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NEWSLETTER

INDEPENDENT SENATOR GERARD CRAUGHWELL



*Senator Gerard
Craughwell & family*

*Wishing you a joyful
Christmas filled with peace,
warmth, and cherished
moments. May the season of
goodwill inspire kindness,
unity, and hope, and may the
coming year bring prosperity
and fulfilment.*

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
December 2025*

In Retrospect 2025

**European Chamber of Ireland Evening
at Leinster House – Wednesday, 26th
November 2025. European Chamber of
Ireland Relaunch**

The European Chamber of Ireland was re-activated after its pause during the Covid-19 pandemic. Senator Gerard Craughwell had accepted the role of Patron, while Jack Golden was welcomed as President to guide the Chamber's renewed mission.

Established in 2013, the Chamber had supplemented the work of bi-lateral Chambers of Commerce and played an active role during Brexit negotiations. With global trade facing turbulence, the relaunch was seen as an opportunity to strengthen economic growth and collaboration across Europe.

Importantly, the occasion was marked by its presence of Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD who delivered an insightful speech in Leinster House, highlighting Ireland's role in European trade and the importance of renewed collaboration. His remarks underscored the Chamber's potential to act as a bridge between policymakers and businesses, ensuring that Ireland's voice remains strong in shaping Europe's economic future.

After quiet years, the relaunch marked a chance to reconnect, share perspectives, and refresh European-Irish business collaboration.

Autumn ED. 2025

11.11.2025 Inauguration of Catherine Connolly as President of Ireland.

Senators joined dignitaries today at Dublin Castle for the inauguration of Catherine Connolly as Ireland's 10th President, marking a moment of solemn unity and democratic continuity.

As November light filtered through the stained glass of St Patrick's Hall, Senator Gerard Craughwell sat among dignitaries, attuned of the gravity of the occasion. President Catherine Connolly's inaugural address, invoking neutrality, climate justice, and the Irish language, was not merely political rhetoric but a call to conscience, echoing past debates in the Seanad and Ireland's long pursuit of self-governance.

Her oath in Irish stirred quiet pride, symbolizing both continuity and progress. The presence of former presidents, party leaders, and representatives from across the island underscored the ceremony's weight.

The inauguration was more than a transfer of office; it was a reaffirmation of Ireland's democratic soul. As the Air Corps passed overhead and the Guard of Honour stood firm, the Senator's thoughts turned to the future: to the work ahead, the voices yet to be heard, and the promise of a presidency that listens, reflects, and unites.



Senator Gerard Craughwell was invited to the launch of a new Executive Education initiative on Cyber awareness, '**Cybersecurity for Healthcare Managers**', on Mon, 10 Nov 2025, in the Boardroom, University of Galway's Research and Innovation Centre.

The event was formally launched by Mr. James Lawless, T.D., Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

Developed by the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics at the University of Galway, and co-delivered with EY, this initiative is designed specifically for professionals in healthcare management. It provides practical, actionable guidance on cybersecurity for individuals with managerial or team-leading responsibilities within large healthcare organisations. The programme aims to enhance managerial understanding of cybersecurity management, enabling participants to develop and adapt tailored cybersecurity strategies as the digital landscape continues to evolve.



Celebrating Excellence at the First German Irish Business Gala, 2025

The inaugural German Irish Business Gala, hosted by the German Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce, took place on 7th November 2025 at the elegant InterContinental Hotel in Dublin, marking a new chapter in bilateral business relations between Germany and Ireland.



The evening gathered leaders from Ireland and Germany to celebrate innovation and collaboration. Key speakers, including German Ambassador H.E. David Gill and DIHK Board Member Dr. Volker Treier, highlighted the growing partnership between the two nations. The highlight was the inaugural German Irish Business Award 2025, presented to ESB for their HYreland project. This initiative is pioneering a green hydrogen ecosystem in Ireland, advancing the energy transition, and laying the foundation for future hydrogen exports to Europe.

An independent jury - comprising Ambassador David Gill, Irish Senator Gerard Craughwell, and Chamber President Joe Walsh - was tasked with selecting the winner from a competitive field of nominees. Their collective expertise ensured a fair and thoughtful evaluation process, reflecting the values and aspirations of both business communities

At Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) A M Hart OBE | The Regimental Secretary invitation, Senator Craughwell was honoured to attend **the Annual Service of Remembrance** held at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday, 2 November. The solemn ceremony paid tribute to all those who served in Irish Infantry Regiments, acknowledging their courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy.

