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## An Coiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid

Tuairisc Iar-Bhuiséad 2022

Samhain 2021

## Committee on Budgetary Oversight

Post-Budget 2022 Report

November 2021



## Committee Membership



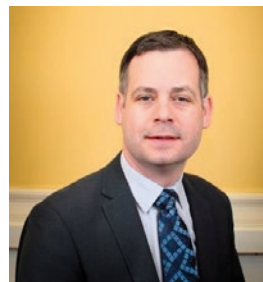
Richard Boyd-Barrett  
TD  
Solidarity – People  
Before Profit



Seán Canney TD  
Independent



Ciaran Cannon TD  
Fine Gael



Pearse Doherty TD  
Sinn Féin



Bernard Durkan TD  
Fine Gael



Mairéad Farrell TD  
Sinn Féin



Michael Healy-Rae  
TD  
Independent



Neasa Hourigan TD  
Green Party



John Lahart TD  
Fianna Fáil



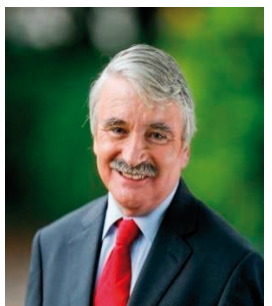
Brian Leddin TD  
Green Party



Aindrias Moynihan  
TD  
Fianna Fáil



Ged Nash TD  
Labour



Willie O'Dea TD  
Fianna Fáil



Kieran O'Donnell TD  
Fine Gael



Patricia Ryan TD  
Sinn Féin

## Foreword



This is the first time the Committee on Budgetary Oversight has published a post-Budget report. The Committee committed to doing so in its Final Report on the Framework for Parliamentary Engagement and to send the report to the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach.

In undertaking this report, the Committee have re-examined its recommendations from its Interim and Final Pre-Budget Report and have also examined the Budget publications along with commentary from a number of organisations (the ESRI, the Fiscal Council and the Parliamentary Budget Office). I hope this report will be of some use to the Members of the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach, outlining the macro-economic context around the Budget, such as the economic and fiscal position and giving a brief overview of the Budgetary measures, particularly around the core and non-core expenditure.

The Committee has made a number of observations and recommendations around issues that could have an impact on Budget 2022 as well as improvements for future Budgets. The Committee has also made a number of comments on the recommendations set out in our previous reports (the Interim and Final Pre-Budget 2022 reports).

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Parliamentary Budget Office for their input into the Committee and their publications which have been very useful to the Committee and the other organisations whose publications have aided the Committee in preparing this report. Finally, I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their input into this report.



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Neasa Hourigan T.D.

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## Executive Summary

Section 1 of this report considers areas impacting the Medium-Term Framework, namely the Economic and Fiscal Position, inflationary pressures, and Fiscal Rules. Several publications issued with Budget 2022 have brought further clarity regarding expected revenues and forecasts, which have improved Ireland's economic and fiscal position.

Section 2 of the report provides an update on the budgetary measures introduced in Budget 2022, in terms of expenditure and taxation. Section 3 addresses the budgetary process and makes recommendations to provide reforms that would assist oversight of future budgets. Finally, Section 4 re-examines the recommendations made in the Committee's Pre-Budget Report in the context of Budget 2022.

## Summary of Recommendations

### Observations and Recommendations

1. The Committee notes that the economy has recovered more strongly than previously predicted which has resulted in a lower than anticipated budget deficit.
2. The Committee notes that inflationary pressures have increased and must continue to be monitored closely.
3. The Committee re-iterates its support of providing information on the Existing Level of Service costs as it provides a better estimate of the cost of maintaining existing services than previous estimates.
4. The Committee notes concerns that the €5 increase in Social Protection payments reduces the adequacy and connection between payments. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to percentage increases in payment levels.
5. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of a contingency reserve for any deterioration in the Covid-19 situation. However, the Committee also notes

that unallocated reserves should only be used in specific exceptional circumstances and should not become a feature of the budgetary process.

6. The Committee recommends that the Tax Strategy Papers and the Spending Review be published in tandem, no later than July, as has previously been the case.
7. The Committee recommends that the white paper be adapted going forward to include more information on a General Government basis.

## Introduction

Budget 2022 was published on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021. While the Committee on Budgetary Oversight (“the Committee”) has regularly undertaken extensive pre-budget scrutiny, it has not previously undertaken formal post-budget scrutiny.

The Committee’s Final Report on the Framework for Parliamentary Engagement throughout the course of the Budgetary Cycle recommended that:

*The Committee on Budgetary Oversight will, shortly after the Budget each year, lay a post-Budget report before the Dáil, and send it to the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform and the Taoiseach for use during consideration of the Finance Bill.<sup>1</sup>*

The purpose of this post-Budget report therefore is to provide an update on the Committee’s Final Pre-Budget report specifically in terms of:

- updated revenue forecasts
- the Budget’s impact on macro-economic outlook
- Following up on Committee’s recommendations

In addition, the report provides the macro-economic context to assist the Committee on Finance Public Expenditure & Reform and the Taoiseach and other Members when considering the Finance Bill.

