

From:Minister for Finance <minister@finance.gov.ie>

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To:Professor Anthony Staines <anthony.staines@dcu.ie>

Subject:FIN-MO-06357-2020

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Professor Anthony Staines

[anthony.staines@dcu.ie]

Dear Professor Staines

Thank you for your letter on the national response to Covid-19, sent on behalf of the Independent Scientists Advocacy Group (ISAG). The majority of the proposals relate to public health policy and are therefore matters for my colleague, the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly TD. However, you are quite correct to point to the economic consequences of the public health restrictions and in that regard, I note the reference in your correspondence to the recent OECD Economic Outlook's link between economic recovery and the successful control of the virus.

Covid-19 has had significant economic, public health and social impacts in Ireland, and indeed across the world. We have had to respond swiftly to mitigate the impact of the virus and to protect ourselves, our families, communities and businesses. The Government's fiscal response has been unprecedented in its scope and scale. Total fiscal support provided to date has amounted to nearly €38 billion, or 18½ per cent of national income. As we continue to live with and manage the virus, it is crucial that we build on the progress we have made. The public health response is central to this.

The forthcoming *National Economic Plan* reflects the challenges and opportunities facing us, and sets out the future direction for a sustainable and resilient economy. The Plan demonstrates the Government's commitment to bring Ireland out of this economic downturn, with a top priority being getting people back to work. In addition, we are mindful of the need to tailor policy to address the associated challenges across key areas, sectors, regions and groups.

I appreciate the suite of proposals the ISAG has made and will give them due consideration in the context of the ongoing response to Covid-19 and our plans for economic recovery.

Yours sincerely

Paschal Donohoe TD
Minister for Finance

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Tá an fhaisnéis atá sa ríomhphost seo (agus in aon cheangaltáin) faoi rún agus is don fhaighteoir/do na faighteoirí beartaithe é agus é/iad sin amháin. Mura tusa an faighteoir beartaithe, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo ná aon chuid di a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh ná a choinneáil. Sa chás gur trí earráid a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo, tabhair fógra dom láithreach faoi sin agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó do ríomhchóra(i)s. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfaidh an ríomhphost seo agus aon fhreagra air bheith faoi réir iarraidh ar a eisiúint de bhun an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise