



**TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS**

**AN ROGHCHOISTE UM FHORMHAOIRSIÚ BUISÉID**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2021**



**HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**33CBO009**

## Contents

1. Content and Format of Report .....	3
2. Establishment and Functions .....	4
2.1. Establishment of the Select Committee .....	4
3. Chair, Vice-Chair and Membership .....	5
4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording .....	5
5. Number and Duration of Meetings .....	6
5.1. Select Committee .....	6
6. Witnesses attending before the Committee(s) .....	6
7. Committee Reports Published .....	6
8. Travel .....	7
9. Report on Functions and Powers .....	7
Appendix 1: Orders of Reference .....	8
Appendix 2: Membership .....	10
Appendix 3: Meetings of the Dáil Select Committee .....	11
Appendix 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Select Committee .....	16

## **1. Content and Format of Report**

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 89 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Dáil Éireann) which provide that–

- Subject to Standing Order 107, each Select Committee shall review its procedures and its role generally, on an ongoing basis and shall report at least once in each year to the Committee on Procedure on these matters;
- Following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann.
- Each Select Committee shall, from time to time as the Select Committee sees fit, lay minutes of its proceedings before Dáil Éireann.
- Where –
  - Dáil Éireann has appointed a date upon which a Select Committee shall report back to the Dáil and the interval between the appointment of such date and the date for reporting back exceeds one year, or
  - No date for reporting back has been appointed by Dáil Éireann,

Such Select Committee shall, on the anniversary of its appointment in each year following the year of such appointment, make an annual report to the Dáil Éireann which shall detail –

- I. The work carried out by the Select Committee
- II. The work in progress by the Select Committee

And may include, if the Select Committee deems appropriate, the report on its role (in which case, a copy of the annual report shall be forwarded to the Committee on Procedures) the work programme and minutes of proceedings referred to in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) respectively of this Standing Order.

At its meeting on the 22 September 2020, the Select Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this report.

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 100 (3), (4), (5) and (6), (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 77 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Seanad Éireann) which provide for the Select Committee to-

- undertake a review of its procedure and its role generally;
- prepare an annual work programme;
- lay minutes of its proceedings before both Houses;
- make an annual report to both Houses.

At its meeting on the 14 January 2021 the Select Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this report covering the period from 14 January 2021 to 15 December 2021.

## **2. Establishment and Functions**

### ***2.1. Establishment of the Select Committee***

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of the 28 July 2020, to consider Bills, Estimates for Public Services, Motions, and the terms of any international agreement involving a charge on public funds, which come within the aegis of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Finance.

The Select Committee may also consider Annual Output Statements, Value for Money Reviews and Policy Reviews prepared by the relevant Government Department.

The Orders of Reference of the Dáil Select Committee are set out at *Appendix 1*.

### **3. Chair, Vice-Chair and Membership**

Dáil Standing Order 104 (2) provides for a proportion of Chairs to be allocated to each group by means of the D'Hondt System. Deputy Neasa Hourigan was appointed as Chairman of the Select Committee on 9 September 2020 by an Order of Dáil Éireann. Deputy Mairéad Farrell was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on the 22 September 2020.

Membership of the Committee, including all internal changes within the reported period, is listed at *Appendix 2*.

### **4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording**

Meetings of the Select Committee took place in the Committee rooms in Leinster House 2000 or on Microsoft Teams. Meetings were in public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee.

Committee proceedings were broadcast live within Leinster House and also made available to RTE, TV3 and TG4. Proceedings were also live streamed on our website and through our app. Since September 2014 the proceedings of Committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are broadcast on the dedicated parliamentary channel Oireachtas TV which is available on these channels:

- Saorview 22, Sky 517, Virgin Media 207, eir Vision 504
- Vodafone Channels 201, 207 (Dáil Éireann) and 208 (Seanad Éireann)

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Committee may be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

Copies of other reports published by the Select Committee are also available on the Oireachtas Committee website pages at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie). A list of these reports is set out at paragraph 7.

## 5. Number and Duration of Meetings

### 5.1. *Select Committee*

The Dáil Select Committee met publicly **19** times during the period under report and the number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was **32.6** hours.