Further insight on Budget 2022 will be provided upon the publication of the Revised Estimates which will detail the individual allocation to each Vote. Sectoral Committees will consider these allocations in early 2022.

This report relies on the [Budget 2022 publications](#), the Economic and Social Research Institute’s (ESRI) [Post-Budget Briefing](#), the Fiscal Council’s [Flash Release on Budget 2022](#) and the Parilamentary Budget Office’s (PBO) [Preliminary PBO Review of Budget 2022](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Action 9

## Section 1: Medium-Term Framework

### Economic and Fiscal Position

Ireland's economic and fiscal position improved significantly in the months leading to the Budget.

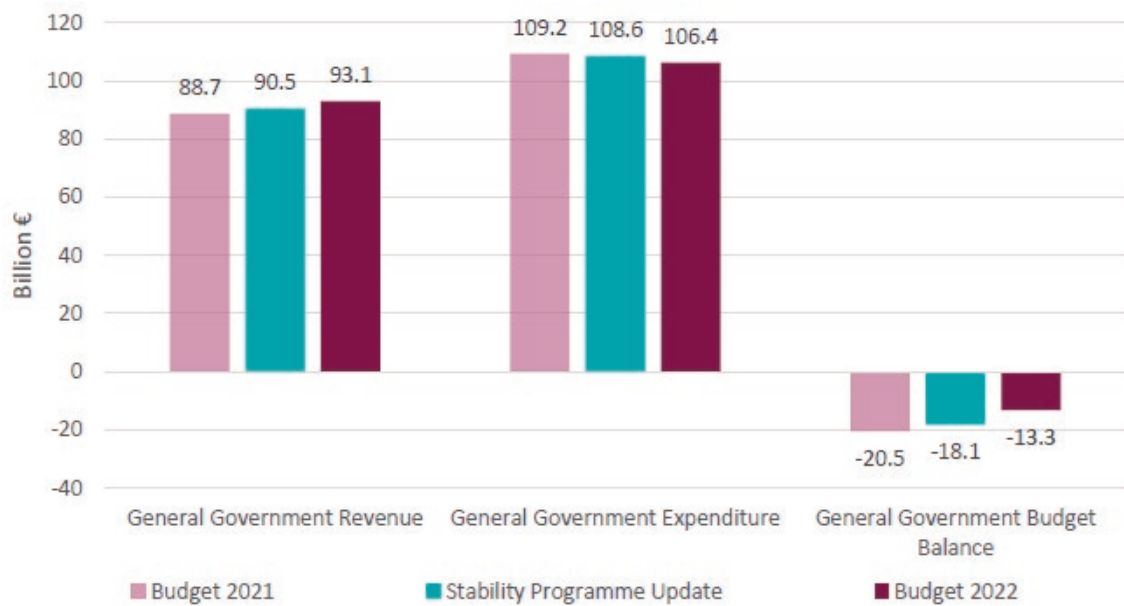
As outlined in the Committee's final pre-Budget report, the projections for GDP growth in 2021 have increased from 4.5% in the Stability Programme Update (SPU) to 15.6% in the Budget 2022 forecasts. While not as large, the forecasts for GNI\* also rose from 2.5% in the SPU to 4.7% in the Budget forecasts.

The Fiscal Council noted that the domestic economy is expected to hit pre-pandemic levels this year. However, it is also noted that the Budget forecasts scarring of around 3% over the medium term.

The Economic and Fiscal Outlook, published alongside the Budget, outlined that the deficit is projected to be 5.9% of GNI\* in 2021 and 3.4% in 2022. Government revenue has performed above expectations and expenditure has been lower, resulting in a lower deficit than previously forecast for 2021 (8.4% in the SPU and 9.4% in the Summer Economic Statement (SES)).

Figure 1 shows how the forecasts for Government revenue, Government expenditure and the budget balance have evolved throughout the year.

