

Denis Naughten TD

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Education:

- BSc (Hons) Industrial Microbiology with Chemistry & Statistics University College Dublin 1991-95
- Research laboratory assistant 1995
- PhD candidate in Food Science at University College Cork, Ireland 1995-1997

Political Career:

- **Member of the House of Representatives (Dáil Éireann) 1997 to date:**
 - Participated in many parliamentary initiatives promoting science & technology within Parliament as well as with parliamentary colleagues across Europe, North America & Africa.
 - Presented a number of lectures to both Irish & International researchers on enhancing communication with MPs and Government throughout my career.
- **Convener of the Oireachtas Friends of Science & Technology:**
 - A parliamentary forum established on the request of the Speaker of the House to facilitate direct engagement between MPs & the scientific community.
 - Directly engaged with scientists participating in parliamentary internships to produce a research paper on their area of expertise, produced for parliamentarians outlining the need for new regulations & laws, and the impact these changes can have on society.
- **Minister for Communications, Climate Action (incorporating the Department of Energy) & Environment 2016-18:**
 - Ireland's first Minister for Climate Action, the most technically challenging yet one of the smallest Departments of Government.
 - Regular face-to-face engagement with scientific & technical advisors in the fields of telecommunications, energy, environment, waste, transport, agriculture and geology.
 - Utilising this advice during negotiations at EU Council level on the 2030 Climate & Energy targets and also in local community engagement with farmers & workers within Ireland's peat-based fossil fuel industry, many located within my own constituency, the most rural in Ireland.
 - Established the Climate Action Fund (of up to €1bn) to support the development of technological solutions to address Ireland's unique climate challenges.
 - Regularly utilised external technical advice to develop new policy in areas such as clean air, noise pollution, waste, agriculture, digital technology and renewable energy.
 - Responsibility for promoting and overseeing coherent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on a whole-of-Government basis many of which were intrinsically linked to scientific & technological advancement.
- **Membership of parliamentary committees:**
 - Member of 9 separate parliamentary committees during my career to date.
 - Current Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands.
 - Successfully incorporated presentations by the research community into the work of parliamentary committees throughout my career.
 - Co-authored a report on Science & Technology - the adequacy of science and technology research programmes in the context of the interaction between education and industry.