



National Skills Council

Meeting Tuesday 24th November 2020 at 2pm to 4pm

Remote link via Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Members have received relevant papers in advance of the meeting.

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Ministerial remarks

- a. Agreement of Minutes and Statement of Priorities from previous meeting
- b. Opening Remarks by Minister Harris
- c. Remarks by Minister Collins
- d. Responses by Chair / Floor

2. Strategic Discussion

Topic: Discussion of Indecon Consultants' Draft Report - *Increasing the Sustainability of Higher Education Provision in Ireland - Adapting Higher Education and Further Education & Training Provision to Meet the Existing and Future Skills Requirements of Ireland's Labour Market.*

- a. Presentation by Alan Gray, Indecon Research Economists
- b. Discussion

Indecon will present on draft research recently carried on the sustainability of Higher Education provision in Ireland. The pillar of this tripartite research considered most pertinent for the National Skills Council examines the question of any misalignment between qualifications and skills provided by the Further and Higher Education sector and the skills demand of the labour market, and provides policy recommendations.

The final policy recommendations will be the subject of continued reflection for Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and other stakeholders over the course of 2021, with a view to taking forward concrete actions, and the Skills Council may indeed wish to consider this work again at a later stage.

As an initial discussion, and given the depth and breadth of the research undertaken, some suggested questions – in addition to the discussion on the analysis and findings set out in the presentation - which might helpfully frame the discussion at the NSC could include:

- *The scale of alignment between the findings and recommendations of the research and the current orientation of national skills policy and its implementation in further*

and higher education system and the key areas in which greater coherence could be durably achieved.

- *Key actions requiring examination to seek to ensure that national skills priorities particularly those relating to the skills requirements for continuing to build a knowledge-intensive economy as reflected in the Indecon research are best met through a balanced and cohesive further and higher education sector.*
- *Analysis and recommendations contained in the Indecon research which highlight key issues for setting the future strategic direction of skills policy by the Council including in relation to its future work / research programme.*

3. Council approval of reports

- **Monitoring Ireland's Skills Supply**
Presentation by Nora Condon, SLMRU.
Report to be approved by Council.

4. AOB and Closing Remarks