Figure 1: 2021 Forecasts for key fiscal variables (source: PBO Preliminary Review of Budget 2022)



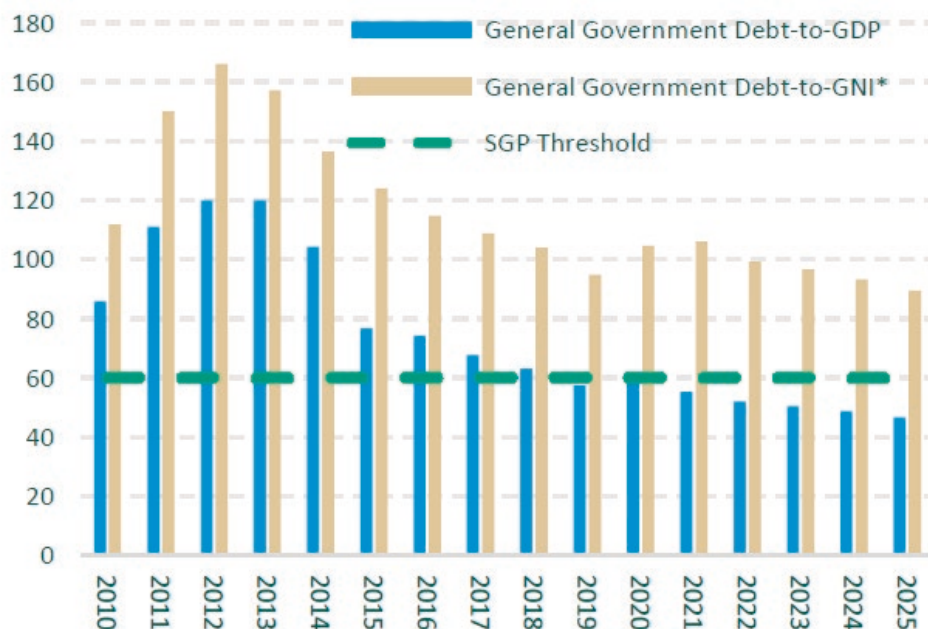
#### Observations and Recommendations

1. The Committee notes that the economy has recovered more strongly than previously predicted which has resulted in a lower than anticipated budget deficit.

The Economic and Fiscal Outlook also updates the position on Government debt which is expected to be 106.2% of GNI\* in 2021 and fall to 99.2% in 2022. Figure 2 shows the trajectory of the debt ratio from 2010 to 2025.

Figure 2: Debt Ratio (source: Budget 2022 Economic and Fiscal Outlook)

## A: Debt ratio



The ESRI noted the drivers of economic growth with exports growing strongly in 2021 (and 2022). After a fall in 2020, private consumer expenditure is expected to grow in 2021 (7.5%) and 2022 (8%).

### Inflationary pressures

The Economic and Fiscal Outlook includes forecasts for inflation of 2.3% in 2021 and 2.2% in 2022<sup>2</sup>. The ESRI is forecasting inflation to reach 2.3% in 2021 and 2.5% in 2022.

The Economic and Fiscal Outlook notes that inflation is largely a result of the pandemic and that similar trends have been observed across many economies. It has also been noted that, on balance, most observers believe that higher inflation will be temporary.

