

**Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Management Board Meeting
28 November 2011**

Attendance: Secretary General, Mr. McNally, Mr. Moloney, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Hanlon, Mr. Beausang, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Errity, Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Costello, Mr. Reid, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Quill, Ms. Mulvihill, Ms. Loughman.

Apologies: Mr. McGrath.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes were agreed.
2. **Events for the Week** – The Minister is scheduled to appear before the Committee on Finance and Public Expenditure to discuss Public Service Reform this week. Exchequer returns and the white paper will be published on Friday. The estimates and pensions memos will be discussed at the Government meeting. *Action: David Owens to brief the Minister on pensions reductions.* The Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) legislation will be debated in the Dáil. An update on expenditure will be given to the EMC.
3. **Publication of Estimates** – The Comprehensive Expenditure Report will be published on Monday, 5 December. The report will include details of the CRE, breakdowns by department, spending/savings levels on a multi-annual basis, the estimates and a section on reform. Ms. Mulvihill gave a run through of the schedule for the day. There will be briefing and a Government meeting in the morning. The Minister will make an announcement in the Dáil at 2.30. A press conference and a number of radio and television interviews will follow. The report will be available on the website from 2.30. It was noted that the Minister will outline the main measures and relevant line Ministers will give detail on specific areas. Briefing material is being collated at present. *Action: All POs to sign off on material from their areas. Skeletons to be submitted as soon as possible.*
4. **EU/IMF Update** – Ms. Hanlon gave an update. A conference call was scheduled for that evening. Ronnie Downes will be present for D/PER.
5. **EU Budgetary Framework Proposals** – deferred in Mr. McGrath's absence.
6. **Civil Service Recruitment** – Ms. Coleman gave an update. Workforce planning has begun and the Department has met with personnel officers in line departments. Preparations are being made for a limited amount of recruitment to address gaps and issues arising. *Action: Ms. Coleman to bring a proposal to the Secretary General and the Minister.*
7. **Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES)** – Ms. Quill gave an update. There is a need to increase the number of specialist staff in the civil service. The need for economists has been particularly noted in a number of reports. Ms. Quill outlined the format envisaged for the proposed service. A needs analysis questionnaire has issued to departments. A needs analysis for this Department will also be conducted. *Action: Ms. Quill to email Assistant Secretaries seeking their views. A note to be drafted for the Minister.* Work to progress this initiative will continue in January.
8. **AOB – None.**

Next meeting – Monday, 12 December, 3pm