The Senator joined fellow dignitaries, veterans, and members of the public in reflection and gratitude, reaffirming the importance of remembrance and unity across communities. The service served as a poignant reminder of the shared history and commitment to peace. Senator Craughwell expressed deep respect for all who served and those who continue to uphold the values of service and duty.

On 17 October, Commodore Arjen S. Warnaar, Commander of Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1), through H.E. Mrs. Florence Enschedé, Ambassador of Luxembourg and NATO Contact Point in Ireland, invited Senator Craughwell to a reception aboard HNLMS Johan de Witt.

SNMG1, comprising HNLMS Johan de Witt (Netherlands) and FGS Hamburg (Germany), visited Dublin from 17–20 October 2025. The ships conducted joint manoeuvring and communication exercises with the Irish Naval Service, underscoring NATO's commitment to interoperability and cooperation with Ireland. NATO's Allied Maritime Command highlighted the visit as part of its broader engagement programme, reinforcing a continuous maritime presence and strengthening partnerships with non-member nations in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The 67th British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Plenary Conference, 12-14 October 2025, Ireland's Defence Debate Heats Up at British-Irish Assembly

At the Assembly in Surrey, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom and former Taoiseach department Secretary General, Martin Fraser warned that Europe faces growing instability, urging Ireland to strengthen its defence and cybersecurity. Independent Senator Gerard Craughwell echoed concerns, criticising Ireland's low defence spending amid UK accusations of "freeloading." With rising threats like election interference and global fragmentation, Ireland must confront hard questions about neutrality, preparedness, and its role in Europe's security.



Independent Senators Demand Urgent Investment in Head and Neck Cancer Services Across Ireland - Independent Senator Gerard Craughwell, backed by fellow Independent Senators in the Seanad, tabled a motion on Wednesday, 8 October, calling for immediate and targeted investment in Ireland's head and neck cancer (HNC) treatment infrastructure. The motion followed the passage of Budget 2026 and seek to address long-standing gaps in care by demanding funding for Dublin facilities and the creation of specialised centres in Galway and Cork.

"This is personal," said Senator Craughwell. "My daughter lives with the effects of tongue cancer. This motion is informed by both my family's experience and the expertise of Trinity academics from the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH), who have generously shared their time and insights."

Breast vs. Head and Neck Cancer: A Stark Contrast

Senator Craughwell, in addition, draws attention to the disparity in reconstructive care between breast cancer and head and neck cancer patients. While breast cancer patients benefit from widely available and publicly funded reconstructive options, those with head and neck cancer face fragmented services and limited access to technically demanding flap surgeries - critical for restoring speech, eating, and facial symmetry. These procedures are often complicated by radiation therapy and are not equitably supported across the country.

"This disparity is not just clinical - it's systemic," Craughwell added. "It reflects a failure to prioritise the recovery and dignity of head and neck cancer patients." "While one journey is about reshaping the silhouette, the other is about rebuilding the very tools of human connection. Both are acts of survival, but each tell a different story of resilience."



Since then the Department of Health have confirmed that the promised Head & Neck cancer budget allocation would be available from 2026 onwards.

Business Post Cyber Security Summit took place on Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, in **Croke Park, Dublin**. Senator Craughwell agreed to contribute as panellist to this event. The summit was set to explore cyber strategy and how to secure your organisation's critical assets in an evolving cyber threat landscape and particularly in these turbulent geo-political times.

Topics included: How will the EU Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) impact Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that manufacture or distribute digital products? CRA mandates that these products meet specific cybersecurity requirements throughout their lifecycle, from design to end-of-life. While aiming to enhance digital product security, the CRA poses compliance challenges for SMEs due to its broad scope and technical requirements. The panel discussed these challenges and the potential impact within the SME Sector, along with providing information on how companies can prepare for the act.



Annual Delegate Conference of Association of Garda Superintendents, The President and National Executive of the Association of Garda Superintendents is inviting Senator Craughwell to attend their Annual Delegate Conference banquet held on 24th September 2025.

Chairman of **National Services Day** cordially invited Senator Gerard Craughwell to join in celebrating National Services Day on Saturday 6th September 2025. The event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and a number of Ministers.