<sup>2</sup> HICP

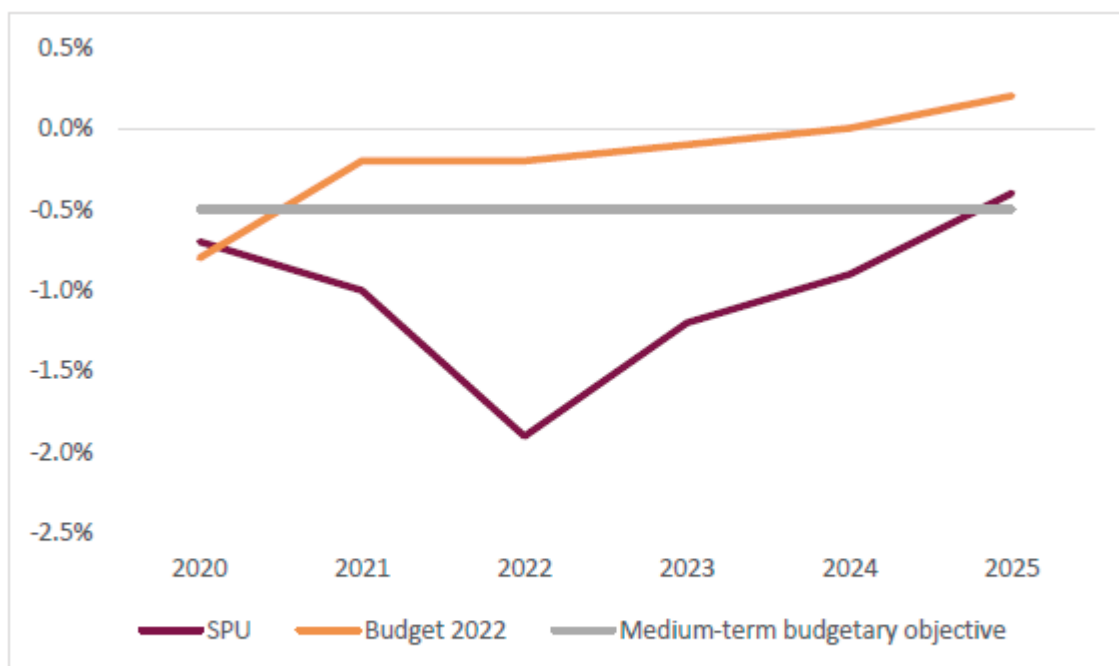
### Observations and Recommendations

2. The Committee notes that inflationary pressures have increased and must continue to be monitored closely.

### Fiscal Rules

The PBO has noted that, based on current projections, Ireland is on target to meet EU fiscal rules, requiring a debt to GDP ratio of 60% or below and a deficit below 3% from 2022. The PBO also outlined that the Medium-term objective (structural balance deficit of 0.5%) is also set to be met noting that the Budget 2022 forecasts are more positive than in the SPU (see figure 3).

Figure 3: Structural Budget Balance (% of GDP) (source: PBO Preliminary Review of Budget 2022)



Source: Department of Finance SPU & Budget 2022

## Section 2: Budgetary Measures

### Expenditure Measures

The total estimated gross expenditure is set out in the table below.

Table 1: Estimate of Gross Voted Expenditure 2022 (source: Budget 2022 Expenditure Report):

Estimate of Gross Voted Expenditure 2022	
	€ million
Gross Voted Current Expenditure (Core)	69,176
Gross Voted Capital Expenditure (Core)	10,904
<b>Total Gross Voted Expenditure (Core)</b>	<b>80,080</b>
Covid-19 Expenditure Allocated*	2,768
National Recovery and Resilience Plan	212
<b>Non-Core allocated to Departments</b>	<b>2,980</b>
Covid-19 Contingency Reserve	2,800
Other Unallocated Covid	1,232
Brexit Adjustment Reserve	500
<b>Non-Core yet to be allocated to Departments</b>	<b>4,532</b>
<b>Overall Total Gross Votes Expenditure</b>	<b>87,593</b>

\*Covid-19 Expenditure Allocated includes the current element of NRRP funding. \*\* Rounding affects total

### Core Expenditure

The Budget set out a “budgetary package” amounting to €4.7 billion. This is made up of €1.6 billion to maintain Existing Level of Service (ELS) costs, €1.1 billion increase in government investment, €1.45 billion of new current spending measures and changes to the tax bands and tax credits with a cost of €520 million.

Compared to 2021, core current expenditure is increasing by 4.6% and core capital expenditure by 11.4%.

#### Observations and Recommendations

3. The Committee re-iterates its support of providing information on the Existing Level of Service costs as it provides a better estimate of the cost of maintaining existing services than previous estimates.

A number of measures to increase Social Protection payments were announced as part of the Budget, costing a total of €558.3 million in 2022. This included a number of €5 per week increases to various payments.

The ESRI has highlighted that the practice of €5 per week increases in core social protection payments weakens the connection between the level of payment and adequacy<sup>3</sup>.

#### Observations and Recommendations

4. The Committee notes concerns that the €5 increase in Social Protection payments reduces the adequacy and connection between payments. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to percentage increases in payment levels.

### Non-Core Expenditure

The non-core spending of around €7 billion of additional funds are related to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with an additional €500 million from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Just under €3 billion has been allocated to Departments (and is reflected in their Departmental Estimates), including over €1 billion for the Department of Social Protection, to cover the extension of the EWSS, PUP and other Covid-19 related

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<sup>3</sup> [Post-Budget Briefing | ESRI](#)

supports, and €0.8 billion for the Department of Health, for costs linked to its response to the pandemic (e.g. vaccination, test and trace and PPE).

A further €4 billion has not been allocated and makes up a contingency reserve to allow the flexibility to respond to any deterioration in the Covid-19 situation and will only be allocated if required, for example should increases in employment supports or additional costs in providing public services arising from a tightening of restrictions be required.

#### Observations and Recommendations

5. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of a contingency reserve for any deterioration in the Covid-19 situation. However, the Committee also notes that unallocated reserves should only be used in specific exceptional circumstances and should not become a feature of the budgetary process.

## Taxation Measures

A number of taxation measures were announced in the Budget. The most significant change is to the income tax bands and credits. The income tax standard rate band will be increased by €1,500 and a number of tax credits<sup>4</sup> will increase by €150 for a total cost of €520 million in 2022. The 2% USC rate band will also be increased by €608, ensuring that any full-time worker on the minimum wage would not pay a higher rate due to the increase in the minimum wage.

The ESRI outlined that the indexation of tax credits and tax bands (slightly above inflation) has helped maintain purchasing power.

The carbon tax will also increase, as set out in the Finance Act 2020, by €7.50 per tonne, raising an additional €109 million in 2022<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Personal Tax Credit, the Employee Tax Credit and the Earned Income Credit

<sup>5</sup> These measures will result in a full year cost of €148 million, however this is reduced in 2022 as some measures will be introduced on 1 May 2022.

