital Skills or Talent Initiative of the Year**
  Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform
- **Best Citizen/Customer Experience**
  Education Authority Northern Ireland
- **Best Use of Cloud in Digital Transformation**
  HSE Technology & Transformation
- **Data Innovation of the Year**
  Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- **Digital Leader of the Year in the Public Sector**
  Fintan Brady, An Garda Síochána
- **Security & Privacy Team of the Year in the Public Sector**
  Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Judges Choice Awards

- **ESB Networks (Online Account)**
- **Health Service Executive (Single Sign-On)**

Mike Burns of Aidoc Medical; Karl Flannery, CEO, Storm Technology; Erin Daly and Paul Banahan, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital with the award for Most Collaborative Public Sector Project

Dr Natalie Cole, Sinéad Gill and Marie Egan of Innovate Health at Tallaght University Hospital receiving the HealthTech Innovation of the Year Award from Marguerite Clarke of Version 1 with Una Kearns of myPatientSpace

Rory Timlin, partner, management consulting with KPMG presenting the Data Innovation of the Year Award to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine team

Brendan Ring, National Cyber Security Centre, Department of Communications presenting the Digital Skills or Talent Initiative of the Year to representatives of the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform

Rohit Thakral, CEO of Target Integration presents the award for Most Collaborative Public Sector Project to Prof Martin Curley, director of the Digital Health Ecosystem at the Innovation Value Institute