During the period, the number of speaking witnesses for each of the Committees was as follows:

COMMITTEE NAME	NUMBER OF WITNESSES
Select Committee	42

## 6. Witnesses attending before the Committee(s)

The Committee met privately **28** times in 2021. All of these meetings were held online in order to reduce the number of corporeal meetings during the Covid Pandemic. In relation to public meetings, Members and Witnesses were also facilitated to attend these online and/or other measures were taken in order to minimise health risks during the pandemic.

## 7. Committee Reports Published

During the period under report, the Select Committee published the following reports: <sup>1</sup>

- Final Report on the Framework for parliamentary engagement throughout the course of the budgetary cycle
- Work Programme December 2020 – June 2021
- Pre-Stability Programme Update 2021
- Interim Pre-Budget Report 2022
- Final Pre-Budget Report 2022
- Post-Budget 2022 Report
- Work Programme November 2021 - October 2022

---

<sup>1</sup> [Publications by the Houses of the Oireachtas – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

## **8. Travel**

The Select Committee undertook no travel in accordance with its Orders of Reference in connection with its Work Programme.

## **9. Report on Functions and Powers**

The Select Committee is currently satisfied with its present procedures and role.



---

Neasa Hourigan T.D.  
Chairperson  
[02 February 2022]

## **Appendix 1: Orders of Reference**

Committee on Budgetary Oversight.

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;

(iv) general fiscal governance including the application of fiscal rules and risks to the fiscal position; and

(v) matters arising from the introduction of a supplementary Estimate or Estimates that, in its opinion, have or may have significant budgetary implications: Provided that the Committee shall advise the appropriate Committee or Committees of any decision on its part to undertake such consideration and the reason or reasons therefor;

(b) public expenditure policy, including— 109

(i) the expenditure position having regard to the Government Expenditure Ceiling and the expenditure benchmark under the Stability and Growth Pact;

(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; and

(iii) the adequacy of planned and actual aggregate levels of capital expenditure and the policies and practices in relation to capital expenditure, including public procurement policy and public private partnership policy, intended to ensure the achievement of value for money.

(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 Cathaoirleach 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 Committee on Standing Orders and 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 Committee on Standing Orders and 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); (d) power to engage consultants as defined in Standing Order 96(14);

(e) power to travel as defined in Standing Order 96(15).

(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. 110

(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—

(a) the Committee and any sub-Committees which it may appoint shall be constituted so as to be impartially representative of the Dáil; and

(b) the provisions of Standing Order 106 shall apply to the Committee.

## **Appendix 2: Membership**

### **List of Members of the Select Committee**

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett (SOL-PBP)  
Seán Canney (IND)  
Ciarán Cannon (FG)  
Pearse Doherty (SF)  
Bernard Durkan (FG)  
Mairéad Farrell (SF) [Vice-Chair]  
Michael Healy-Rae (IND)  
Neasa Hourigan (GP) [Chair]  
John Lahart (FF)  
Brian Leddin (GP)  
Aindrias Moynihan (FF)  
Ged Nash (LAB)  
Willie O'Dea (FF)  
Kieran O'Donnell (FG)  
Patricia Ryan (SF)

#### **Notes:**

1. Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil of 08 September 2020.

<https://committeeadministration.oir.ie/committee/92>

## Appendix 3: Meetings of the Dáil Select Committee

The following are the details, in date order, of the scheduled meetings of the Select Committee which took place during the period under report.

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
S17. 14/01/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting  Discussion on the Committees interim report on the framework for parliamentary engagement throughout the course of the budgetary cycle	<i>University of Limerick</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof. Stephen Kinsella – Associate Professor of Economics</li> </ul> <i>ESRI</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof. Alan Barrett – CEO</li> </ul>
S18. 19/01/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting  Examine and understand the budgetary engagement framework in international parliaments, success, difficulties and experience with budgetary oversight reform  To develop an understanding of best practice and what could be utilised in an Irish context	<i>Parliament Canada</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex Smith – Analyst, Economics, Resources and International Affairs Division Library</li> </ul> <i>UK House of Commons</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larry Honeysett Head of Financial Scrutiny</li> </ul>
S19. 21/01/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting  Examine and understand the budgetary engagement framework in international parliaments, success, difficulties and experience with budgetary oversight reform  To develop an understanding of best practice and what could be utilised in an Irish context	<i>Austrian Parliament</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmut Berger – Head of the Parliamentary Budget Office</li> </ul> <i>Scottish Parliament Information Centre</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ross Burnside – Senior Researcher</li> <li>Nicola Hudson – Senior Analyst</li> </ul>
S20. 09/02/2021 CR 2	Discussion on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Report</li> <li>Potential for enhanced parliamentary engagement</li> <li>Capacity of the Executive to support an enhanced framework</li> </ul>	<i>Department of Finance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paschal Donohoe TD – Minister</li> <li>Niall Cassidy – Principal Officer</li> <li>Anne Marie Walsh – Principal Officer</li> </ul> <i>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael McGrath TD – Minister</li> <li>John Kinnane – Principal Officer</li> <li>Caroline O’Loughlin – Assistant Principal</li> </ul>