The ESRI noted that carbon taxes set the long-term trajectory of energy prices. This sets future expectations of price increases, whereas the current increase in prices could be temporary.

The extension of the Bank Levy will bring in a further €87 million in 2022.

The Help to Buy (HTB) scheme has also been extended to the end of 2022, costing an estimated €83 million in 2022. However, it is noted that the full cost is estimated in the region of €175 million of which €92 million is in the tax base. The PBO noted that it would welcome additional information on this calculation.

## Section 3: Budgetary Process

### Budget Documents

A number of documents are published alongside the Budget, allowing for deeper analysis of the Budget.

#### Pre-Budget Papers

The Tax Strategy Papers provide a useful insight into a number of tax policy areas. However, their publication less than a month before the Budget does not give the Committee (or other bodies) sufficient time to fully examine and consider them as part of its pre-Budget scrutiny.

The Spending Review 2021 was published in a number of tranches across July and August. While this allowed further time for consideration, it was not sufficient to allow full examination by the Committee, or relevant Sectoral Committees.

#### Observations and Recommendations

6. The Committee recommends that the Tax Strategy Papers and the Spending Review be published in tandem, no later than July, as has previously been the case.

#### The White Paper

The Estimate of Receipts and Expenditure (the “white paper”) published shortly before the Budget show figures on a technical pre-Budget basis. This allows for analysis of the impact of budgetary decisions. However, the use of exchequer figures, rather than providing more information on a General Government basis reduces the usefulness of the white paper for understanding the overall position and comparing to other publications.

#### **Observations and Recommendations**

7. The Committee recommends that the white paper be adapted going forward to include more information on a General Government basis.

## Section 4: Previous Committee Recommendations

	Final Pre-Budget Report Recommendation	Post-Budget Comment
1.	The Committee recommends that additional clarity on the amended deficit and debt levels in the Summer Economic Statement and their compliance with fiscal rules be given.	The Budget was published on 12 <sup>th</sup> October. This report updated on the deficit and debt levels. It is important to note that the fiscal rules are currently suspended.
2.	The Committee recommends that updated estimates of the impact of changes to the international corporation tax regime on Irish tax receipts be published as soon as possible.	<p>Since the Committee's Pre-Budget 2022 report, Ireland has joined the OECD's new international agreement on tax on corporation tax rules.</p> <p>This agreement provides additional clarity regarding corporation tax.</p> <p>However, the Committee re-confirms the need for updated estimates of the impact of these changes.</p>
3.	The Committee recommends that any tax measures be included in the spending rule set out in the Summer Economic Statement.	The Committee notes the impact of tax measures on spending rules and re-emphasises the importance of their inclusion when considering spending rules.

4.	The Committee welcomes the inclusion of Existing Level of Service Costs in the Summer Economic Statement as it provides a better estimate of the cost of maintaining existing services than previous estimates.	The Committee welcomes these additions.
5.	The Committee welcomes the multi-annual funding certainty included in the National Development Plan.	
6.	The Committee notes that strong control and oversight mechanisms are necessary to ensure delivery of projects and value for money.	While the Committee welcomes additional allocations toward a variety of capital programmes, the Committee is also cognisant of the need to provide efficient spending that incorporates Value-for-Money.
7.	The Committee notes that the issue of any “pandemic recognition” is not set to be a Budget Day decision and recommends that further clarity on how any recognition will be funded should be made clear in the Budget.	The Committee will continue to monitor developments regarding this initiative.

8.	The Committee notes the risk of unwinding pandemic-related government supports too quickly from individuals and businesses.	The Covid-19 pandemic continues to bring uncertainty. It is also noted that while the economy, in general, is recovering, sections of the economy may continue to struggle and may require targeted assistance.
9.	The Committee welcomes that well-being budgeting will continue to make progress in Budget 2022 and recommends that it be further progressed in for Budget 2023. The Committee looks forward to reviewing a fully functioning wellbeing and equality tested budget for Budget 2023.	The Committee continues to support the introduction of well-being budgeting and strongly advocates for the progression of this reform.

