

# **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**

## **Management Board Policy Forum Meeting**

**Thursday, 11 July, 2019**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

Secretary General, Mr. Menton, Mr. Lowry, Ms. Godkin, Mr. Downes, Mr. Moloney, Dr. Fallon-Byrne, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Quinn, Ms. Coleman, Ms. O'Reilly, Mr. Cagney, Mr. Sheedy, Mr. Harrison, Ms. Denning

#### **Apologies**

Ms. Sweeney

#### **1. Minutes of Policy Forum meeting 10 June 2019.**

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Policy Forum on 10 June were agreed.

#### **2. Risk Management, Business Planning and Workforce Planning**

##### **a) Risk Management: End Q2 High Level Risks Review**

Mr Feeney gave an overview to the Board on the most recent quarterly review of the Department's High Level Risks. The High Level Risk review was undertaken by the Corporate Governance Unit, in consultation with senior management across the Department. The review reflects recent developments and also key elements of the overall 2019 Risk Register. Mr. Feeney's update provided an overview of the main changes proposed as part of the review, with a focus on new risks and any risks which have increased and the corresponding mitigation actions to be taken.

The High Level Risks were discussed by the Board and a number of changes suggested. These changes will be reflected in the final version.

##### **b) Business Planning: Mid-Year Review of 2019 Plan and Approach to 2020 Plan**

Mr Feeney gave an overview to the Board on the mid-year review on the 2019 Business Plan which was carried out by the Corporate Office. The high-level review focused on the overall strategic context in which the Department does its business and on the departmental priorities identified for 2019. It is considered that progress has been made on these 15 priorities in the implementation of the overall Business Plan to the mid-point of 2019. It is further considered that all of these

priorities remain relevant for the remainder of 2019, given that they represent the core business of the Department. A significant number of these priorities are also likely to be priorities in the 2020 Business Plan and some of the same areas are expected to be reflected in the next Statement of Strategy.

In relation to the 2020 Business Planning process, Mr Feeney advised the Board that it is planned to formally commence the 2020 business planning process in September and to conclude it in December. The process will be broadly similar to that taken in 2019 and the development of the overall Departmental priorities and the divisional plans will be informed by wider issues related to workforce planning and the resourcing position for 2020.

- c) **Workforce Planning: Paper from Workforce Planning Group on 2020 Resourcing**  
This item will be discussed at a later meeting.

### **3. Data Sharing and Governance**

The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019, which was enacted in March 2019, provides for a general legal basis for Public Service Bodies to engage in the sharing of data, while also setting out appropriate safeguards under which such sharing should take place.

A number of functions were assigned to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019. These include the establishment of the Data Governance Board. Additionally there is an expectation amongst Public Service Bodies that the Department will provide services and information in relation to the Act including support in relation to specific projects, policy and technical support and the mechanisms by which these can be addressed were discussed by the Board. The key considerations for the discussion included how best the Department could implement the legislation so as to inspire public confidence, what resources were required and where work should sit to balance technical and governance requirements.

### **4. Any Other Business**

- The next Management Board Policy Forum will take place on Thursday 26 September 2019.

**Next Meeting: 26 September 2019**