S21. 12/02/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	Consideration of Draft Committee report Parliamentary Budget Framework
S22. 16/02/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S23. 23/02/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S24. 02/03/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S25. 09/03/2021 CR 2	Pre-Stability Programme Update	<i>ESRI</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Kieran McQuinn – Research Professor</li> <li>• Karina Doorley – Senior Research Officer</li> </ul>
S26. 11/03/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting  Stability Programme Update Report	<i>Department of Finance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John McCarthy – Chief Economist / Assistant Secretary</li> </ul>
S27. 23/03/2021 CR 4	Pre-Stability Programme Update	<i>Central Bank of Ireland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Cassidy – Director of Economics and Statistics Director</li> <li>• Rónán Hickey – Senior Economist, Irish Economic Analysis Division</li> </ul>
S28. 31/03/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S29. 20/04/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S30. 27/04/2021 CR 3	Engagement on the Stability Programme Update	<i>Department of Finance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paschal Donohoe TD – Minister</li> <li>• John McCarthy – Chief Economist / Assistant Secretary</li> </ul>
S31. 06/05/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S32. 13/05/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S33.	Public Service Performance	<i>Department of Public Expenditure and</i>

20/05/2021 CR 1	Report	<i>Reform</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronnie Downes – Assistant Secretary</li> <li>• John Kinnane – Principal Officer</li> <li>• Caroline O’Loughlin – Assistant Principal</li> </ul>
S34. 26/05/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S35. 27/05/2021 CR 1	Fiscal Assessment Report	<i>Irish Fiscal Advisory Council</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sebastian Barnes – Chairperson</li> <li>• Dr Adele Bergin – Council Member</li> <li>• Alessandro Giustiniani – Council Member</li> <li>• Dawn Holland – Council Member</li> <li>• Prof. Michael McMahon – Council Member</li> <li>• Dr Eddie Casey – Council Member</li> </ul>
S36. 02/06/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S37. 03/06/2021 CR 1	Budget priorities existing Covid	<i>Social Justice Ireland</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Seán Healy – CEO</li> <li>• Michelle Murphy – Research and Policy Analyst</li> <li>• Colette Bennett – Economic and Social Analyst</li> <li>• Susanne Rogers – Research and Policy Analyst</li> </ul> <i>University of Limerick</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Stephen Kinsella – Associate Professor of Economics</li> </ul>
S38. 16/06/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S39. 17/06/2021 CR 1	The Cost of Climate Change	<i>OECD</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ivanna Capozza – Senior Policy Analyst – Programme Manager, Environmental Performance Reviews</li> <li>• Tatiana Samsonova – Policy Analyst – International Transport Forum</li> </ul> <i>TASC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seán McCabe – Executive Manager- Climate Justice Centre</li> </ul>

