



IFS2020 High Level Implementation Committee meeting with IFS2020 Industry Advisory Committee

12pm, 24th June 2015
Room 308, Government Buildings

Minutes

Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC)

In attendance: Minister of State Simon Harris (Chair), Martin Fraser (D/Taoiseach); Ann Nolan (D/Fin); Robert Watt (D/PER); John Murphy (D/JEI); Niall Burgess (D/FAT); Martin Shanahan (IDA); Kevin Sherry (Enterprise Ireland – for Julie Sinnamon).

Apologies: Julie Sinnamon (Enterprise Ireland)

Secretariat: Mary Clare O’Sullivan (D/Taoiseach)

Officials present: Cathal O’Regan, David Crowe, John Golden (D/Taoiseach); Neil Ryan (D/Finance); Jonathan Conlon, Deirdre Clifford (D/FAT); Deirdre McDonnell (D/ES); Justin Sullivan (IDA); Brendan McCormack (Enterprise Ireland); Richard Troy (Private Secretary to Minister Harris).

IFS Industry Advisory Committee (IAC)

In attendance: Carin Bryans (J.P. Morgan); Susan Dargan (State Street); David Dalton (Deloitte); Ruth Fletcher (Fenergo); Geraldine Gibson (AQ Metrics); John Higgins (Avolon); Peter Keegan (BAML); Patrick Manley (Zurich); Barry O’Dwyer (Blackrock);

Via teleconference: Brian Daly (KPMG); Colm Lyon (Fire Financial Services)

Apologies: Michael Mainelli.

Secretariat: Marc Coleman (FSI)

Opening Remarks

Minister Harris welcomed members of the HLIC and the IAC to the first meeting between the two Committees. The Minister welcomed the fact that the new IAC broadly reflects the current composition of the sector, with a mix of foreign-owned and Irish-owned companies represented. The improved gender balance and inclusion of an international member should also enhance the contribution of the Committee. The Minister also informed members that the minutes of the meetings of the Public Sector HLIC, and its joint meetings with the IAC, would be published on relevant Government websites once agreed.



Item 1. Terms of Reference and Implementation Framework

Minister Harris informed the IAC that the HLIC had agreed its Terms of Reference, and invited comments from members on the proposed Terms of Reference for the IAC as well as the general outline of the IFS2020 Implementation Framework. IAC members agreed the Terms of Reference as circulated (see Appendix 1).

Regarding the broader implementation structure, industry members suggested that there was a need to agree a clear rationale for the establishment of new working groups, and for clarity regarding their channels of engagement with the HLIC and IAC. Minister Harris responded that the primary rationale for establishing new working groups should be either to support implementation of specific IFS2020 actions or to advance sectoral or thematic issues where there is no existing group or mechanisms in place to progress these. Members also emphasised that the Terms of Reference for working groups should be focused on the IFS2020 objectives, and in particular the job creation target. It was also agreed that any proposal to establish working groups should be cognisant of the need for efficient use of limited time and resources; that working groups need not necessarily be established on a standing basis, and can operate on a time-bound or ad-hoc basis as appropriate, and that proposals for working groups should be proposed via the D/Taoiseach IFS2020 Coordination Unit for final decision by the HLIC and IAC. A number of potential new working groups have been suggested, and these will be considered further before the next meeting on 21 September.

It was also agreed that the meetings between the HLIC and IAC should not necessarily be the first or primary forum through which issues or priorities raised at Working Groups should be advanced. Existing channels and engagements with individual Departments and Agencies should continue to be the initial point of contact, with the IAC prioritising issues that require higher-level industry engagement and feeding these into the HLIC as potential agenda items through the Secretariat if necessary.

In response to a query from industry regarding the mechanism for monitoring progress towards the jobs target, M. Shanahan (IDA) explained that while it is possible to provide interim progress indicators such as IDA and EI jobs announcements, the only comprehensive progress indicator is the D/JEI Annual Employment Survey, conducted each year in October, which provides a census of employment across the EI and IDA IFS portfolios, and benchmarks progress against the well-defined baseline that has already been adopted by IFS2020. Members noted this and agreed that progress on the jobs target should be a standing Agenda Item at the quarterly meetings based on interim progress indicators, with the census data to be included in the year-end progress report.

Item 2. Review of Progress with ongoing and Q2 deliverables

Minister Harris introduced the discussion on the draft progress report, noting that 29 of the 30 actions are on track, and that the resource constraints which had delayed the setting up the Education and Skills Liaison Group have now been resolved.

Industry suggested that consideration needs to be given to the audience for the Report, noting that while the approach to the current draft might be suited for a more technical audience, consideration might be given to the format and presentation for a wider audience from a readability perspective.

