

Executive Board Minutes Meeting 15th February 2016

Attendance: Ann Nolan (Chair), Aidan Carrigan, Neil Ryan, Nicholas O'Brien, John McCarthy, Des Carville, Paul Ryan, Niall O'Ceallaigh, Gary Tobin, John Hogan, David Byrne, Derek Tierney (Secretary)

Apologies: Derek Moran

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous Executive Board 01st February were agreed. Progress on action points was noted.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

2.1 National Risk Assessment

Members discussed the National Risk Assessment (NRA) being coordinated by D/Taoiseach and the draft 2016 document providing an overview of strategic risks that was circulated for review. This Department has provided input on the section detailing economic risks and, subject to a final review, observations will be provided to D/Taoiseach's in the coming days.

2.2 Brexit

Members were provided with an update following Eurogroup and Ecofin meetings held the previous week. Members noted the UK Government are in negotiations with key stakeholders in Europe ahead of a referendum in the UK on their membership of the EU, possibly in June or September 2016. Britain's negotiation is the first item on the agenda for the European Council summit this Thursday at a gathering of the 28 EU euro-area countries with talks to run into Friday.

On other Euro area developments, Members discussed the programme review underway in Greece where pension reforms are under negotiation between the Government and Greece's international creditors in exchange for a third major bailout that was agreed last year.

2.3 Governance Review

An annual review on the framework for the governance of the Department is underway. This review will take into account the recently published Corporate Governance Code for the Civil Service as well as discussions between the Secretary General and Members to consider its effectiveness.

3. Key Milestones Look-Ahead

Key Milestones for 2016 will be developed in conjunction with completion of Business Plans before the end of February.

4. AOB

Members discussed media reports in relation to correspondence issued from Jack Lew, US Treasury secretary to the president of the European Commission, concerning the EU's corporate tax policy.

An RFT for a new eDiscovery contract was published on Friday 12th February. The current electrical and fire safety system work are progressing to plan with the next phase expected to commence

in the first week of March. Discussions are continuing with OPW to investigate how the Departments accommodation needs can be matched.

5. Corporate

5.1 Ethics in Office Act

Members noted the paper before the Board and the compliance in returns received by officials.

5.2 FT Subscription

Members noted that paper before the Board and the proposal to renew the FT subscription for 2016.

5.3 Regulation of Lobbying Act

Members noted returns made by Lobbyists under the Regulation of Lobbying Act. As anticipated this has led to an increase in the number of Freedom of Information Requests that are being managed in the usual way.

Action:

- The meeting minute template will be refined to reflect provisions of the Regulation of Lobbying Act – Mr O'Neill

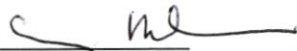
5.4 HR Competitions Update

Members were provided with an update following the recent interviews to establish a panel at Assistant Principal Officer and Principal Officer Level with the outcome of these processes being factored into workforce planning arrangements.

Members were also updated on the outcome regarding competitions for the post of Financial Services & DPER Attaché and Budget Attaché.

5.5 Senior Management Review

Members expressed their thanks to officials for the organisation that went into last week's senior management meeting in Tullamore. The Executive Board agreed that the planning and arrangements facilitated a very productive and engaging discussion and also expressed thanks to officials who participated on each of the panel discussions and contributions from across the management team.



Ann Nolan

Second Secretary