

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Management Board Meeting 24 October 2011

Attendance: Secretary General, Mr. McNally, Mr. Beausang, Mr. Duggan, Ms. Coleman, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Errity, Ms. Hanlon, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Costello, Mr. McGrath, Ms. McGuckin, Ms. Mulvihill, Ms. Loughman.

Apologies: Mr. Moloney.

- 1. Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes were agreed with a minor change.
- 2. Events for the Week** – The Minister will appear on Primetime on Tuesday evening to discuss the Referendum. There are a number of bilaterals taking place this week and the Minister is also attending a number of pre-budget meetings with external stakeholders. The Presidential Election and Referenda take place on Thursday. A Conference on Public Sector Reform will also take place on Thursday. The Department has a number of memos going to Government this week. The Department of Social Protection is preparing a paper setting out the present position in relation to pension policy. The paper has been prepared at the request of the EMC to provide a basis for discussions about pension policy. The Department of the Taoiseach has scheduled a meeting at official/ advisor level on 3 November for an initial discussion of the paper. **Action: Mr. O'Connell to circulate the paper when available.**
- 3. Pensions Bill Update** – The Pensions Bill went through second stage in the Dáil last week. There was a full debate on the Bill. It is expected that a number of amendments will be put down at the third stage. A note is being drafted on the current state of play for the Minister. Unions have been approached for discussion of their views on the Bill.
- 4. Government Reform Unit Update** – Mr. Beausang gave an update. The referendum on Enquiries by the Oireachtas takes place this Thursday. The two legislative priorities are FoI and Whistleblowers legislation. The Ombudsman and Ethics legislation will also need to be considered. **Action: Mr. Beausang to confirm the list of priorities with the Minister and discuss timing issues with regard to legislation. Mr. Beausang to make a presentation to Secretaries General on the impacts of reforms once more clarity on the constitutional convention has been reached.**
- 5. Croke Park and IR Issues** – Mr. Errity gave the update. The latest sectoral reports have been received and are being looked at. They will be discussed at the Implementation Group meeting next Tuesday. While the public reports are published annually, sectoral reports will be published on the web. Redeployment, rostering, allowances and annual leave will be key issues going forward.
- 6. Estimates** – A joint memo with Department of Finance is going to Government this week. **Action: Speaking note to be prepared for the Minister.** There will also be a separate memo on agency rationalisation. **Action: Ms. Hanlon to circulate the memo.** The numbers and pay bill memo will go to EMC this week. **Action: Ms. Hanlon to discuss the draft memo with the Minister.**

7. **Troika Mission Review** – The recent mission was discussed. The Secretary General expressed thanks for work carried out on this. A note was circulated. There will be a conference call in November in advance of the budget.
8. **Legislation Pending** – See items 3 and 4. *Action: An updated list of the present situation with regard to legislation to be drafted and discussed by the Management Board.*
9. **AOB** – *Action: The sequencing of budgetary and estimates publication days to be discussed by the Secretary General, Mr. Moloney, Ms. Hanlon, Mr. Downes, Mr. J Burke, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Reid, Mr. O’Brien and Ms. Mulvihill. Material to be prepared in advance.*

Next meeting – Tuesday, 1 November, 11.30am