

# Greg Dempsey

Nationality : Irish

## Profile

An experienced Senior Executive with a strong finance background. Extensive experience in strategic leadership of complex businesses gained over 25 years in roles such as Chief Finance and Operating Officer in Department of Finance, CFO of Zurich Bank, Deputy Secretary in Department of Health, and currently CEO of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

A strong communicator, with the ability to collaborate and work effectively with colleagues and stakeholders. Significant programme management and business planning experience, complemented by problem solving and analytical skills.

Track record in delivering results, with strong personal drive and a commitment to public service values. Proven record of achievement in driving organisational reform and change. Excellent interpersonal skills with a focus on personnel and team development. ACCA qualified with a BSc in Financial Information Systems from Trinity College.

## Career History

### **Food Safety Authority of Ireland                      2025 – to date** **Chief Executive Officer**

- **Strategic Leadership:** Direct national food safety strategy and policy implementation, aligning with EU and international standards.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** Oversee enforcement of food law through collaboration with official agencies (e.g., HSE, DAFM, Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority).
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Act as the primary liaison between government departments, the food industry, consumer groups, and EU agencies.
- **Risk Management:** Lead national food safety risk assessment, surveillance, and incident response systems.
- **Public Communication:** Represent the FSAI in media and public forums, communicating science-based guidance and regulatory updates.
- **Governance & Compliance:** Ensure the Authority meets legislative obligations, corporate governance standards, and performance metrics.
- **Organisational Development:** Direct operational planning, budgeting, and HR strategy to ensure a high-performing, agile organisation.
- **Innovation & Research:** Champion science-based decision-making, supporting research and data-driven food safety initiatives.

## **Department of Health**

**2015 – 2025**

*The Department of Health's role is to provide strategic leadership for the health service and to ensure that Government policies are translated into actions and implemented effectively.*

### **Head of Corporate Affairs / Deputy Secretary General**

Member of the Management Board, with specific responsibility for oversight of HSE Governance and performance, and the Department's corporate affairs, including governance, risk management, legal, business planning and ICT functions.

- Developed and embedded a Risk Management Framework for the Department, including implementation of a risk management system
- Established the HSE Board, and developed an oversight agreement with the HSE, supporting improved performance and accountability
- Developed a national Health System Performance Assessment Framework, which allows users to monitor impact of investment and activity on health outcomes. The framework is being used by other EU countries as a model for the development of their own frameworks
- Led the development and implementation of the national €300m Waiting lists Plan 2022, which is reducing the number of individuals waiting and reforming permanently how we manage waiting lists.
- Negotiated and managed agreements with the Private Hospital Association which provided capacity to the State during the Covid crisis
- Additionally, I have delivered a number of major policy initiatives, including the Cervical Check Tribunal and the Covid Death in Service Scheme
- Member of the Office of Government Procurement Reform Board, which is overseeing a programme of transformation in government procurement and spending

### **Head of Finance / Assistant Secretary**

- Member of Management Board
- Implementing a revised operating model for the finance function in the Department, reflecting the Department's extended responsibilities and ambitions.
- Negotiation of the Health budget – over €13bn in 2017. Collaboration with HSE to improve process, such that rationale and evidence for funding is more comprehensive and understandable.

- Successfully negotiated the annual National Service Plan with the HSE, including value improvement initiatives.
- Development of the department's oversight role of HSE financial performance, with a focus on identifying key drivers of financial performance.
- Built capability to support the health service in achieving value, including Activity Based Funding, commissioning models and structures
- Strategic negotiation and management of Multi Annual Capital Budget
- Developed a Business Planning and Programme Management function to support planning and reform delivery

## **Department Of Finance**

**2013 – 2015**

*The Department of Finance is responsible for Fiscal Policy, Public Finance, including production of the annual Budget, Economic policy and policy for Banking and Financial Services*

### **Chief Finance & Operating Officer / Assistant Secretary**

Responsible for the Department's finance and operations, including ICT. This included:

- Membership of Management Board
- Monitoring and reporting of Ireland's fiscal position, including preparation of exchequer returns, finance accounts, annual budget and multi-year forecasts
- Leadership of project to improve transparency of Ireland's fiscal reporting
- Development and implementation of ICT strategy for the Department
- Responsible for a project to develop a Financial Shared Service system for all government departments

