# Civil Service Management Board

## 29th October 2021

## Note of Meeting

### Item 1a – Discussion on Current Government Priorities

The CSMB took this opportunity to have a high level and wide-ranging discussion on the biggest challenges facing the Civil Service noting:

- The constant drive for increased Civil Service responsiveness to the deliver on the Governments top priorities - Brexit and Covid-19, driving delivery on housing, climate and health - while also managing complex legacy issues and the range of other Government strategies and policies.
- Importance of public and sectoral engagement on issues such as climate, which requires whole of society as well as Government action.
- The changing and accelerating dynamic created by social media platforms which simplifies sometimes complex issues in a very reductive manner or amplifies small, niche lobbying on specific topics which the Government is challenged to respond to on a real-time basis.
- The evolving relationship between the Civil Service, Government and the wider political system and the Civil Service capacity to adapt to how it engages with the wider system.
- The importance and success of the Civil Service in its role as providing impartial policy advice but recognising the need to evolve and improve on implementation and delivery.

### Item 1b – Civil Service Renewal 2024

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. The CSMB were asked to provide written feedback on the paper to the Civil Service Renewal Programme Management Office.

### Item 1c – Strengthening Policy Development and Foresight in the Irish Public Service

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. The CSMB were asked to provide written feedback on the paper to the CSMB secretariat.

### Item 2a – Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards 2021 (Action 13)

The CSMB were updated on the preparations for the 2021 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards, scheduled to take place online and in person, in Dublin Castle on 25th November. Given the current rate of covid-19 infection in the community it was agreed that planning for potentially moving the event fully online would be undertaken. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform would consult with the Department of Health on this issue.

### Item 2b – Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey (Action 25)

The CSMB noted the requirement for all Civil Service organisations to reflect on their results from the 2020 Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey and produce an action plan, detailing the initiatives they will be implementing to improve their scores. A dashboard of activity will be submitted regularly to the CSMB to ensure continued momentum.

## Attendance

Martin Fraser, Department Taoiseach
Seán Ó Foghlú, Department of Education
Kevin McCarthy, Department of Rural and Community Development
Katherine Licken, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Maurice Buckley, Office of Public Works
Damien Moloney, Office of the Attorney General
Oonagh McPhillips, Department of Justice
David Moloney, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Brendan Gleeson, Department Agriculture, Food and Marine
Orlaigh Quinn, Department Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Fergal Lynch, Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Robert Watt, Department of Health
Niall Cody, Revenue
Shirley Comerford, Public Appointments Service
John McKeon, Department of Social Protection
Ken Spratt, Department of Transport
Jacqui McCrum, Department of Defence
Jim Breslin, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Joseph Hackett, Department of Foreign Affairs

## Secretariat

Liz Canavan, Department of the Taoiseach
Colin Menton, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Fiona Curran, Department of the Taoiseach

## Apologies

Pádraig Dalton, Central Statistics Office
Graham Doyle, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Mark Griffin, Department Environment, Climate and Communications
John Hogan, Department of Finance