

International Women's Day 2026 Breakfast Event
"Give to Gain: Leading with Generosity to Accelerate Gender Equality"
Mezzanine, Belfast Grand Central Station, Belfast.

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival, Registration & Breakfast

Informal networking

09:00 – 09:10 | Welcome & Introductions

Catherine Shannon, Deputy Secretary, Department of Finance
Why give to gain matters now for Northern Ireland's leadership landscape

09:10 – 09:25 | Keynote Address

Margaret Sweeney - Senior Advisor to The Consello Group and a highly respected and experienced Independent Non-Executive Director serving on the Boards of Bank of Ireland Group plc and New Ireland Assurance.
"Generous Leadership: How Giving Transforms Organisations"

09:25 – 10:15 | Table Group Conversations (facilitated)

- Round 1 - What Giving Looks Like in NI Today
 - Round 2 - Generous Leadership Behaviours
 - Round 3 - Commitments that Multiply Impact
- Each attendee completes a short "Give to Gain Commitment Card" capturing 1 organisational and 1 personal action.*

10:15 – 10:30 | Closing Remarks

Jayne Brady - Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
"Gender equality accelerates when leaders give deliberately - time, trust, opportunity. The gain belongs to all of us."

10:30 – 11:00 | Photos and Networking

"Giving is not a loss - it is investment. A society that gives women safety, space, resources, and voice gains stability, creativity, and prosperity in return."

Yours sincerely,
Jayne Brady
Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service