Report of Tax Strategy Group Meeting on 25th September 2012

Minutes of the meeting on 18th September 2012 **(TSG 12/05)**

1. The minutes of the meeting of the 18th September were agreed.

Summary of Farm Taxation reliefs **(TSG 12/08)**

2. The paper covered taxation issues relating to farming and agriculture, it outlined that there are a number of taxation expenditure measures which are exclusively aimed at the farming community and that farmers can also avail of number of other expenditure measures which are not exclusive to that sector. The paper set out the current position and examined issues that have been raised, or are likely to arise, in the context of the Budget and Finance Bill 2013 and the Programme for Government.

Pay-Related Social Insurance Changes **(TSG 12/07)**

3. This paper set out the principal policy issues relating to any consideration of PRSI changes in Budget 2013. It reviewed developments in recent Budgets in relation to both PRSI income and expenditure measures and outlined the role of the social insurance system generally in providing social protection. The key findings of the recently published Actuarial Review of the Social Insurance Fund were detailed. The paper identified the primary policy options available to ensure the sustainability of the Social Insurance Fund in the years ahead and included a wide range of possible income-raising measures to address the current funding shortfall.

Income Tax **(TSG 12/06)**

4. This paper set out the Programme for Government commitments in relation to income tax. It then summarised developments in Budget 2012 before outlining policy considerations for Budget 2013. The paper concluded by making comparisons between the Tax Wedge in Ireland and that in other OECD states.

Any Other Business

5. None

Attendance list and Next Meeting

6. The attendance list for the meeting is attached.

7. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 2nd October 2012, in Room 0.2, South Block, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

John Day,

24th September 2012.

TSG Attendance list, 25th September 2012

Department of Finance:

Derek Moran

Eoin Dorgan

Gary Tobin

Marianne Nolan

Keith Hennessy

John Day (Acting Secretary)

Other members of the Department were present for parts of the meeting appropriate to their particular areas of work

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

John Conlon

Ronan O'Brien

Joan O'Shea

Department of the Taoiseach:

Andrew McDowell

Paul O'Brien

John Callinan

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Tánaiste)

Mark Garrett

Colm O'Reardon

Office of the Revenue Commissioners:

Niall Cody

Gerry Smyth

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:

Paul Kealy

Dermot Curran

Ciarán Conlon

Department of Social Protection:

Brian Ó Raghallaigh

Edward Brophy

Mary Kennedy

Aideen Mooney

Office of the Attorney General

Faye Breen

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Ann Derwin