



**National Skills Council**

**Meeting Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 2.30pm to 4.30pm**

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

**1. Welcome from the Chairperson and Remarks from Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**

Members will be given an opportunity to respond to the Minister's remarks.

**2. Strategic Discussion: Ensuring Ireland has the right skills to optimise the opportunities of remote working, with a particular emphasis on balanced regional development.**

**A. Presentation by Microsoft in relation to their real time experience of remote working and a learning culture.**

Ms. Joanne Morrissey, HR Director and Dr. Kevin Marshall, Head of Education.

**B. Remarks by EU in relation to EU policy around skills development for remote working and the future world of work.**

Mr. Joost Korte, European Commission Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

**C. Open Discussion**

The Secretariat suggests some questions that may guide the discussion:

- *How can enterprise ensure that their employees are equipped with the skills necessary to allow productivity, collaboration and innovation to flourish in a remote working environment?*
- *What should we do to enable awareness of the skills required for remote working, and how can we ensure that people, irrespective of location, sector or skill level can access these skills in a way that suits them?*
- *Are we confident that our systems have the scale required (or are our systems scalable enough) to rapidly meet the potential demand for skills development?*
- *How can the further and higher education system strengthen existing provision in order to ensure that the opportunities presented by an increase in remote working can be maximised to facilitate balanced regional development?*

**3. Council approval of reports**

- Skills and Labour Market Research Unit, SOLAS - Lifelong Learning Report
- National Training Fund Advisory Group - Paper on Automation and the Future World of Work.

**4. Information Item - Update on Expert Group on Future Skills Needs Work plan 2021.**

**5. AOB and Closing Remarks**