

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Management Board Meeting on 21 October 2019

Minutes

Attendance

Secretary General, Mr Feeney, Mr Menton, Mr Cagney, Mr Lowry, Mr Downes, Dr Fallon Byrne, Ms O'Reilly, Ms Godkin, Mr Moloney, Ms Coleman, Ms McGirr, Ms Callaghan, Mr O'Keeffe, Ms O' Higgins, Ms Goulding, Ms Codd

Apologies

Mr Quinn, Ms Sweeney

1. Minutes of Management Board Meeting held on 14 October and Policy Forum meeting held on 11 July

The minutes of the meetings on 11 July and 14 October were agreed.

2. Events of the week

Ms Godkin updated the Board on the Minister's diary for the coming week.

3. Government Agenda

The agenda for this week's Government meeting was noted.

4. Key Policy Issues / Events of the week

Mr Menton provided an update for the Public Service Pay and Pensions Division including the sectoral pay and industrial relations issues.

Mr Lowry provided an update for the Office of Government Chief Information Officer including the Financial Management Shared Services, GovTec and the EU CIO Meeting scheduled for later this week in Finland.

Dr Fallon Byrne updated the Board on the Reform and Delivery Office including the Civil Service Management Board, the Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards, the Structural Reform Support Programme, the Public Service Leadership Board and the Data Sharing and Governance Act.

Mr Downes updated the Board on the Expenditure Policy and Reporting Division including post Budget follow up and the Public Spending Code.

Mr Moloney updated the Board on the Labour Market and Enterprise Policy Division including post Budget follow up, Irish Water and Social Protection and Housing matters arising.

Mr Cagney provided an update to the Board for the Civil Service Human Resources Division including Civil Service workforce analytics, One Learning, the Strategic HR Advisory Group, Civil Service workforce planning and Senior Public Service matters arising.

5. Upcoming Memoranda for Government

The Memoranda for Government planned for upcoming Government meetings were noted.

6. Public Services Card, MyGov ID and issues arising

Mr Lowry provided an update to the Board on Digital progress in Ireland. He advised that while there had been encouraging progress, particularly in the last year, the latest EU Commission Digital Survey demonstrated that there was a lot more to be done if we were to be seen to be one of the most progressed EU/EEA countries. On a positive note the figures for the growth of MyGovID verified accounts continued on an upward trajectory (over 21% increase for the period from the end of June 2019 to mid-October 2019). This confirmed the results of recent surveys, that there was growing public demand and appetite for joined-up digital government services.

Mr Lowry gave the Board a brief overview of Regulations (EU) No 910/2014 and (EU) 2018/1724. Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 commonly referred to as the eIDAS (Electronic ID and Trust Services) Regulation, adopted on 23 July 2014, addresses electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market. The Regulation has been established to ultimately enable people and businesses to use their own national electronic identification schemes to access public services in other EU countries where eIDs are also available. Additionally the Regulation creates legal validity for electronic signatures, electronic seals, time stamps have the same legal status as traditional paper based processes. Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services was also discussed. This single digital gateway should facilitate interactions between citizens and businesses, on the one hand, and competent authorities, on the other hand, by providing access to online solutions, facilitating the day-to-day activities of citizens and businesses and minimising obstacles encountered in the internal market. A common E-ID was an essential underlying component to Ireland's active participation in these initiatives.

7. Brexit Update

Mr O'Keeffe updated the Board on the latest possible outcomes based on the most recent voting in the UK Parliament. Preparations for Brexit are ongoing based on the two possible scenarios, firstly if a withdrawal agreement is reached; and second if there is a no-deal Brexit. Mr O'Keeffe will provide further updates to the Board as the situation becomes clearer.

8. Any Other Business

Next Meeting – 4 November 2019 at 11.00am