S40. 24/06/2021 CR 1	Tax Expenditures	<i>ESRI</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Barra Roantree – Economist / Research Officer</li> <li>• Dr Theano Kakoulidou – Postdoctoral Research Fellow</li> </ul> <i>University College Dublin</i> Dr Micheál Collins – Assistant Professor – School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
S41. 30/06/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S42. 01/07/2021 CR 1	Capital Investments	<i>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronnie Downes – Assistant Secretary</li> <li>• Kevin Meaney – Principal Officer</li> <li>• Clare Costello – Principal Officer</li> <li>• Niamh Callaghan – Principal Officer</li> <li>• Jim Deane – Principal Officer</li> </ul>
S43. 15/07/2021 CR 4	Summer Economic Statement	<i>Department of Finance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paschal Donohoe TD – Minister</li> <li>• John McCarthy – Chief Economist / Assistant Secretary</li> </ul> <i>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael McGrath TD – Minister</li> <li>• John Kinnane – Principal Officer</li> </ul>
S44. 28/07/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S45. 14/09/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S46. 22/09/2021	Pre-Budget 2022 Scrutiny	Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sebastian Barnes, Chairperson</li> <li>• Dr. Adele Bergin, Council Member</li> <li>• Alessandro Giustiniai, Council Member</li> <li>• Prof. Michael McMahon, Council Member</li> <li>• Dawn Holland, Council Member</li> <li>• Dr Eddie Casey, Chief Economist and Head of Secretariat</li> </ul>
S47. 23/09/2021 CR 2	Pre-Budget 2022 Scrutiny	Department of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paschal Donohoe TD</li> <li>• John McCarthy</li> </ul>
S48. 30/09/2021	Pre-Budget 2022 Scrutiny	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

CR 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael McGrath TD</li> <li>• Ronnie Downes</li> <li>• John Kinnane</li> </ul>
S49. 07/10/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S50. 14/10/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S51. 19/10/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S52. 03/11/2021 CR 2	Inflation	Commission on Taxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Niamh Moloney, Chairperson</li> <li>• Mr Colm O'Reardon, Secretary</li> <li>• Ms Sinead Ryan, Principal Officer</li> <li>• Mr Gary Hynds, Principal Officer</li> </ul>
S53. 10/11/2021 CR 2	Inflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Ella Kavanagh, Department of economics, UCC</li> <li>• Professor Karl Whelan, Economics department, UCD</li> </ul>
S54. 17/11/2021 CR 2	Inflation	Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Karina Doorley</li> <li>• Dr. Niall Farrell</li> <li>• Professor Kieran McQuinn</li> </ul>
S55. 24/11/2021 CR 2	Inflation	Central Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabriel Makhoul, Governor</li> <li>• Dr Mark Cassidy, Director, Economics and Statistics</li> </ul>
S56. 1/12/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>
S57. 8/12/2021 CR 2	Fiscal Assessment Report	Irish Fiscal Advisory council (IFAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Sebastian Barnes (Chairperson)</li> <li>• Dr Adele Bergin</li> <li>• Prof Michael McMahon</li> <li>• Mr Alessandro Giustiniani</li> <li>• Ms. Dawn Holland</li> <li>• Dr Eddie Casey</li> </ul>
S58. 15/12/2021 Microsoft Teams	Private Meeting	<i>Housekeeping Matters</i>

## **Appendix 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Select Committee**

### **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 14 January 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 9.04 a.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

- 2. Attendance**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash, Kieran O'Donnell and Patricia Ryan

No Apologies received

- 3. Item discussed in private session**

- 4. Item discussed in private session**

- 5. Item discussed in private session**

- 6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 10.28 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19 January 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
21 01 2021



**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 19 January 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 12.02 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputy Brian Leddin.

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 13.20 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 21 January 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 02 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 21 January 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 10.27 a.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barret, Ciarán Cannon, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin and Aindrias Moynihan

Apologies were received from Deputies Seán Canney, John Lahart, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.40 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Friday 5 February 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 02 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 9 February 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 4.01 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House and Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

No apologies received

**3. Engagement with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Public Expenditure and Reform on the Committee's Interim Report: Framework for Parliamentary Engagement throughout the Budgetary Cycle**

Witnesses from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform:

- Michael McGrath TD, Minister
- John Kinnane, Principal Officer
- Caroline O'Loughlin, Assistant Principal

Witnesses from the Department of Finance:

- Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister
- Niall Cassidy, Principal Officer
- Anne Marie Walsh, Principal Officer

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 6 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 9 a.m. on Friday 12 February 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 02 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Friday, 12 February 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 9.04 a.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies Richard Boyd-Barrett, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputy Pearse Doherty

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 9.55 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday 16 February 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 02 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 16 February 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 12.16 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair) and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.37 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
23 02 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 23 February 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 12.17 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputy Brian Leddin

