

## **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**

### **Management Board Meeting on Wednesday 13 May, 2020**

#### **Minutes**

##### **Attendance**

Minister Donohoe, Secretary General, Mr Downes, Mr Lowry, Dr Fallon Byrne, Mr Quinn, Mr Menton, Mr Cagney, Ms Coleman, Mr Moloney, Mr Feeney, Mr Howlin, Ms Sweeney, Mr Brophy, Ms O'Connor, Ms O'Reilly, Ms Godkin, Ms Codd.

##### **1. Discussion with Minister of Key Policy Issues in contest of COVID 19**

Minister Donohoe attended the Management Board meeting to discuss the latest COVID-19 developments.

Dr Fallon-Byrne provided an update for the Reform and Delivery Office including the Innovation Funds, Benefacts and the Civil Service Management Board.

Mr Cagney provided an update on the Civil Service Human Resources Division including ongoing guidance for public sector employers and employees on working arrangements and temporary assignments during COVID 19 and an insight sharing event later today to discuss the impact of COVID 19 across organisations both in Ireland and abroad.

Mr Lowry updated for the Office of Government Chief Information Officer on the provision of support to approximately 3,000 staff across 4 Departments & 5 Offices/Public Service Bodies home working and ongoing work on the HSE App for contact tracing.

Mr Quinn updated for the Office of Government Procurement in respect of the likely commercial and contractual challenges that could materialise on the return to work of the construction sector on 18<sup>th</sup> May given the disruption to supply chains, labour availability and the implementation of the Safety Protocol and PPE Procurement.

Mr Menton addressed the priorities of the Public Service Pay and Pensions Division including pay related issues and the continued work ongoing regarding the Single Pension Scheme administration.

Mr Downes provided an update on the Expenditure Policy and Reporting Division including Health and expenditures matters arising and the meeting of the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board and the preparations for the phased re-opening of construction projects.

Mr Moloney provided an update on the Labour Market and Enterprise Policy Division including the numbers availing of unemployment payments and the temporary wage subsidy scheme and the challenges arising relating to business supports, housing and transport issues.

Ms Coleman provided an update for the Expenditure Management, Structural Funds and Audit Division in relation to Education and Climate Action issues, Commercial State Bodies and EU Structural and Investment Funds.

**2. Minutes of the Management Board meeting on 6 May 2020.**

The minutes of the Management Board meeting on 6 May 2020 were agreed by the Board.

**3. Internal Operational Issues in context of COVID 19**

**Rolling Business Continuity Plan**

Mr Feeney updated the Board on the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Internal Rolling Business Continuity Plan for Response to the COVID-19 Emergency. This plan will continue to be implemented by the relevant areas and will be updated on a weekly basis.

**Covid Related Queries**

The system for COVID19 queries from TDs which temporarily replaced the PQ system has ceased with effect from 11 May with Written Parliamentary Questions returning today, 13 May. Written Parliamentary Questions will be taken on a weekly basis every Wednesday only, up to and including 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**HR matters**

Ms O'Reilly updated on the latest position in respect of HR matters within the Department including the eLearning series of supports. On Monday 11 May an e-Learning session on Managing a Remote Team was delivered to over forty manager in the Department and on Thursday 21 May an eLearning session titled 'From Coping to Outstanding' will be delivered as part of the initiatives for Mental Health Awareness week.

**4. Any Other Business**

- The next meeting of the Management Board Policy Forum will take place on Thursday 28 May.

Next Meeting Wednesday, 20 May, 2020 at 11.00am