

MAC Minutes Meeting 12th January 2015

Attendance: Derek Moran (Chair), Ann Nolan, John Hogan, John McCarthy, Gary Tobin, Paul Ryan, Neil Ryan, Aidan Carrigan, Des Carville, Greg Dempsey, Niall O’Ceallaigh, Paul Bolger, Brendan Loughnane, Derek Tierney (Secretary).

Apologies: Nicholas O’Brien,

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The Minister’s Op-ed regarding the State’s banking strategy, recovery of monies invested, work ongoing with AIB on reconfiguring the capital structure and the recent appointment of financial advisors was noted.

The new Road Map for Ireland's Tax Competitiveness, which was published on Budget Day, committed to launching a Public Consultation on the design of a new Knowledge Development Box that will commence later in the week. The consultation paper will outline the emerging OECD/EU consensus in relation to the acceptable parameters for patent boxes more generally and poses a series of open questions in relation to the design of the Irish Knowledge Development Box in order to assist in the development of draft legislation. The consultation process will run until end March/early April 2015. It is intended to have an informal press briefing for journalists at the time of publication.

The minutes of the previous MAC, 05th January were agreed.

2. Dashboard Summary including discussion on:

1. Low Pay Commission

The Department previously provided observations to D/JEI’s memorandum on the “Establishment and resourcing for the Low Pay Commission” that was submitted to cabinet in October 2014. The Economics Division will draw up a submission to the Commission and consult with the wider Department through the Policy Committee.

2. OECD – Biennial review of Irish Economy

The OECD biennial survey of the Irish economy to examine economic trends has commenced. The focus of the survey is typically structural in nature, rather than short-term, cyclical developments (main topics will include boosting medium-term growth in an inclusive manner and migration). The OECD secretariat will visit twice in the next few months (February and May), and both meetings will involve discussions with various divisions of this Department (as well as other Departments and agencies). A detailed questionnaire will be circulated in advance of the first meeting and will require input from various divisions with the Economic Division taking the lead on coordination. A draft report will subsequently be produced by the secretariat; this report and Ireland’s economic performance will then be reviewed by the Economic Development and Review Committee of the

OECD in July at which the Chief Economist will attend, before publication in September (the report is normally launched by the Minister or the Taoiseach).

3. Article IV

MAC noted that the Article IV review by IMF will commence place from 20th - 28th January. The review will focus primarily on two broad topics (i) Fiscal consolidation after EDP exit (fiscal rules in a post Excessive Deficit context under the EU Stability and Growth Pact); and (ii) Macrofinancial policies for durable recovery.

4. Policy Priorities

Following agreement of broad policy priorities flowing from the business planning process, each Directorate will meet with the Minister to discuss the detail of work programmes later in the week.

Action Point

- Prepare a submission to the Low Pay Commission and consult with the wider Department through the policy committee – Mr McCarthy

3. AOB

Work is nearing completion to finalise the draft Statement of Strategy for submission to Government by the end of January. It was noted that the 2014 performance management reviews are currently underway. The next Senior Management Review day is scheduled for 05th/06th March and will take place in the Department's decentralised offices located in Tullamore.

MAC was informed that the Minister will use the weekly legislative report to enable him to respond to questions during the Order of Business.

The next round of Tax Diploma training and certification open to all staff is expected to commence on the 16th January. MAC congratulated Ms Levey who was awarded regional prize winner in her recent project Management Diploma studies.

4. Corporate Governance

1. Procurement Policy

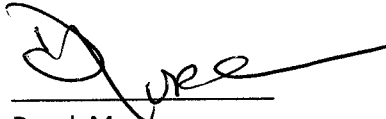
MAC approved the Procurement Policy (Version 1 – December 2014) revised to reflect feedback received from the senior management team. It was agreed that this will be disseminated to all staff by the Procurement Officer.

2. Bodies under the Aegis Working Group.

The final report (dated December 2014) prepared by the Working group was discussed with decisions sought and implementation of next steps agreed. MAC acknowledged the work of the Group and recorded their thanks to each member for their contribution.

Action Point

- Arrange issue of invite for Senior Management Review Day to Senior Management Group – Mr Tierney.
- Disseminate the Procurement Policy (Version 1 – December 2014) to all staff – Mr Kilmartin.
- Implement next steps set out in the final report by the Bodies under the Aegis Working Group – Corporate Affairs and Divisional leads.



Derek Moran
Secretary General