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.40 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday 02 March 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
02 03 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 02 March 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 12.17 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Pearse Doherty, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin and Patricia Ryan

No apologies received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.39 p.m. until its next Public Meeting at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9 March 2021 in Committee Room 2.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
11 03 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 09 March 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Public Session at 3.31 p.m. in Committee Room 2, LH2000, Leinster House and Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Brian Leddin, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputies Michael Healy-Rae and Ged Nash

3. **Engagement with the ESRI to discuss the current economic and fiscal situation and the key issues that the medium-term fiscal strategy could consider and address**

Witnesses Present:

- Dr Kieran McQuinn, Research Professor
- Dr Karina Doorley, Senior Research Officer

4. **Item discussed in private session**

5. **Item discussed in private session**

6. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 5.29 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 11 March 2021

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
21 03 2021.



**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 11 March 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 10.03 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

No apologies received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.09 a.m. until its next Public Meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday 23 March 2021 in Committee Room 4.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
31 03 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 23 March 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Public Session at 12.30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Ciarán Cannon, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

Apologies received from Deputies Seán Canney, Brian Leddin and Kieran O'Donnell

**3. Engagement with the Central Bank of Ireland to discuss the current economic and fiscal situation and the key issues that the medium-term fiscal strategy could consider and address**

Witnesses present:

- Mark Cassidy, Director of Economics and Statistics
- Rónán Hickey, Senior Economist, Irish Economic Analysis Division

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 2.28 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12 p.m. on Tuesday 30 March 2021

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
31 03 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 31 March 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 4 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair) and Aindrias Moynihan

No apologies received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 4.40 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 12 p.m. on Tuesday 20 April 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
20 04 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 20 April 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 12.04 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies; Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart and Patricia Ryan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Aindrias Moynihan

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.11 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27 April 2021 in Committee Room 3.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
06 05 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 27 April 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 3.32 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair) and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputies John Lahart and Ged Nash

### **3. Engagement with Minister for Finance regarding the Draft Stability Programme Update**

Witnesses present:

- Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister
- John McCarthy, Chief Economist /Assistant Secretary

### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 5.30 p.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 06 May 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
06 05 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 06 May 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 9.32 a.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin, Aindrias Moynihan, Kieran O'Donnell and Patricia Ryan

No apologies received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed on private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 10.02 a.m. until its next Private meeting on Thursday 13 May 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
13 05 2021

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 13 May 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 11.36 a.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin and Aindrias Moynihan

Apologies were received from Deputies Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan and Patricia Ryan

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.07 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Thursday 20 May 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
26 05 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 20 May 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.32 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputies Brian Leddin and Ged Nash

### **3. Engagement with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the Public Service Performance Report**

Witnesses present:

- Ronnie Downes, Assistant Secretary
- John Kinnane, Principal Officer
- Caroline O'Loughlin, Assistant Secretary

### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.17 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
26 05 2021.



**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 26 May 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Private Session at 3.05 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Michael Healy-Rae

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.31 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Thursday 27 May 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
02 06 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 27 May 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.35 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

### **2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Richard Boyd-Barrett

### **3. Engagement with the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council regarding the Fiscal Assessment Report**

Witnesses present:

- Sebastian Barnes, Chairperson
- Dr. Adele Bergin, Council Member
- Alessandro Giustiniani, Council Member
- Dawn Holland, Council Member
- Prof Michael McMahon, Council Member
- Dr. Eddie Casey, Chief Economist and Head of Secretariat

### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.32 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 02 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
02 06 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 02 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 3 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae and Neasa Hourigan (Chair)

No apologies received

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.14 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Thursday 03 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 06 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 03 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 09.38 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Aindrias Moynihan, Kieran O'Donnell and Patricia Ryan

Apologies received from Deputies Richard Boyd-Barrett, Pearse Doherty, Neasa Hourigan and John Lahart

**3. Engagement with Social Justice Ireland and Dr. Stephen Kinsella regarding Budget priorities existing Covid**

Witness present from University of Limerick:

- Dr. Stephen Kinsella, Associate Professor of Economics

Witnesses present from Social Justice Ireland

- Dr. Seán Healy, CEO
- Michelle Murphy, Research and Policy Analyst
- Susanne Rogers, Research and Policy Analyst
- Collette Bennett, Economic and Social Analyst

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.25 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 16 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
16 06 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 16 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 03.01 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Brian Leddin and Aindrias Moynihan

Apologies received from Deputies Michael Healy-Rae and Patricia Ryan.