	Interim Pre-Budget Recommendations	Post Budget Comment
1.	The Committee on Budgetary Oversight welcomes the pre-budget reports published by a number of Committees. However, the Committee notes that the recommendations made by the Committees were not costed and that this requires attention going forward.	The Committee will continue to work to implement the recommendations of the Committee's report on the Framework for Parliamentary Engagement through the course of the Budgetary Cycle and to provide a framework that supports the submission of costed submissions from sectoral Committees.
2.	The Committee notes the economic context appears positive, however, there are significant risks including the trajectory of the virus, inflation, Brexit and corporation tax.	The risks identified in the Committee's pre-budget scrutiny remain and the Committee will continue to monitor these risks. The Committee has scheduled a series of meetings to examine the risk of inflation in November 2021.
3.	The Committee notes that North-South trade has increased significantly in the first four months of 2020 compared to	The Committee notes the importance of North-South trade,

	2019, in part as a consequence of opportunities created by the Protocol, and recommends that trade and enterprise policy be developed to deepen and strengthen North-South trade and the all-island economy.	especially in the context of current risks.
4.	The Committee recommends that tax expenditure reviews be published in advance of the budget to allow proper scrutiny.	The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare and looks forward to its report in July 2022.  The Committee will continue to examine the issue of tax expenditures and will include the topic in its next work programme.
5.	The Committee reaffirms its commitment to examining tax expenditures on a regular basis and will examine the rationale for the introduction of any new tax expenditures in Budget 2022.	
6.	The Committee is of the opinion that pension-related tax expenditures should be considered as part of the wider reform of the pension system.	

7.	The Committee has discussed a number of areas where tax expenditures could be better targeted. The Committee will continue to examine this issue as part of its work programme.	
8.	The Committee recommends that an examination of congestion charges be undertaken.	The Committee re-confirms its recommendations regarding climate action.
9.	The Committee recommends that EV strategy be reviewed to ensure it represents value for money and is achieving its objectives.	
10.	The Committee notes the debate around the benefits of tax exemptions on fuel use.	
11.	The Committee emphasises the need for significant investment in climate related infrastructure.	
12.	The Committee recommends that such investment should be structured to maximise sustainable and quality jobs, energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions, while ensuring	

	a just transition, protecting livelihoods and providing economic development across the country.	
13.	The Committee recommends that increased investment in sustainable public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure be prioritised.	
14.	The Committee notes that the lack of public and affordable housing and rental accommodation is a result of the under-provision of social and affordable housing by successive Governments, notes that ESRI warned that without a significant scaling up of publicly provided construction we will fall significantly short of meeting the level of demand for accommodation in the absence of such investment, and therefore recommends that capital investment in public housing be doubled in Budget 2022.	<p>The Housing for all Plan was introduced in August 2021.</p> <p>The plan commits around €20 billion (capital spending) over a five-year period (2021-2025), compared to €4.75 billion spent between 2016 and 2020.</p> <p>This capital spending is funded through a combination of €12bn in direct Exchequer funding, €3.5bn in funding through the Land Development Agency (LDA) and €5bn funding through the Housing Finance Agency (HFA).</p>
15.	The Committee notes that the ongoing international discussions	The OECD's new international agreement on corporation tax

	could have a significant impact on Ireland's corporation tax revenue.	rules has potential to bring both positive and negative impacts.
16.	The Committee welcomes the inclusion of a decrease in corporation tax revenue over the coming years in the Government's forecasts. However, the Committee also notes that the impact could be greater.	Ireland's tax revenues continue to be vulnerable due to the concentration of corporation tax in a small number of corporate groups.
17.	The Committee recommends that any short-term increases in corporation tax revenue should not, in general, be used to fund increases in current expenditure though there may be some exceptions.	However, the Committee re-confirms the need for updated estimates of the impact of these changes.
18.	The Committee is concerned that the concentration of corporation tax in a small number of corporate groups leaves Ireland's tax revenues vulnerable to a sudden change in policy from a small number of companies.	
19.	The Committee recognises that the public consultation into the review of EU Fiscal Rules is to be reopened in 2021. The Committee	

	commits to examining as part of work programme some of the different proposals for reform and their compatibility with the Green New Deal, which could assist the government in making in its submission to the public consultation.	The Committee will continue to monitor developments regarding the EU Fiscal Rules.
20.	The Committee notes the commitment in the SES to stick to the expenditure ceilings even in the event of a drop in revenue due to poorer than expected economic performance.	The commitment to remain within a fixed growth rate for expenditure ceilings out to 2025 is prudent and the Committee will monitor the ability to remain within these ceilings over the coming years.
21.	The Committee is of the opinion that the deficit should be allowed increase if there is a negative shock to the economy resulting in lower than expected revenue. However, the Committee also emphasises that permanent increases in current expenditure should be matched by increases in revenue.	
22.	The Committee notes the deficit and debt trajectories set out in the Summer Economic Statement and further notes the allowance for	The Budget provided updated forecasts of the deficit and debt levels. If the current budgetary strategy is maintained, Ireland's

