

Foresight Group launches Dublin office and appoints team to oversee its Irish expansion

- **Foresight's first office on the island of Ireland**
- **The newly appointed Dublin team will support deployment and management of the AIB Foresight SME Impact Fund, providing €2m to €5m investments to smaller companies in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland**
- **Foresight is also set to open two new UK offices, in Leeds and Newcastle, to support other recent fund launches**

[Dublin, 1 September 2022]: Foresight Group ("Foresight"), a leading listed private equity and infrastructure investment manager, has announced the opening of its new office in Dublin. This is Foresight's first office in Ireland and will be located at Carmichael House, 60 Lower Baggot Street. It is the first of three offices planned to be opened this year, the others being in the UK in Leeds and Newcastle.

The team based in the Dublin office will mainly source, execute and manage investments for the AIB Foresight SME Impact Fund ("the Fund") as well as support Foresight's other activities in Ireland. With a cornerstone investment from Allied Irish Banks ("AIB"), the Fund reached its first close at €30 million in early July 2022.

Barclay Clibborn has joined the Foresight team as Principal of the Fund and Philip Gardiner has joined as Investment Director. Barclay brings over 20 years' experience, most recently as Head of Strategy and Corporate Development at Bord Gáis Energy, with prior experience in corporate finance, environmental services and telecommunications industries. Philip has over ten years' experience financing SMEs, with eight years at private equity investor Rénatus Capital Partners where he was responsible for managing investments in growing Irish SMEs across a broad range of sectors.

The AIB Foresight SME Impact Fund will provide €2m to €5m investments to smaller companies in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, with the ability to make smaller or larger investments. This will support businesses with their net zero plans, stimulate high-quality, local job creation and accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy – ensuring a greener future across the island of Ireland. The Fund aims to raise €75 million.

The Fund will benefit from Foresight's extensive experience of supporting smaller companies through various economic cycles and from its sustainable infrastructure investment division. Foresight is one of the UK's most active SME investors; in 2021, its private equity funds invested into 58 SMEs and created more than 500 high-

quality, local jobs across the UK. Foresight's sustainable infrastructure division is one of Europe's and Australia's most established teams, managing more than 330 sustainable assets globally and generating power from more than 3GW of green energy assets. In Ireland, Foresight has recently invested in the MaresConnect interconnector project which will link the power markets of Ireland and Great Britain and has existing SME investments operating in the country, such as Hospital Services Ltd and Usheru Ltd.

Barclay Clibborn commented: *"I am delighted to join Foresight in establishing its first office in Ireland. A growing number of businesses across Ireland and Northern Ireland are now placing sustainability, particularly net zero, at the core of their growth plans. I am looking forward to meeting these businesses, and the broader advisory community, to explore how Foresight can accelerate their growth plans and enhance long term value."*

Phillip Gardiner added: *"Foresight's SME funds have created thousands of local jobs in regions throughout the UK. It's a privilege to be given the responsibility of helping to replicate that in Ireland, tapping into our island's dynamic sectors in order to help our brilliant SMEs flourish both at home and abroad."*

James Livingston, Partner at Foresight Group, said: *"Our presence in Dublin offers us a significant foothold in a critical market. In Barclay and Phillip, we have two highly capable, experienced and respected professionals joining to build our presence in the market. This is a very exciting milestone for Foresight Group, as we continue to expand our footprint to enhance the services we offer to dynamic small businesses throughout the UK and Ireland."*

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For more information contact:

Chris Barry, Influential: barry@thisisinfluential.com / +44 (0)7733 103 693

Lucy Sherwood, Foresight Group: lsherwood@foresightgroup.eu

Notes to Editors

About Foresight Group:

Foresight Group was founded in 1984 and is a leading listed infrastructure and private equity investment manager. With a long-established focus on ESG and sustainability-led strategies, it aims to provide attractive returns to its institutional and private investors from hard-to-access private markets. Foresight manages over 330 infrastructure assets with a focus on solar and onshore wind assets, bioenergy and waste, as well as renewable energy enabling projects, energy efficiency management solutions, social and core infrastructure projects and sustainable forestry assets. Its private equity team manages ten regionally focused investment funds across the UK and an SME impact fund supporting Irish SMEs. This team reviews over 2,500 business plans each year and

currently supports more than 200 investments in SMEs. Foresight Capital Management manages four strategies across six investment vehicles with an AUM of over £1.6 billion.

Foresight operates from 12 offices across six countries in Europe and Australia with AUM of £12.2 billion*. Foresight Group Holdings Limited listed on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange in February 2021. <https://www.fsg-investors.com/>

*Based on FSG unaudited AUM as at 30 June 2022 and Infrastructure Capital's AUM as at 31 March 2022.