

James Edward O'Leary was born in 1956. He is a graduate of Belvedere College S.J. in Dublin and University College Dublin.

In 1980-1982, James Edward O'Leary worked for the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin as a research assistant. For the following year he held a position of the Economics Advisor in the Office of the Taoiseach in Dublin to become an economist on the National Planning Board in 1983. In the years 1984-1987, he was an economist in the National Economic and Social Council in Dublin, while for the following fourteen years he was a Chief Economist in Davy Stockbrokers. Since 2001, James Edward O'Leary has been a lecturer at the Department of Economics of the National University of Ireland in Maynooth.

James O'Leary has held directorships in a few commercial law companies. In the years 1994-1997, he was the Director of the National Statistics Board while from 1995 to 2000 – he sat on Aer Lingus Supervisory Board. For a year (2003-2004) he was also a non-executive director of Gresham Hotels. Since December 2001, he has sat on the AIB Group Board.

James O'Leary conducts no operations that would be competitive to BZWBK SA. He is not listed in the Register of Insolvent Debtors kept pursuant to the National Court Register Act (KRS).