

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Management Board Meeting
3 May 2011

Attendance:

Minister Howlin, Mr. Watt, Mr. Connolly, Mr. McNally, Mr. Moloney, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Errity, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Ryan, Dr. O'Reardon, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Mulvihill, Ms. Loughman.

1. Events for Week –

- a. **Due Date for Pay Returns under Croke Park:** - The meeting was informed that the due date for returns was the day of the meeting. It is intended that figures arising from the returns will be published along with an accompanying narrative.
- b. **Exchequer returns:** - The quarterly Exchequer returns are positive and are to be published this week.
- c. **Dáil Debate on EU/IMF:** - The debate will take place on 4th and 5th May. The Minister is committed to publishing quarterly employment figures given to the EU/IMF.
- d. **Live register figures:** - The figures will be published on Thursday, 5th May. There is a slight fall. *Action: More information on this to be given to the Minister.*

2. Establishment of New Department –

- a. **E-mails:** - email addresses can be set up by the end of the week.
- b. **Website:** - the website is ready to go live but agreement is needed on a mission statement. The Minister stated that an equal emphasis should be placed on Reform and Expenditure. To ensure that the website is not abused, it was agreed that email to the webmaster would be used for now to accept submissions from the public pending the implementation of online identity authentication facilities. *Action: PO from each area to be nominated to suggest information for inclusion on the site.*
- c. **Legislation:** - May 17th is the proposed date for the final draft of the legislation. An extra member of staff has been assigned to assist with this task and more can be assigned if necessary. The Department will have two Votes and one Accounting Officer; a statement will be needed on this when the Bill is published. *Action: FoI copies to be sent to Ms. Mulvihill before the Bill is released.*
- d. **Other issues:** - Nameplates are to be sourced.

3. Debriefing on Economic Council – Economic Council met this morning and discussed the jobs Initiative. Future issues to be put before the Economic Council need to be considered.

4. Jobs Initiative – The overall package is clear and there are concrete measures included. There are a number of outstanding issues being followed up but it was suggested that the Initiative should be based on material already submitted. *Action: An outline and speech material to be put together by the end of the week.*

5. Update on Croke Park Review and Pay Issues: - Discussed at 1 above. The issue of the reform of annual leave was also discussed.

6. Comprehensive Spending Review: The meeting was informed that Secretaries General will attend the Department the next day for a seminar on the Review. The Minister will attend.

7. Programme of Presentations on Key Issues in each A/Sec Area: Mr. Watt stated that he would like to have a presentation from each member of the Management Board, over the coming weeks, on key policy issues in their area. *Action: Mr. Watt to draw up a suggested programme with presentations to start on the following week.*

8. AOB:

- a. **Reform Agenda:** - The Minister informed the meeting that the Department's role in relation to reform will be wide. He specifically mentioned the Abbeylara decision, legislative reform in relation to which is a priority. *Action: A prioritised list of relevant reforms to be compiled for next weeks meeting.*
- b. **Asset Disposals:** - A dedicated unit may need to be set up in order to deal with the issue of asset disposals. *Action: Letters seeking the views of departments to issue.*
- c. **Publication of Minutes:** - it was agreed that the minutes of Management Board meetings would be published on the Department's website.

9. Next Meeting: - It was agreed that subsequent meetings of the Management Board will take place on Monday afternoons at 3pm.