

Health Insurance Authority announces Laura Brien as New CEO

10 December 2020: The Health Insurance Authority (HIA) today announced the appointment of Ms Laura Brien as Chief Executive Officer, following the retirement of Mr Don Gallagher this month.

New CEO Laura Brien has over 25 years' experience in the area of regulation across a number of industries. Laura was previously a Director at the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), where she held various roles involving economic regulation, including Water, Compliance and Energy Markets. She was a member of the Bureau of the OECD Network of Economic Regulators. Prior to joining the CRU, she was senior economic advisor to ComReg, the Irish telecommunications regulator, from 2012 to 2014.

Earlier in her career she worked advising utilities, governments and regulators in the energy sector in the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She holds a Commerce degree and a Diploma in Corporate Governance from University College Dublin, Ireland and an M.Phil in Economics from Oxford University, UK.

Speaking at the announcement, **Ms Brien** said:

"This is without doubt a challenging time for both consumers and insurance providers. I look forward to working and engaging with stakeholders from across the industry, to ensure we continue to provide a stable and well-regulated sector which delivers effectively for all consumers."

Mr Gallagher who served as CEO for 6 years, led the HIA through the unprecedented impact of Covid-19 on the private health insurance market in Ireland. Through his time at the HIA, he strengthened the role and remit of the Authority, building relationships with stakeholders and working for the benefit of consumers, providers and policy makers.

Chairperson Sheelagh Malin thanked Mr Gallagher for his time in the HIA and welcomed the incoming CEO saying;

"Don has led the HIA for six highly influential years in the health insurance industry. His vision and determination have improved the sector immeasurably and provided a solid platform for us to take on the challenges that face us today. I am delighted to welcome the appointment of Laura Brien as the new CEO. Laura has a wealth of experience and a proven track record in leadership in a regulatory environment."

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For more information or to arrange an interview with the HIA, contact:

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Health Insurance Authority (HIA)

The role of the HIA is to ensure consumers are aware of their rights and insurers know their responsibilities in relation to health insurance in Ireland. The HIA enables a functioning health insurance market for the benefit of consumers, providers and policy makers that underpins an accessible health service.