Gabriel Scally is Professor of Public Health and Planning in the University of the West of England (UWE). His major academic role is as Director the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Healthy Urban Environments at the University. Prior to joining UWE in 2012 he was a Regional Director of Public Health in England from 1994. In that role he was both a senior civil servant in the Department of Health and a Director in successive National Health Service bodies. Prior to moving permanently to England he was Chief Administrative Medical Officer and Director of Public Health in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board from 1986 to 1993.

Gabriel was a non-executive Director of the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and also co-chaired the Government’s advisory committee on sexual health. Gabriel is currently a member of the Governing Council of the World Federation of Public Health Association. He has co-authored the standard textbook on public health in the UK, has edited a further book, contributed chapters to several and authored a substantial number of papers in professional journals. This included the landmark paper on ‘clinical governance’ following some of the major clinical failures in services in England.

Recent work has included reviewing for the Government the regulation of public health professionals, chairing a review of NHS commissioning of services for people with learning disabilities and advising a Judicial Inquiry into a series of childhood deaths in Northern Ireland.

Gabriel was born and brought up in Belfast. After attending St Mary’s Christian Brothers Grammar School he qualified in medicine at the Queen's University of Belfast. He went on to train first in general practice and then in public health; including postgraduate study at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Apart from public health, major interests are cycling and London Irish Rugby Football Club.