



National Skills Council

Meeting Tuesday 28th September 2021 2.00pm to 4.00pm

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

1. **Welcome from the Chairperson (including approval of minutes)** **2.00pm**
2. **Strategic Discussion: Gender and Diversity in the Labour Market: Skills issues, impacts of COVID-19 and challenges around gender and diversity.** **2.05pm**
 - I. Joan McNaboe, Skills and Labour Market Research Unit in relation to the findings of the National Skills Bulletin.
 - II. Sandra McCullagh, Women's Economic Equality Co-ordinator, National Women's Council of Ireland.
 - III. Dr Andrea C Johnson, Chairperson of Women in Technology and Science (WITS).
 - IV. Dr Aideen Hartney, Director, National Disability Authority.
 - V. Examples of best practice of inclusion by enterprise: Colman O'Flynn, Vice President, Business Transformation, Dell and Dr Michelle Cullen, Managing Director and Head of Inclusion and Diversity, Accenture.

Open discussion - the Secretariat suggests some questions that may guide the discussion:

- *In light of changes to the labour market outlined in the National Skills Bulletin, how can we ensure that women, persons with disabilities, and persons with vulnerabilities more generally can be enabled to participate fully in the labour market?*
- *How can we ensure that employers are engaging with and assisting people to overcome these barriers, and ensuring access to upskilling/reskilling opportunities?*
- *Given the change in culture around remote and flexible working, are we effectively exploiting the opportunities around inclusivity in and access to the labour market?*

3. **Council approval of reports** **3.50pm**

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs will introduce some research that will feed into a thematic discussion by the National Skills Council over the coming months around Climate Change and the move to a Zero Carbon Economy.

- Skills for Zero Carbon: The Demand for Renewable Energy, Residential Retrofit and Electric Vehicle Deployment Skills to 2030
- Labour Demand Estimates for Ireland's National Housing Targets, 2021-2030
- Labour Demand Estimates for Commercial and Public Sector Retrofits