



Heather Cousins

Co-opted Member

Heather holds the post of Deputy Secretary, Operational Policy Group – Investment, in the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland. The group includes responsibility for the finances of the Department, policy and finance responsibility for Higher Education (including Student Finance), for managing European Structural Funds for Northern Ireland and for overseeing the corporate planning and governance arrangements for the Department and Arm's Length Bodies. Prior to May 2016 Heather was Deputy Secretary, Resources in the Department for Employment and Learning from September 2013. Heather held various posts in the Department for Social Development from 2003 to 2013, including Deputy Secretary, Resources and Social Policy Group, Director of Housing and Director of Financial Management and Planning in the Social Security Agency.

Heather is a qualified member of CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) with over 20 years of post qualification financial management experience and has served on the Institute's Council.