## **Central Bank of Ireland**

**2011- to 2013**

*The Central Bank of Ireland is the financial services regulator of Ireland and the traditional central bank, with responsibility for financial stability.*

### **Head of Special Resolution**

Newly created role to build a team of professionals to operationalise the Central Bank's functions under the Central Bank Credit Institutions Resolution Act. This included

- Determine operating model and team structure for the unit, recruiting appropriate professionals and establishing arrangement with external providers. Successfully undertook the first action under the legislation
- Develop internal policies relating to resolution and crisis management, and contribute to international policy development via membership of EBA working groups and attendance at EU commission steering groups

- Deputy Chair of European Council Working Group which successfully negotiated agreement of the Bank Resolution Directive during Ireland's EU presidency
- Contributed to Central Bank strategy proposition for the Credit Union sector

## **Zurich Bank, part of Zurich Financial Services      2000- to 2011**

### **Chief Executive Officer: Oct 2005 – June 2011**

Overall responsibility for the strategic leadership and business development of the bank, while ensuring that we met all our regulatory and statutory obligations through a strong governance and risk environment

#### **Business development -**

- Premium Finance – developed a centre of excellence within Zurich and secured a number of contracts with Brokers and insurance companies
- Global Hedging Unit – created the infrastructure for the provision of hedging strategies to Zurich companies
- Fund Management – worked with local CEO to provide fund management services in Jersey
- Hired a team of lenders in Dublin to replicate our existing UK lending operations in Ireland

#### **Achievements**

- Brought together a number of regulated entities from within the Zurich Group to form a legal banking group organised such as to make most efficient use of the tax and regulatory regimes within which the banks operated. This included developing a new governance framework for the new group.
- In 2006, structured a regulatory solution whereby the bank could hold and fund alternative assets with minimal risk.
- Secured ZFS mandate to enter a strategic partnership with a large UK financial institution.
- In 2009, successfully lobbied the ZFS group to ensure Ireland was chosen as location for new global cash-pooling entity.
- Managed the bank through the turmoil in the markets during the financial crisis

### **Financial Controller: 2000 - 2015**

#### **Responsibilities**

- Production of management, statutory and regulatory reports for the banking group (four entities, assets of £2Bn), and under an SLA, the production of IAS and US GAAP financial statements for the legacy Zurich Capital Markets Group, which had over 78 entities and a balance sheet of \$US 4Bn.

- Key project work over the period included implementing a new treasury system, a new retail banking system and a general ledger.
- Consideration of regulatory and accounting treatment of complex structured transactions, to ensure most efficient capital consumption.
- Promote Zurich Bank within the Zurich Capital Markets group, emphasising the benefits of a regulated entity for housing transactions.

### **Achievements**

- I represented finance on the team which successfully applied for and received a bank licence from the Central Bank and was responsible for building up the accounting function and putting in place the reporting framework and controls for the new bank.
- In 2002, I lobbied successfully to ensure that Zurich Bank would be the centre to manage the ZCM legacy business and oversaw the successful transition of this portfolio of structured products from New York and London.
- In 2004 I led a campaign which saw Dublin being chosen as the centre of excellence for the ZFS group treasury operations, including front office dealing and risk management.

### **Irish Permanent**

**1997 - 2000**

#### **Manager – Financial Accounting**

#### **Responsibilities**

- Day-to-day management of the Financial Accounting area which was responsible for the bank's regulatory and statutory reporting. This involved the production of accounts for the parent and for smaller subsidiaries, the translation of foreign subsidiaries and the consolidation of the group companies.

### **Irish Life Assurance plc**

**1986 - 1996**

#### **Manager – Financial Accounting**

- Member of accounting team responsible for preparation of financial and management information for the pensions division of Irish Life.

### **Education and Professional Development**

- 1990 Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
- 1994 BSc in Financial Information Systems – Trinity College
- 2014 Diploma in Strategic Project Management
- 2015 Senior Public Service Leadership challenge
- 2014 Senior Public Service Executive Leadership programme