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Alan served as Special Adviser to Ireland's former Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan from 2009 to 2011. In this role, he advised the Minister on economic, budgetary and financial policy in responding to the economic and financial crisis.

Alan obtained his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University (in Pittsburgh) in 1998 and subsequently joined the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, where he worked for seven years as a Senior Economist. At the Fed, he advised Alan Greenspan, Ben Bernanke and other Fed Governors on developments in the global economy. He was the principal economist at the Fed covering the Japanese and Chinese economies. He began his professional career with Coopers & Lybrand and also worked for Bank of Ireland Group Treasury. His areas of expertise are macroeconomics and international finance. In addition to being published in top academic journals, his research has featured in *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *BBC*, *CNBC*, and elsewhere.