

## Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Management Board Meeting 20 June 2011

**Attendance:** Secretary General, Mr. Moloney, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Ryan, Mr. McGrath, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Mulvihill, Ms. McGuckin, Ms. Loughman.

**Apologies:** Mr. McNally, Mr. Errity.

The Secretary General welcomed Ms. McGuckin to the meeting as PO Forum representative to the Management Board.

**1. Minutes of last meeting** – the minutes were agreed.

**2. Events for Week**

**a) Minister's Diary:** -

- There will be a press briefing on Tuesday on the CRE public consultation and data bank. **Action: Mr. Ronnie Downes to attend next week's meeting to give an update on the CRE.**
- The Minister will meet with the CEO and Chair of the IDA on Tuesday. **Action: Secretary General to discuss with Mr. Moloney.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Infrastructure will meet on Tuesday. The main area for discussion is the establishment of NewERA; briefing is being prepared.
- The Minister has an interview with the Sunday Business Post this week. Appointments to State Boards and remuneration are topics which may arise. **Action: Mr David Feeney to provide briefing for the Minister on public sector reform.**

**b) Dáil Business:** - The Department's legislation will go through Committee and Report stages on Thursday. The Minister wishes to have an event for staff following enactment of the legislation. **Action: Ms. Loughman to discuss with the Secretary General.**

**c) Government Meeting:** -

- There was a discussion around the late receipt of memos from departments and the resulting delay in preparation of briefing for the Minister. It was noted that briefing on memos are only delayed where memos are submitted late.
- There is a media query in relation to the establishment of the Fiscal Advisory Council. Mr. McGrath informed the meeting that the council will be set up by end June.
- A query was raised in relation to Item 4 on the agenda. **Action: Mr. McGrath to look into this and report back to the Management Board.**

**3. Key Issues from Each Area –**

- **Expenditure:** The meeting was informed of the main areas of spending pressures. There was a discussion around the live register and activation measures.
- **Review of State Assets:** Responses to the Review are still awaited from some departments. **Action: a memo is to be prepared for the Minister as soon as possible. Mr. Moloney to follow up on outstanding responses.**
- **Budget Coordination Group:** A memo is in preparation and will go to Government in early July. **Action: Secretary General and Mr. Moloney to attend Finance MAC when the memo is being discussed.**

- **CMOD:** There were discussions around procurement issues and compliance with circulars by bodies outside of the civil service. *Action: Mr Duggan to draft a note identifying the key issues for the Secretary General.*
- **PMDS:** The C&AG is including a chapter on PMDS in his report this year.
- **Review of Decentralisation:** a memo is currently being drafted.
- In Mr. O’Connell’s absence the Secretary General informed the meeting that the **Pensions Bill** will be published soon.
- The **Croke Park Review** is moving into phase 2.
- **Public Sector Reform:** Mr. David Feeney is drafting an Implementation Plan on Public Sector Reform. CMOD are currently providing input into the Plan. External contractors are coming in to the Department to assist with this. The Cabinet Committee on Public Sector Reform is due to meet soon.
- There was a discussion regarding the need for a paper on **State Agency Governance**. *Action Mr. Moloney to discuss with Ms. Coleman, Mr. Brendan Ellison and Ms. Stephanie O’Donnell.*
- **Staff changes:** Mr. William Beausang will be joining the Department in July. The post of Assistant Secretary is at shortlisting stage and an appointment will be made soon. The vacancy arising from Mr. Philip Kelly’s departure has not been filled. Interviews for the HR post will take place in early July.

4. **AOB** – A letter from OPW regarding their annual Open House Event and the possible inclusion of the Department of Finance Building in this year’s event was circulated. *Action: Mr. Ryan to follow up with OPW.*

**Next meeting** – Monday 27 June at 3pm.