



Election 2020 Manifesto

Ireland's digital sector is key to Ireland's success:

- The digital sector accounts for about 13% of Ireland's GDP
- The digital sector will contribute over €40 billion to Ireland's economy in 2020
- The digital sector accounts for 26% of Irish exports
- 9/10 global software, 9/10 US technology and all of the top ten born-on-internet companies have their EU HQs in Ireland



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Priorities for General Election 2020

Education and Skills

Support the priority areas identified in **3rd ICT Skills Action Plan** to increase the number of places available in higher education and to provide alternative pathways into the tech sector.

Implement the **STEM Education Review Policy Statement** in full to promote STEM subjects and to ensure a better gender balance

Education at all levels should **embrace technology** and the opportunities offered by digitalisation.

Competitiveness and Constraints

Ensure capacity in housing, communications, electrical and water **infrastructure** meets future needs

Ireland's **visa and work permit** application processes should be streamlined and resourced to match best in class international standards.

Streamline **planning processes** to secure faster decisions on national infrastructure projects and large-scale developments

Supporting Digitalisation across Ireland and Managing and Protecting Data

Appoint a **Minister of State dedicated solely to Digital Affairs** in the Department of An Taoiseach, with responsibility for coordinating relevant Government policies and programmes across Departments

Ensure full implementation of the **National Cybersecurity Strategy** (NCSS)

Avoid **interruption to data flow and storage capacity** in the event of comprehensive trade deal not being reached with the UK by end of 2020.

Taxation Policy and Investment Support

Support indigenous business through **reform of CGT and EIS** to encourage and reward investment and increase attractiveness of share-based remuneration.

Ensure **digital tax proposals** continue to be progressed through the multilateral OECD framework and a firm stance is taken against the unilateral EU proposals.

R&D supports in digital innovation are adequately resourced and easily accessible to all companies.

“Technology Ireland calls for a Minister of State dedicated solely to Digital Affairs to co-ordinate relevant policies and programmes across government.”

Una Fitzpatrick, Director Technology Ireland