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 03.44 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Thursday 17 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
30 06 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 17 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.32 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Brian Leddin and Aindrias Moynihan

Apologies received from Deputies Richard Boyd-Barrett, Pearse Doherty and Patricia Ryan

### **3. Engagement with the OECD and TASC regarding the Cost of Climate Change**

Witnesses present from OECD:

- Ivanna Capozza, Senior Policy Analyst – Programme Manager, Environmental Performance Reviews
- Tatiana Samsonova, Policy Analyst – International Transport Forum

Witness present from TASC

- Seán McCabe, Executive Manager – Climate Justice Centre

### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.26 a.m. until its next Public Meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 24 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
30 06 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 24 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.30 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies received from Deputies Pearse Doherty and Neasa Hourigan

**3. Engagement with Dr. Micheál Collins and the ESRI regarding Tax Expenditures**

Witnesses present from ESRI:

- Dr. Barra Roantree, Economist / Research Officer
- Dr. Theano Kakoulidou, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Witness present from University College Dublin

- Dr. Micheál Collins, Assistant Professor – School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.26 a.m. until its next Private Online Meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
30 06 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 30 June 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 3.04 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart and Aindrias Moynihan

Apologies were received from Deputy Patricia Ryan

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.33 p.m. until its next Public Meeting on Thursday 1 July 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
28 07 2021.



## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 1 July 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.32 a.m. in Committee Room 1, LH2000, Leinster House and Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

### **2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Ciarán Cannon, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were received from Deputies John Lahart and Ged Nash

### **3. Engagement with officials from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding Capital Investments**

Witnesses present:

- Ronnie Downes, Assistant Secretary
- Kevin Meaney, Principal Officer
- Clare Costello, Principal Officer
- Niamh Callaghan, Principal Officer
- Jim Deane, Principal Officer

### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.33 a.m. until its next Private Meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 15 July 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
28 07 2021.

**Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 15 July 2021**

1. The Select Committee met in Public Session at 9.33 a.m. in Committee Room 4, LH2000, Leinster House and on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

**2. Attendance**

The following members were present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash, Kieran O'Donnell and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received

**3. Engagement with Minister for Finance and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform regarding Capital Investments**

Witnesses present from the Department of Finance

- Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister
- John McCarthy, Chief Economist / Assistant Secretary

Witnesses present from the Department of Public Expenditure and Re3form

- Michael McGrath TD, Minister
- John Kinnane, Principal Officer

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.27 a.m. until its next Private meeting at Sine Die.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
28 07 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, 28 July 2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in Private Session at 1 p.m. on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

### **2. Attendance**

The following members present:

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Ged Nash

Apologies were received from Deputies Ciarán Cannon and Patricia Ryan

### **3. Item discussed in private session**

### **4. Item discussed in private session**

### **5. Item discussed in private session**

### **6. Item discussed in private session**

### **7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 2.30 p.m. until its next Private Meeting on Tuesday 14 September 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
14 09 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 14.09.2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in private session at 1.31 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **2. Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair) and John Lahart

Apologies were given by Deputies Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

### **3. Engagement with Parliamentary Budget Office regarding Budget 2022**

Witnesses present;

- Annette Connolly, Director,
- Denise O'Connell, Principal Officer and
- Barry Comerford, Head of Budgetary Research

The PBO briefed members on their Budget 2022 Commentary.

Following a question and answer session with members. The Chair thanked Ms Connolly, Ms O'Connell and Mr Comerford for attending the meeting.

