

FCAC1 Daniel Whooley

Proposer: Øyunn S. Kåset (Young Greens of Norway)

Agenda item: 6. Financial Control and Advisory Committee Candidates

Daniel Whooley - FCAC Candidacy Motivation Letter

To the delegates and members of the Federation of Young European Greens,

I am putting myself forward as a candidate for the Financial Control and Advisory Committee. I want to be upfront: my connection to FYEG is limited. I attended a summer camp and one other event in 2019 and have not been closely involved since. My efforts have been focused on my national organisation, "*Green Party - Comhaontas Glas*", and its youth wing, the "*Young Greens - Óige Ghlas*", where I now serve as secretary and previously served as membership officer. I think that distance is an asset for this role. The FCAC exists to provide independent oversight, and I can offer exactly that, with no conflicts of interest and no stake in protecting the status quo.

That independence matters right now. NGOs and activist organisations are under sustained political attack across Europe, and governments are looking for any excuse to delegitimise and defund the organisations doing the most important work. The best defence against that is a clean house. Every euro FYEG spends needs to be documented, justified, and aligned with the decisions of the EC and the General Assembly. That is what the FCAC is there to ensure, and it is where I want to contribute.

When I was 15 years old, I was elected to the national executive of Foróige, Ireland's largest youth organisation. For the first time, I was able to gain insight into the decision-making process, accountability mechanisms, and practical application of youth-led organisations through my involvement in a volunteer organisation's governance. This experience taught me how important it is for youth-led organisations to be open, responsible, and able to make good decisions. I also understood the importance of clear-minded and objective decision-makers, as personal relationships influence decisions, and actions were taken based on the politics at play within the organisation rather than the merit of the argument.

In 2019, I was elected to Fingal County Council, one of the largest local authorities in Ireland by both population and budget, becoming the youngest councillor the council had seen at 20 years old. The most relevant part of that role to FCAC was scrutinising the annual budget and the three-year capital expenditure plan. The Green councillors, including me, successfully redirected funding away from road upgrades and towards segregated cycling infrastructure and other green initiatives. It wasn't enough to just table a motion. My Green colleagues and I had to look at how the money was spent; determine the funds that were to be reallocated or the rates to be increased, allocating them to the right line item(s) in the budget; and finally convince a room full of people who had other spending priorities to support the motion.

In 2021-2022 I served as deputy mayor, again the youngest person to hold that position, chairing council meetings throughout the development of the strategic plan that shapes Fingal's resourcing and land zoning for the following six years. Running those meetings with forty elected members, all pulling in different directions, teaches you quickly how to balance rigorous scrutiny with keeping things moving.

I stepped away from elected office after four and a half years in 2023 to begin a Master's in Data Protection and Privacy at Dublin City University, graduating with first-class honours and a place on the Dean's Honours List. Alongside my studies, I worked as a data protection consultant at PrivacyEngine, where I advised clients, ranging from charities, unions, and NGOs to government bodies and other for-profit organisations.

The core of that work is compliance programme rollout and data protection auditing. The role involves going into an organisation, understanding how it operates, identifying where things are going wrong, and producing a report that pairs problems with solutions. Highlighting issues alone without a path forward leaves organisations stuck in a cycle of non-compliance, and such findings must be paired with actions that guide them out of their situation. I have written reports that were uncomfortable reading for clients but framed them in a way that gave them a clear first step towards genuine compliance rather than defensive box-ticking. That method is directly translated into the work of the FCAC through auditing financial records, reviewing expenditures with GA and EC decisions, documenting the findings in an understandable audit report, and being forthright when presenting it to delegates.

FYEG brings together young greens from across Europe to fight for climate justice, economic equality, and the rights of people who are too often left behind. That mission deserves an organisation whose finances are beyond question. I bring independence, experience scrutinising budgets on a meaningful scale, and years of professional auditing practice. More than that, I know how to be critical without being detrimental and how to pair findings with recommendations that actually help. The work of this committee is not glamorous, but it matters in ensuring transparency and accountability. By providing audit reports and paired actionable steps for improvement, the FCAC can avoid any financial overspending and avert any scandals.

