



## Minutes

---

**Subject:** Minutes of Second Meeting of Commission on Taxation and Welfare

**Date:** 18 June 2021

**Time:** 9:30am – 12pm

**Venue:** WebEx video conference

In attendance:

**Commission Members:** Professor Niamh Moloney (Chair), Marie Bradley, Philip Brennan, Sandra Clarke, Rowena Dwyer, Dr. William Hynes, Aoife Ní Lochlainn, Rena Maycock, John-Mark McCafferty, Tom McDonnell, Fergal O'Brien, Barra Roantree, Anne Vaughan

**Apologies:** Dr. William Hynes\*, Dr. Philip Kermode\*

**Secretariat\*\*:** Colm O'Reardon, Gary Hynds, Sinéad Ryan, Hugh Cronin, Deirdre Ní Alluráin, Mairéad Ross, Oisín Tarrant (presenter), Lynda O'Keeffe (presenter)

\* Awaiting membership clearance \*\*Other Secretariat members attended in an observational capacity

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair, Niamh Moloney, opened the meeting and briefly outlined the agenda.

### 2. Background briefing papers

- The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the papers that had been circulated in advance of the meeting covering:
  - An Outline of the Irish Social Protection System
  - Economic Principles and fundamentals of a tax system
  - Tax changes since 2009
  - Social Welfare changes since 2009
  - Sources of taxes and charges, uses and composition
  - Fiscal Position and Sustainability
- There were two presentations from the Secretariat summarising the material covered by those papers.

- The floor was opened to Q&A and general observations on the papers, which included the following themes:
  - The appropriate data to use for the purpose of comparisons and the need to have a shared understanding of the main components of the data sources.
  - Potential important themes and challenges that members feel should be further developed, including sustainability of the tax base, the uses of tax revenue and volatility of receipts.
  - Competitiveness and international context, noting these are evolving for corporation tax in particular.
  - The question of equity across the tax system, market income inequality, redistributive elements of the tax and welfare system and the future impact of demographic shifts.

### **3. Discussion on ToR and workplan**

- The Chair invited members to give their further reactions and observations on the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- On the scope of the work of the Commission consideration was given to the following:
  - What taxes, charges and expenditure measures are within scope.
  - The overall sustainability of public finances, including what sustainability of receipts means in the context of environmental taxes driving behavioural changes.
  - Housing, including the recent establishment of the Commission on Housing, was also noted.
  - Encouraging employment and increasing economic activity.
- On matters to further examine over the course of the work plan the following were raised:
  - An examination of international approaches to address the impact of aging on the public finances.
  - The approach to be adopted in relation to future public consultations and stakeholder engagement.
- Several members signalled that further discussion was necessary prior to narrowing the scope of the ToR.
- There was a discussion around the need to establish broad principles and pillars to frame the work of the Commission over the coming months.

### **4. AOB**

- The minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2021 were agreed.
- The agenda for the meeting of 25 June was discussed. The focus is to be on matters relevant to horizon scanning so there will be no papers issued in advance.

- The agenda for the meeting of 9 July was also discussed and it was agreed that this would be a longer session covering some more detail on the bigger themes raised and further context setting.
- The schedule of further meetings after the summer was also discussed and broadly agreed in principle, with a meeting scheduled for 3 September with the intention of meeting every two to three weeks thereafter.

## 5. Specific Action Points

Colour Code:

Closed/ Agreed

In progress

Ongoing/Repeated Action

Not Started

CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR WIDER CIRCULATION UNTIL APPROVED

ID	Action	Lead	Deadline	Status
Ref#	Brief summary of action point	Secretariat, Chair with Secretariat, DFIN, Other	Meeting X, May-21, Other	Completed, In progress, Not started, Other
COTW01	Commission Membership to return signed principles and procedures document	Commission	18 June 2021	In progress
COTW02	Decision Time training session	Commission	9 June 2021	Completed
COTW03	Issue papers for meeting 2.	Secretariat	9 June 2021 (with Chair) 11 June 2021 (with Commission)	Completed
COTW04	Devising detailed project plan	Secretariat	TBD	Not Started
COTW05	Respond to follow up requests from meeting 2	Secretariat	25 June 2021	In progress