



## Initial Objectives & Services

**The key objective of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) is to support the Houses of the Oireachtas and its committees in relation to fiscal issues and the management of the public finances. When fully established, the PBO will strengthen the Houses of the Oireachtas' capacity by providing fiscal and economic analysis which is:**



- **Independent**
- **Authoritative**
- **Non-partisan**

- The national budgetary process and rules including the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF);
- The composition and sustainability of the revenue base;
- The efficiency, effectiveness and value for money of public services especially in the context of voted expenditure.

In line with best practice amongst other OECD PBOs, our products will be published online on the Houses of the Oireachtas website.

### Establishing the PBO's capacity and services



The immediate priority is to establish the Office and get it up and running on a fully operational basis. This requires:

- building a team with the relevant skills and expertise;
- developing that team's capacity;
- developing modelling systems;
- putting in place appropriate policy and administrative frameworks to underpin our work;
- Engagement with various stakeholders including the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight, the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC), the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Government Departments, the OECD and PBOs in other OECD countries.

It is hoped that, by the end of 2018, the PBO will have a staff complement of approximately 15. As of early October 2017, there are four staff in place.

In 2015, the Houses of the Oireachtas asked the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to examine and make recommendations on how the Oireachtas could improve its engagement with the budget process.

One of the main recommendations, later endorsed by the Sub-Committee on Dáil Reform, was the establishment of a specialist unit within the Houses of the Oireachtas that would support Dáil Éireann in its budget scrutiny role. The process of establishing that unit (the PBO) began in mid-August 2017 when Ms. Annette Connolly took up duty as Director of the PBO.

### Services to be delivered



The PBO will advise Members in relation to:

- The EU fiscal rules including the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), the Expenditure Benchmark (EB), the Medium Term Objective (MTO), and the EU Semester process;
- Irish and international macro-economic developments;

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