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Daniel Whooley

Daniel Whooley

Resume | Candidate for Financial Control and Advisory Committee

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I've spent over a decade in volunteer-led organisations, from sitting on the national executive of Ireland's largest youth organisation at 15, to getting elected to local government at 20, to running a successful election campaign in 2024. I've scrutinised multi-million euro budgets, chaired planning meetings, and spent two years professionally auditing and implementing privacy into organisations for a living. I have no history with FYEG's internal politics, which makes me exactly the kind of independent voice the FCAC needs.

EXPERIENCE

Data Privacy Solutions Engineer

Mar. 2025 – Present

PrivacyEngine

Dublin, Ireland

- Guide enterprise clients with in-house DPOs through complex regulatory issues including lawful basis assessments, DPIA scoping for AI and biometric systems, and cross-border data transfer mechanisms.
- Conduct quality assurance reviews of client DPIAs, breach response protocols, and policy frameworks to identify gaps before they become regulatory issues.

Data Protection Consultant

Sept. 2023 – Mar. 2025

PrivacyEngine

Dublin, Ireland

- Delivered GDPR compliance programmes to clients across government, NGO, and multinational sectors, conducting gap analyses, DPIAs, and breach response work.
- Produced audit reports identifying compliance failures and paired each finding with a clear remediation path, building long-term compliance capacity rather than short-term fixes.

County Councillor & Deputy Mayor

May 2019 – Sept. 2023

Fingal County Council

Dublin, Ireland

- Elected in 2019 as the youngest councillor in Fingal County Council's history, one of Ireland's largest local authorities by both population and budget.
- Scrutinised the annual budget and three-year capital expenditure plan, successfully redirecting funding away from road upgrades and towards segregated cycling infrastructure and green initiatives, funded through increased parking charges.
- Managed a high volume of confidential constituent casework, requiring discretion, stakeholder engagement across diverse demographics, and effective issue resolution.
- Served as Deputy Mayor in 2021–2022, the youngest person to hold the position, chairing council meetings throughout the development of Fingal's six-year strategic plan covering resourcing, land zoning, and capital priorities.
- Represented the council at official functions, delivered public presentations, and engaged community groups, residents, and policy experts on planning, housing, and local government matters.

EDUCATION

MA in Data Protection and Privacy Law; Law and Computing

Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2025

Dublin City University

Dublin, Ireland

- **Grade: First Class Honours** – Selected for the 2026 Dean’s Honours List (top 5% of faculty graduates).
- Interdisciplinary programme combining European data protection law, comparative digital law, data governance, and data management.
- **Practicum (Grade: Distinction):** Developed a Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment framework to evaluate the European Central Bank’s Digital Euro proposal, extending beyond standard DPIA scope to assess surveillance risk, financial autonomy, and exclusion. Produced a 400-point scoring system to evaluate implementation proposals against EU Charter obligations.

BSc (Honours) in Computing in Digital Forensics & Cybersecurity

Sept. 2018 – May 2023

Technological University Dublin

Dublin, Ireland

- **Grade: Second Class Honours**
- Four-year programme covering network security, cryptography, penetration testing, computer forensics, and incident response. Technical modules in Python, Java, and SQL.

VOLUNTEERING

Secretary

May 2025 – Present

Young Greens – Óige Ghlas

Ireland

- Coordinate executive meetings, prepare agendas, take minutes, and track action points to ensure decisions are followed through.
- Previously served as Membership Officer (Oct. 2024 – May 2025), managing member communications and coordinating engagement initiatives across local branches.

Campaign Manager

Oct. 2023 – Jun. 2024

Feljin Jose – 2024 Local Elections, Cabra-Glasnevin

Dublin, Ireland

- Managed the successful election campaign for Feljin Jose, one of the few first-time Green Party candidates to win a council seat in 2024.
- Developed campaign strategy, coordinated canvassing teams, trained volunteers, and produced all digital content and election materials.

Volunteer and National Council Member

May 2013 – May 2023

Foróige

Ireland

- Sat on the National Council of Foróige, one of Ireland’s largest youth development organisations, representing young people across the country.
- Contributed to establishing *Future-Proof Living*, a podcast where young people spoke with guests about climate change, including former President Mary Robinson. The group’s advocacy work led to the opportunity to present to the Oireachtas sub-committee on Climate Change.
- Over ten years, ran youth cafés, facilitated programmes across a range of backgrounds, and supported young people in developing skills and confidence.