### **4. Item discussed in private session**

### **5. Item discussed in private session**

### **6. Item discussed in private session**

### **7. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 2.31 pm until its next Public Meeting at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 22 September 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

07 10 2021

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 22.09.2021**

1. The Select Committee met in public session at 3.28 pm in Committee Room 4, LH2000 and Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash, Kieran O'Donnell and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputy Richard Boyd-Barrett

### **2. Engagement with the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council to discuss Pre-Budget 2022 scrutiny**

Witnesses present;

- Sebastian Barnes, Chairperson,
- Dr Adele Bergin, Council Member,
- Alessandro Giustiniani, Council Member,
- Prof Michael McMahon, Council Member
- Dawn Holland, Council Member and
- Dr Eddie Casey, Chief Economist and Head of Secretariat

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Mr. Barnes, Dr Bergin, Mr Giustiniani, Prof McMahon, Ms Holland and Dr Casey for attending the meeting.

### **3. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 5.09 pm until its next Public Meeting at 2.00 pm tomorrow 23 September 2021 with the Minister for Finance to discuss Pre-Budget 2022 scrutiny.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

07 10 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 23.09.2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in public session at 2.02pm in Committee Room 1, LH2000 and Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Brian Leddin, Aindrias Moynihan, Ged Nash and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputy John Lahart

### **2. Engagement with the Minister for Finance to discuss Pre-Budget 2022 scrutiny**

Witnesses present;

- Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister and
- John McCarthy, Chief Economist and Assistant Secretary

Minister Donohoe gave his opening statement

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Minister Donohoe and Mr McCarthy for attending the meeting.

### **3. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 3.48 pm until its next Public Meeting at 9.30 am on Thursday 30 September 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

07 10 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 30.09.2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in public session at 09:30am on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Séan Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Brian Leddin, Aindrias Moynihan, Kieran O'Donnell.

Apologies were given by Deputy Brian Leddin, Deputy Ged Nash, Deputy Pearse Doherty and Deputy Patricia Ryan.

### **2. Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**

Witnesses present;

- Minister Michael McGrath, Department for Public expenditure and Reform.

*Seated behind*

- Ronnie Downes, Assistant Secretary;
- John Kinnane, Principal Officer.

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Minister McGrath, Mr. Downes and Mr. Kinnane for attending the meeting.

### **3. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 11.25 am until its next Private Meeting at 12.30pm, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

07 10 2021

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 07.10.2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in private session at 12.31m on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Richard Boyd-Barrett, Pearse Doherty and Mairéad Farrell.

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 13.06pm until its next Private Meeting on Thursday 14 October 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

14 10 2021.



## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 14.10.2021**

1. The Select Committee met in private session at 12.32 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett and Pearse Doherty.

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Item discussed in private session**

**7. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 12.53 pm until its next Private Online Meeting at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 19 October 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

14 10 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 19.10.2021**

- 1.** The Select Committee met in private session at 14.04 on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputies Richard Boyd-Barrett, Pearse Doherty and Bernard Durkan.

### **2. Item discussed in private session**

### **3. Item discussed in private session**

### **4. Item discussed in private session**

### **5. Item discussed in private session**

### **6. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 15.07 pm until its next Private Online Meeting on Wednesday, 3 November at 16:00 to consider the Committee's post-budget report.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

3 11 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 03.11.2021**

The Committee met in private session at 16.02 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by

- 1. Item discussed in private session**
- 2. Item discussed in private session**
- 3. Item discussed in private session**
- 4. Item discussed in private session**
- 5. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 16.15 pm until later at its next Public Online Meeting at 17.30 pm Wednesday 03 November 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

10 11 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 03.11.2021**

The Committee met in private session at 17.00 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan.

No Apologies were received.

### **1. Commission on Taxation and Welfare**

Witnesses present;

- Professor Niamh Moloney, Chair, Commission on Taxation and Welfare
- Mr Colm O'Reardon, Secretary
- Ms Sinead Ryan, Principal Officer
- Mr Gary Hynds, Principal Officer

Professor Moloney gave her opening statement.

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Professor Moloney and her officials Mr Colm O'Reardon, Ms Sinead Ryan and Mr Gary Hynds for attending the meeting.

### **2. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 19.00 pm until its next Private Online Meeting at 18.00 pm on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

10 11 202

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 10.11.2020**

The Select Committee met in private session at 16.00 on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Michael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair),  
Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputy Richard Boyd-Barrett and Deputy Bernard Durkan.

**1. Item discussed in private session**

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 16:19 until its Public Meeting at 18.00 on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

17 11 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 10.11.2021**

The Select Committee met in public session at 18.02 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received.

