

Karl Prenderville's Experience:

Commercial Manager: Tamboran Resources; Oil & Energy industry; July 2011 - Present (3 months) Dublin

Commercial Director: Spinner Energy Limited; Oil & Energy industry; January 2009 - June 2011 (2 years 6 months) Dublin

Commercial Director: Island Oil & Gas PLC; Oil & Energy industry; July 2006 - December 2008 (2 years 6 months) Dublin

Managing Director & Producer: K&B Productions Ltd; Entertainment industry; April 2003 - June 2006 (3 years 3 months) Dublin

Business Services Manager: Enterprise Oil; Oil & Energy industry; 1986 - 2002 (16 years)

Below is a link to a Joint Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from 22/10/2008 - Karl Prenderville was there as Commercial Director of Island Oil and Gas

<http://debates.oireachtas.ie/MAJ/2008/10/22/printall.asp>

It is mainly a discussion about off-shore exploration - but as you can see they were also discussing the possibility of exploration in NW Carboniferous Basin in 2008.

Mr. Fergus Cahill: Would Mr. Conroy like to like to speak about onshore exploration?

Mr. John Conroy: I am not sure who mentioned onshore exploration.

Deputy Liz McManus: I did.

Mr. John Conroy: The suggestion that such exploration is a cheaper and more cost-effective way of producing hydrocarbons is absolutely right. If one goes to the United States, one can see small "nodding donkeys" everywhere. It is a much more competitive market. The one major caveat in this regard relates to geology. We do not have the appropriate onshore geology for the generation of hydrocarbons. We do not have reservoirs to trap hydrocarbons. If we did, we would have gone down that route.

Deputy Liz McManus: There is one area of interest.

Mr. John Conroy: Yes. The rocks in the north west of Ireland are carboniferous, which means they have an oil and gas source in them. There are some reservoirs in that formation. There is a unit in the north west. Many wells have been drilled there. No one has been able to find a commercial accumulation. The same formation has produced oil and gas fields in many onshore areas within the UK. It is not unusual for them to exist. Ireland's onshore geological landscape means that it just does not work for us. We have to go offshore. We have not been as successful offshore in Ireland as we have been in other areas. That is where the exploration industry began. It makes sense to start in one's own back yard, if one has the technology. The technology needed

to drill in the field behind one's house has been available from the US since the 1940s or 1950s.

Deputy Liz McManus: Is Mr. Conroy saying that we know there is a suitable location in the north west, but it is not commercially viable to exploit it?

Mr. John Conroy: Many companies have tried it.

Deputy Liz McManus: It is much cheaper to drill there than it is to drill offshore.

Mr. John Conroy: Absolutely. In recent times, a number of small companies with low cost bases have tried to make it viable with a smaller accumulation. They are in the market place. If one could do it, it would definitely be done. One would imagine that it would be much easier to commercialise. It has not been done. It cannot be done because the resource that is in place is neither sufficiently defined nor sufficiently large. It is down to that.

Mr. Fergus Cahill: Deputy McHugh asked whether we are putting pressure on Bord Iascaigh Mhara regarding the employment of fishing skippers, etc. We would be delighted to see people getting qualifications, such as safety qualifications, to allow them to work in our industry. In conjunction with FÁS, we placed advertisements five or six years ago to offer FÁS training to people with a background in the fishing industry who wanted to get into our industry. It was not successful. I will qualify that by saying that it was of limited success. We did not get a lot of interest. I think we got 12 applications on foot of the advertisements we published. The FÁS staff member who was dealing with the scheme retired, for his or her own reasons. FÁS then decided not to continue with the scheme. We are aware that the Shell facility in Killybegs employs many local people who used to work in the fishing industry. The Deputy also asked what can be done to improve the marketing of Irish acreage. Senator Walsh made a similar point. Perhaps my colleague, Mr. Prenderville, would like to respond.

Mr. Karl Prenderville: I am not too keen to make specific recommendations to the Government on how that can be done. There is already a shining example in Ireland of how it can be achieved. I refer to the IDA Ireland model, which was hugely successful in bringing inward investment into Ireland. I suggest that the members should speak to representatives of IDA Ireland if they want to ascertain how that was done. A similar approach can then be taken in the oil industry.

Mr. Fergus Cahill: It might be somewhat rude of me to remind the committee that the grants system and the low tax regime are among the principal weapons IDA Ireland has at its disposal. I will put that point on the table and leave it at that.

Mr. Karl Prenderville: We have a relatively low tax regime relative to the rest of the world. That weapon is available to us.