	larger deficits to 2025 to fund increased investment.	debt and deficit would continue to improve to a more manageable and prudent level.
23.	The Committee highlights the importance of investment in re-skilling, in particular for those most disadvantaged by the pandemic such as young people, older workers, women etc.	<p>Budget 2022 allocated an additional €149 million in core current expenditure to allow for the provision of new apprenticeships, new Springboard places, student supports and a range of upskilling and reskilling opportunities.</p> <p>The Committee re-emphasises the importance of ensuring that allocated funds are targeted effectively and that appropriate indicators are provided to Committees to allow effective oversight.</p>
24.	The Committee notes that additional revenue will have to be raised to fund new investment and services.	Budget 2022 introduced additional revenue measures that are expected to raise €455 million in 2022 and €507 million in a full year
25.	The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Commission	The Committee engaged with the Commission on Taxation and Welfare in public session on the 3

	on Taxation and Welfare and looks forward to engaging with it.	November 2021. The Committee looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission.
26.	The Committee welcomes developments around a well-being framework and ongoing consultation with various stakeholders.	The Committee acknowledges the work by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in developing the Public Service Performance Report and the Committee will continue to work with the Department on its enhancement.  The Committee also calls for greater co-operation between sectoral Committees and their Departments in establishing meaningful indicators and providing effective oversight of these.
27.	The Committee is of the opinion that their engagement should remain throughout the process of implementing the well-being indicators and not just during the creation of the system.	
28.	The Committee is of the opinion that sectoral committees should have a greater role in establishing the indicators in the Public Service Performance Report, with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, providing a role in ensuring that indicators meet best standards, are consistent with other indicators and best represent the performance of the Department	

29.	The Committee recommends that appropriate stakeholders, such as academics, universities and community groups should be included in discussions regarding equality and well-being indicators and that such consultation should continue throughout the process.	
30.	The Committee is of the opinion that qualitative indicators, in addition to quantitative indicators, should be included in any framework for equality and well-being indicators	

## Appendix – Terms of Reference

Go ndéanfar, de réir mholadh an Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála faoi Bhuan Ordú 107(1)(a), Buan-Orduithe Dháil Éireann i dtaobh Gnó Phoiblí a leasú tríd an mBuan-Ordú seo a leanas a ghlacadh:

‘186A. (1) Beidh arna bhunú, a luaite is féidir i ndiaidh ationól na Dála tar éis Olltoghcháin, Buanchoiste, dá ngairfear an Coiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid, chun scrúdú a dhéanamh agus, más cuí leis é, chun tuarascáil a thabhairt don Dáil—

- (a) ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán, lena n-áirítear—
  - (i) an staid chomhiomlánaithe maidir le hioncam agus caiteachas agus larmhéid Ginearálta an Rialtais, lena n-áirítear spriocanna struchtúracha;
  - (ii) réamh-mheastacháin mheántearma don airgeadas poiblí;
  - (iii) réamhaisnéisí agus forbairtí maicreacnamaíocha; agus
  - (iv) rialachas fioscach ginearálta, lena n-áirítear rialacha agus priacail fhioscacha a fheidhmiú maidir leis an staid fhioscach;
- (b) ar an mbeartas maidir le caiteachas poiblí, lena n-áirítear—
  - (i) an staid chaiteachais ag féachaint don Uasteorainn Caiteachais Rialtais agus don tslat tomhais chaiteachais faoin gComhaontú Cobhsaíochta agus Fáis; agus
  - (ii) na hUasteorainneacha Caiteachais Aireachta a bhfuil feidhm acu maidir le Meastacháin ar leith nó grúpaí Meastachán i gcomhair Seirbhísí Poiblí i gcás go bhféadfadh athruithe suntasacha ar an bpróifíl chaiteachais tionchar a bheith acu ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán;

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the sub-Committee on Dáil Reform under Standing Order 107(1)(a), the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended by the adoption of the following Standing Order:

219 (1) There shall stand established as soon as may be, following the reassembly of the Dáil subsequent to a General Election, a Standing Committee, to be known as the Committee on Budgetary Oversight, to examine and, where it considers it appropriate, report to the Dáil on—

- (a) the overall fiscal position, including—
  - (i) the aggregated position on revenue and expenditure and the General Government Balance, including structural targets;
  - (ii) medium-term projections for the public finances;
  - (iii) macro-economic forecasts and developments; and
  - (iv) general fiscal governance including the application of fiscal rules and risks to the fiscal position;
- (b) public expenditure policy, including—
  - (i) the expenditure position having regard to the Government Expenditure Ceiling and the expenditure benchmark under the Stability and Growth Pact; and
  - (ii) Ministerial Expenditure Ceilings applying to individual Estimates or groups of Estimates for the Public Services where significant variations from the expenditure profile could potentially impact on the overall fiscal position;

(c) ar an mbeartas maidir le fáltais an Státchiste.

