

## **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Management Board Meeting 16 May 2011**

**Attendance:** Minister Howlin, Mr. Watt, Mr. Connolly, Mr. McNally, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Errity, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Kelly, Mr McGrath, Dr. O'Reardon, Ms. Mulvihill, Ms. Loughman.

**Apologies:** Mr. Moloney

The Secretary General welcomed Michael McGrath to the meeting. Mr McGrath will be acting as the Department of Finance representative to the D/PER Management Board meetings.

- 1. Minutes of last meeting** – The minutes were agreed with one minor change.
- 2. Events for Week** –
  - **Minister's Diary:** - The main events are the Queen's visit, publication of legislation for the new Department and data release on mortgage arrears. The Finance Bill will be published on Thursday.
  - **Government Meeting:** - See note on legislation at 3 below.
  - **Economic Council Management Meeting:** - Mortgage arrears and the fiscal bill update are key issues. It is expected that the fiscal council will be in place by end of June and the bill will be published by end of the year. The two Departments will co-host a seminar with external speakers at the end of May in relation to the new rules and regulations. A proposal for the council will go to the Ministers following that.
- 3. Progress on New Department:** –
  - Legislation for the new Department will form part of the agenda for this week's Government meeting. The Minister and the Secretary General extended thanks to Ms Coleman and her team for their work on the legislation.
  - A decision on the new logo is expected soon. Nameplates will be designed once the logo has been chosen.
  - Until the legislation setting up the new Department has been passed all correspondence relating to legal matters and matters regarding sanction should issue from Department of Finance. All other matters should issue from D/PER.
  - The website is now live but is still being updated. There will be a press release with a link to the new website when the legislation is published. All policy areas will have a sub-site. Most Circulars have been moved to the new website but others don't seem to be available online for publication on the site. *Action: Mr. Ryan to check if Registry has a list of all Circulars and their owners so that electronic versions of missing Circulars can be sourced.*
- 4. Expenditure Trends:** – the main areas of concern were discussed.
- 5. AOB:** -
  - There was a discussion regarding the use of senior civil servants as speakers at conferences. To date, speakers have offered their time for free; however, civil servants attending such conferences pay a fee. A number of options regarding addressing this issue were discussed.
  - The Secretary General noted that this is Mr. Connolly's final Management Board meeting. Both he and the Minister acknowledged Mr. Connolly's distinguished career and wished him well in the future.
- 6. Presentation on Public Sector Reform:** – A presentation was given by David Feeney. Colin Menton, Oonagh Buckley and Triona Quill attended the presentation and took part in a discussion which followed.

**Next meeting:** Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 3pm.