It was also suggested by industry that the presentation and content of the quarterly progress reports should clearly emphasise the jobs focus of IFS2020. Minister Harris and the HLIC agreed that there



was potential for improvement of the draft in this regard, and the Public Sector Secretariat asked that any suggestions regarding presentation or textual amendments be provided by 3rd July.

Item 3. New and existing 2016 actions

Minister Harris noted that while the IFS2020 Strategy includes some headline actions for 2016, most notably the IFS Summit and Banner Brand, it is intended that some additional actions be identified for delivery in 2016 along the lines of the Action Plan for Jobs approach. It was agreed that the next meeting between the HLIC and IAC, scheduled for 21 September, would include a consideration of proposals for new actions to be included in a 2016 IFS action plan. It was agreed that the Public Sector Coordination Group will consider proposals over the coming weeks, and industry agreed to do the same in consultation with colleagues and stakeholders.

Members of the IAC were updated on progress in the early planning of the IFS Summit, with Minister Harris providing an overview of the parameters: a Europe focussed event (e.g. European Financial Services Summit) to be held on 27th January 2016 (subject to confirmation with some target headline speakers), in Dublin Castle, focused on high level European and global policy issues impacting on IFS, with an associated opportunity to showcase Ireland as a location for and supplier of international financial services and technologies, and a gateway to the EU. M. Shanahan added that the IDA approach as project lead is that the ultimate objective is to support the creation of jobs in Ireland's IFS sector; the focus is on attracting international, rather than domestic delegates – the objective being to have more than half of delegates coming from outside the jurisdiction.

Industry members offered their support for the event and sought clarification on what might be most useful from them in terms of assistance, noting that it would be useful for them to get early sight of an outline programme in this context. M. Shanahan responded that there were a number of ways in which industry might support the summit, including: a) using their individual and corporate networks to attract inward visiting delegates, and b) supporting the proposed thematic events for the afternoon of the Summit programme, with a view to enhancing Ireland's profile as an IFS location. IAC members made a number of suggestions about a potential theme, proposed branding, sponsorship and timing of the event, and it was agreed that IDA would engage further on the matter with industry in due course. Minister Harris concluded the discussion by emphasising that the Summit is a Government priority and that the Government would do all required to support its delivery.

Minister Harris then invited M. Shanahan to update members on the proposed banner brand, acknowledging that there has already been considerable discussion and analysis of the issue, including with key stakeholders. He emphasised the need to meet the target of finalising the brand in good time to ensure it could be launched at the IFS Summit. Industry signalled its support for the banner brand and the achievement of this deadline. M. Shanahan confirmed that IDA will continue to engage with industry on the matter.

Item 4. AOB

The Minister then invited any additional contributions. A discussion took place around a paper that Irish Funds had recently produced and shared with the Funds Working Group, *Ireland and Private Equity*, which considers the opportunities for Ireland in the context of the development of the EU Capital Markets Union, and sets out a Funds Industry perspective on priority policy issues to be



addressed, including the updating of the Limited Partnership legislation. The paper highlights the potential for the creation of up to 1,500 new jobs and an increased tax contribution, but noted that this would require changes to existing legislation.

A. Nolan responded that D/Fin welcomed and would give due consideration to supporting policy proposals from industry that have a strong business case and offer a dividend in terms of stimulating job creation and economic growth. There are some resource constraints however around the availability of Parliamentary Counsel and also in D/Finance and the Central Bank, and in this context the drafting and development of certain mandatory pieces of legislation must be prioritised. Learning from previous experience where unrealistic deadlines were set, both public and private sectors must be realistic in proposing legislative changes and, in particular, in setting deadlines for these.

Industry acknowledged the resource constraints but noted that certain opportunities in the sector needed to be grasped quickly before competitive advantage is lost. The timeframe for legislative change is currently seen by industry as a bottleneck in terms of availing of growth opportunities. It was suggested that there might be alternative solutions to the resourcing challenges. A. Nolan said that she was open to considering possible options in this regard if appropriate, and D/Fin would specifically give consideration to the proposals in the Funds Group Paper.

Industry also asked about the possibility of getting details of overseas promotional visits on the public sector side to assist in ensuring a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to overseas engagement as provided in the strategy. The Secretariat indicated that this was already in progress and a document would be circulated to members after consultation with Ministers' offices.

The proposed schedule of future meetings was noted as follows:

Monday 21 September 2015

Monday 14 December 2015

Monday 7 March 2016

Monday 20 June 2016

Monday 19 September 2016

Minister Harris concluded by thanking participants for their attendance and contribution.