(2) Féadfaidh an Coiste breithniú a dhéanamh ar ní a bhaineann le beartas poiblí agus a bhfuil tionchar suntasach aige ar an staid buiséid nó ar an staid fhioscach fhoriomlán: Ar choinníoll go rachaidh Cathaoirleach an Choiste, roimh thosach an bhreithnithe sin, i gcomhairle leis an gCoiste earnála iomchuí arna bhunú de bhun Bhuan-Ordú 95

(3) Féadfaidh an Coiste freisin breithniú a dhéanamh ar an gcreat foriomlán do rannpháirtíocht pharlaiminte le linn an timthrialla buiséid agus féadfaidh sé moltaí i ndáil leis an gcéanna a dhéanamh don Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála, is moltaí a bheidh le breithniú ag an gCoiste sin faoi Bhuan-Ordú 119 (1)(b): Ar choinníoll, le linn dó é sin a dhéanamh, go rachaidh an Coiste i gcomhairle—

(a) leis na Coistí arna mbunú de bhun Bhuan-Ordú 95 maidir le haon mholtaí a bhfuil tionchar acu, i dtuairim an Choiste, ar ról nó ar chúram na gCoistí sin; agus

(b) leis an Aire nó leis na hAirí iomchuí maidir le haon mholtaí a bhfuil tionchar acu, i dtuairim an Choiste, ar ról nó ar chúram Roinne nó Ranna,

agus tabharfaidh sé fógra i dtaobh thorthaí na gcomhairliúcháin sin don Fhochoiste ar Athleasú na Dála.

(4) Beidh na cumhachtaí seo a leanas ag an gCoiste:

(a) an chumhacht chun fios a chur ar dhaoine, ar pháipéir agus ar thaifid mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordúithe 96(3) agus 99;

(b) an chumhacht chun fianaise béil agus fianaise scríofa a ghlacadh agus chun aighneachtaí a ghlacadh mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 96(1) agus (2);

(c) an chumhacht chun Fochóistí a cheapadh mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 96(4);

(c) Exchequer receipts policy.

(2) The Committee may consider a matter of public policy with significant impact on the budgetary position or on the overall fiscal position: Provided that prior to the commencement of such consideration, the Chairman of the Committee shall consult with the relevant sectoral Committee established pursuant to Standing Order 95.

(3) The Committee may also consider the overall framework for parliamentary engagement throughout the course of the budgetary cycle and may make recommendations thereon to the sub Committee on Dáil Reform for that Committee's consideration under Standing Order 119 (1)(b): Provided that, in so doing, the Committee shall consult with—

(a) the Committees established pursuant to Standing Order 95 on any recommendations which, in the opinion of the Committee, impact on their role or remit; and

(b) the relevant Minister or Ministers on any recommendations which, in the opinion of the Committee, impact on the role or remit of a Department or Departments,

and shall notify the results of such consultations to the sub-Committee on Dáil Reform.

(4) The Committee shall have the following powers:

(a) power to send for persons, papers and records as defined in Standing Orders 96(3) and 99;

(b) power to take oral and written evidence and submissions as defined in Standing Order 96(1) and (2);

(c) power to appoint sub-Committees as defined in Standing Order 96(4);

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| <p>(d) an chumhacht chun sainchomhairleoirí a fhostú mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 96(14);</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>(d) power to engage consultants as defined in Standing Order 96(14);</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>(e) an chumhacht chun taisteal mar a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 96(15)).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>(e) power to travel as defined in Standing Order 96(15).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>(5) Déanfar gach tuarascáil a bheartóidh an Coiste a thabhairt, arna glacadh ag an gCoiste, a leagan faoi bhráid na Dála láithreach agus as a aithle sin beidh cumhacht ag an gCoiste an tuarascáil sin, mar aon le cibé doiciméid ghaolmhara is cuí leis, a chlóbhualadh agus a fhoilsiú.</p> | <p>(5) Every report which the Committee proposes to make shall, on adoption by the Committee, be laid before the Dáil forthwith, whereupon the Committee shall be empowered to print and publish such report, together with such related documents it thinks fit.</p> |
| <p>(6) Maidir leis an gCoiste cúig Chomhalta dhéag a bheidh air, nach comhalta den Rialtas ná Aire Stáit aon duine acu, agus ceathrar acu sin is córam dó: Ar choinníol—</p>                                                                                                                      | <p>(6) The Committee shall consist of fifteen Members, none of whom shall be a member of the Government or a Minister of State, and four of whom shall constitute a quorum: Provided that—</p>                                                                        |
| <p>(a) go mbeidh an Coiste agus aon Fhochoistí a cheapfaidh sé comhdhéanta ar chuma go ndéanfaidh sé nó siad ionadaíocht chothrom don Dáil; agus</p>                                                                                                                                              | <p>(a) the Committee and any sub-Committees which it may appoint shall be constituted so as to be impartially representative of the Dáil; and</p>                                                                                                                     |
| <p>(b) go mbeidh feidhm ag forálacha Bhuan Ordú 106 maidir leis an gCoiste.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>(b) the provisions of Standing Order 106 shall apply to the Committee.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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