

GOOD GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

"The bottom line is we simply cannot sustain our current system of Public Service delivery"

Brendan Howlin, T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, 17 November 2011

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012, 8am – 10.30am

A light breakfast will be served at 8am and the event will commence at 8.30am

At the Institute of Public Administration, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4.



What are the implications for public service organisations of ensuring and sustaining good governance during a period of fundamental structural change? With a heightened focus on cost, efficiency and productivity, is there a tension between compliance with governance guidelines and the need for high performance?

This Forum briefing will discuss the benefits and the challenge of meeting good governance obligations and expectations in a period of radical public service reform. Organisations have to balance reduced publicly funded budgets with the requirement to ensure that the public receive high quality services. The issues to be addressed will include:

- The government programme for the rationalisation of agencies
- The criteria to consider in delivering services through departments or other bodies
- How to strengthen the focus on outputs and outcomes
- The value of external assessments of organisations
- Findings and assessments by the Comptroller and Auditor General
- Governance and audit implications of the reform programme

The presentations and the discussions will provide an opportunity to discuss contemporary issues facing many organisations. Don Thornhill will discuss the appropriate levels of autonomy and accountability for top public service managers. Andy Harkness will discuss current governance and audit issues which the Comptroller and Auditor General reports are highlighting. David Feeney will discuss progress on the public service reform programme and priority issues for implementation.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Don Thornhill is Chairman of the National Competiveness Council and board member of a number of other organisations in the public and private sectors. He is a former Secretary General of the Department of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Authority.

Andy Harkness is Director of Audit at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General with responsibility for the audit of semi-state, health sector and other bodies. The duties of the C&AG include the audit of the accounts and examinations of whether audited bodies administer resources economically and efficiently and have mechanisms in place to evaluate the effectiveness of operations.

David Feeney plays a central role in the new Reform and Delivery Office at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. This office has the mandate to lead and facilitate the implementation of the public service reform programme.

Time & Location

The Briefing will take place on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at the IPA, 57-61 Lansdowne Road. A light breakfast will be served from 8.00am. The presentations and open forum discussions will commence at 8.30am and conclude at 10.30am.

Cost and Bookings

Members of the forum may nominate up to three participants to the briefing without charge. The cost for additional nominees is €100 per person. The cost for non forum members is €140 per person. Bookings can be made using the attached booking form or by contacting Sandra Byrne at the IPA (sbyrne@ipa.ie).