

DRCD Information Note for the Committee of Public Accounts: Update on the scoping exercise for a National Funding Platform February 2023

Project Background:

The high level purpose of this exercise is to explore options for a funding platform that would reduce the administrative burden on grantees and funders, as well as providing a single source of truth and source of analysis on state funded community and voluntary grantees, and the investment being made into these organisations.

Exploring a central end-to-end grant management system for all government departments is part of the scoping exercise and would be based on an agreed common set of data points as well as a 'file-once' principle for those organisations who have a grant funding relationship with the state.

Streamlining the compliance and reporting burden faced by the community and voluntary sector across many different agents of the State has been identified by the Department, via engagement with the sector, as a key requirement.

The merits of proceeding with this approach would be dependent on establishing a whole-of-government approach to governance reporting.

Project Status:

This scoping exercise report has been completed and is currently under consideration by the Department.

A number of options are being considered, including the provision of data on an open source basis.

Funding Allocation to Date:

In May 2021, the Department entered into an agreement with Pobal to conduct a scoping exercise on the potential for a National Funding Platform of community and voluntary organisations which have a funding relationship with the State.

The cost of this initial scoping exercise was €30,000.

No additional funding has been allocated to the project to date, February 2023.

Estimated Future Costs:

The Department is not in a position to estimate timeframes or costs for delivery of what would be a potentially significant long term project, if the model is to sufficiently address the needs of public bodies, funded organisations and other stakeholders in respect of information sharing and provision.

Any decision to move forward with what would also be a significant ICT Development project would require a whole of Government approach as well as being subject to Government approval, and would also be subject to the conditions set out in the public spending code.

**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Sarah Cremin,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.

Via email

7 February 2023

Ref: S1124 PAC33

Dear Sarah,

I refer to your correspondence dated 29 December 2022, seeking further information regarding the scoping exercise exploring a National Funding Platform for community and voluntary organisations in receipt of State funding.

Please find attached for the attention of the Committee, an information note containing an update on the project. The scoping exercise for the project has been completed and is under consideration by the Department. No decision has been made in respect of this project and the options contained in the scoping paper are still under consideration. Therefore, a business case has not yet been prepared.

The Department of Rural and Community Development has no objection to the publication of the material contained herein.

I trust the Committee finds this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read 'Mary Hurley', is located above a horizontal line.

Mary Hurley,
Secretary General