### **1. Dr Ella Kavanagh, Department of Economics, UCC and Professor Karl Whelan, Economics Department, UCD**

Witnesses present;

- Dr Ella Kavanagh, Department of Economics, UCC
- Professor Karl Whelan, Economics Department, UCD

Both witnesses gave their brief synopsis of their opening statement

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Dr Ella Kavanagh, Department of Economics, UCC and Professor Karl Whelan, Economics Department, UCD for attending the meeting.

### **2. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 20.05 pm until its next Private Online Meeting at 16.00 pm on Wednesday 17 November 2020.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

17 11 2021

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 17.11.2021**

The Committee met in private session at 16.04 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

Apologies were given by Deputy Richard Boyd-Barrett

**1. Item discussed in private session**

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 16.11 pm until its next Public Online Meeting later today at 17.30 pm, Wednesday 17 November 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

24 11 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 17.11.2021**

The Committee met in public session at 17.32 pm in Committee room 2 with participants on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Richard Boyd-Barrett, Seán Canney, Bernard Durkan, Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received.

### **1. Engagement with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)**

Witnesses present;

- Dr. Karina Doorley,
- Dr. Niall Farrell and
- Professor Kieran McQuinn

Dr. Karina Doorley gave the opening statement

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Dr. Karina Doorley, Dr. Niall Farrell and Professor Kieran McQuinn for attending the meeting.

### **2. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 19.15 pm until its next Private Online Meeting at 16.45 pm on Wednesday 24 November 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD  
Chair  
24 11 2021.



## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 24.11.2020**

The Committee met in private session at 16.48 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received.

**1. Item discussed in private session**

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 4.59 pm until 5:30pm for the Committees Public session with the Central bank.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

1 12 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 24.11.2021**

The Committee met in public session at 5.30 pm in Committee room 2 with participants in witness room 1.13 in Kildare house on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Micheael Healy-Rae, Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan

No apologies were received.

### **1. Engagement on Inflation with representatives from the Central bank**

Witnesses present;

- Gabriel Makhlouf, Governor
- Mark Cassidy, Director, Economics and Statistics

Mr Gabriel Makhlouf gave the opening statement

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked both witnesses for attending the meeting.

### **2. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 7.30 pm until its next Public Online Meeting at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

1 12 2021

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 01.12.2021**

The Committee met in private session at 5.06 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair) and John Lahart.

Apologies were given by Deputy Patricia Ryan.

### **1. Item discussed in private session**

### **2. Item discussed in private session**

### **3. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 5.08pm, due to a votáil being called in the Dáil chamber until its next Private Online Meeting at 4.45pm on Wednesday 8 December 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

8 12 2020.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 08.12.2021**

The Committee met in private session at 16.54 pm on Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan.

No apologies were received.

**1. Item discussed in private session**

**2. Item discussed in private session**

**3. Item discussed in private session**

**4. Item discussed in private session**

**5. Item discussed in private session**

**6. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 17.09 pm until its Public Meeting today at 17.00 pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021 in Committee room 2.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

08 12 2021.

## **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight- Minutes of Meeting of 08.12.2021**

The Committee met in public session at 17.30 pm, in Committee room 2 with participants via Microsoft Teams, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: -

Deputies: Seán Canney, Pearse Doherty, Bernard Durkan, Mairéad Farrell (Vice-Chair), Neasa Hourigan (Chair), John Lahart, Aindrias Moynihan and Patricia Ryan.

No apologies were received.

### **1. Engagement with the Fiscal advisory council**

Witnesses present;

- Mr Sebastian Barnes (Chairperson),
- Dr Adele Bergin,
- Prof Michael McMahon,
- Mr Alessandro Giustiniani,
- Ms. Dawn Holland and
- Dr Eddie Casey

Mr Sebastian Barnes gave the opening statement.

Following a question and answer session with members, the Chair thanked Mr Sebastian Barnes (Chairperson), Dr Adele Bergin, Prof Michael McMahon, Mr Alessandro Giustiniani, Ms. Dawn Holland and Dr Eddie Casey from the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council for attending the meeting.

### **2. Adjourned**

The Committee adjourned at 19.00 pm until its next Private Online Meeting at 17.00 pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

---

Neasa Hourigan TD

Chair

15 12 2021.