



## Minutes for NCC Meeting 84

Meeting: National Competitiveness Council No 84  
Venue: Buswells Hotel, Dublin 2  
Date: 8:00 – 10.30, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

### Members Present:

Prof Peter Clinch, Chair  
Micheál Collins, Senior Research Officer, NERI - Nevin Economic Research Institute  
Isolde Goggin, Chair, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission  
Declan Hughes, Assistant Secretary, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation  
Danny McCoy, Chief Executive Officer, Ibec  
Sean O'Driscoll, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Glen Dimplex Group  
Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland  
Jane Magnier, Joint Managing Director, Abbey Tours

### Advisors

John Callinan, Department of the Taoiseach  
John McCarthy, Department of Finance  
Maria Graham, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government  
Conan McKenna, Department of Justice and Equality  
Brid Cannon, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Deirdre McDonnell, Department of Education and Skills  
Ray O'Leary, Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport

### Secretariat

Marie Bourke  
Conor Hand  
Eoin Cuddihy

### Apologies

Kevin Callinan, Deputy General Secretary, IMPACT Trade Union  
Katherine Licken, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
Liam Casey, Chief Executive Officer, PCH International Ltd.  
John Herlihy, Former Vice President, International SMB Sales and Head of Google Ireland  
David Moloney, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
Louise Phelan, Vice President of Global Operations, Europe Middle East and Africa, PayPal  
Heather Reynolds, Director, Eishtec  
Dave Shanahan, Chief Executive, Adagio Ventures Commercialisation Partners  
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive, IDA Ireland  
Siobhán Talbot, Group Managing Director, Glanbia



<p><b>84.1 Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The minutes from meeting 83 were approved</li> </ul>	<p>No action required</p>
<p><b>84.2 Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An update on activities since the last meeting was provided. The Agenda and Minutes from recent NCC meetings have been published on the NCC website in adherence with the 'Compliance Code' of the Lobbying Act.</li> <li>▪ <i>Ireland's Competitive Challenge 2015</i> was brought to the Senior Officials Group and Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery &amp; Jobs in December 2015. The Challenge is due to be discussed by Cabinet shortly and published thereafter.</li> <li>▪ <i>Competitiveness Bulletins</i> on the WEF and World Bank competitiveness rankings have been published since the last NCC meeting.</li> <li>▪ The Council's circulation list of key stakeholders has been updated. Members were asked to forward contact details etc. to the secretariat of key stakeholders within their organisations who can be added to the list.</li> <li>▪ In October 2015 the European Commission put forward a recommendation to the European Council to adopt a Recommendation in relation to the coordination of Competitiveness Boards between member states. The NCC meets the EC's criteria of a Competitiveness Board. Reservations have been expressed regarding proposals on coordination and governance. Further updates will be provided as the agenda develops.</li> </ul>	<p>Members to recommend additional contacts to add to the NCC's mailing list</p> <p>Secretariat to keep Council informed in relation to Competitiveness Boards</p>
<p><b>84.3 NCC Competitiveness Framework Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arising out of the Review of the NCC's Competitiveness Framework discussed by the Council previously, Dr Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School made a presentation to the Council on his findings. His review and presentation covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contemporary views on Competitiveness;</li> <li>○ The Drivers of Competitiveness;</li> <li>○ Measuring Competitiveness;</li> <li>○ Implications &amp; Recommendations for the NCC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ This was followed by a Q&amp;A session. The main discussion items were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regional competitiveness;</li> <li>○ Clustering initiatives and regional benchmarking;</li> <li>○ Sectoral productivity differences;</li> <li>○ The role of macroeconomic policies;</li> <li>○ Management development as a driver of complexity/productivity;</li> <li>○ The optimal size of the economy;</li> <li>○ Quality of Place;</li> <li>○ The fragmented approach to policymaking in Ireland; and</li> <li>○ Public sector competitiveness.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat and Chair to further consider the report and to revert to Council in</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secretariat agreed to further consider the findings of Dr Ketels’ report and to revert to members with further information on the next steps in the project.</li> </ul>	<p>2016 outlining the next steps in the review of the NCC Framework</p>
<p><b>84.4 NCC Work Programme 2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An overview of the proposed NCC Work Programme for 2016 was provided. The proposed Programme for 2016 is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Costs of Doing Business 2016 – Q1 2016;</li> <li>○ Ireland's Competitiveness Scorecard – Q2 2016;</li> <li>○ Competitiveness Challenge 2016 – Q3 2016;</li> <li>○ Submission to APJ – TBC;</li> <li>○ Reconceptualising Competitiveness (i.e. finalising the Framework Review) – Q1 2016;</li> <li>○ Housing – Q2 2016;</li> <li>○ Productivity – TBC;</li> <li>○ Bulletins – Ongoing; and</li> <li>○ Advocacy &amp; Secretariat – Ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Members agreed to the Work Programme and were asked to identify any additional cost items they wished to include in the Costs of Doing Business report, currently being drafted.</li> <li>▪ The secretariat agreed to provide more detail on the productivity Terms of Reference at a future Council meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to proceed with work programme outlined</p> <p>Members to suggest priority areas for inclusion in the Costs of Doing Business report</p> <p>Terms of Reference for productivity project to be discussed subsequently by Council</p>
<p><b>84.5 Update on Advocacy and Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Legal Costs and Insurance Costs bulletins, circulated ahead of the meeting were discussed. A short update on the recent Legal Services Bill developments was provided by D/Justice &amp; Equality.</li> <li>▪ The high price of utilising the justice system in Ireland was discussed.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat will consider the feedback provided on the Bulletins and publish in Q1 2016</p>
<p><b>84.6 Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The OECD recommendation that the NCC focus more on productivity was noted – and is reflected in the proposed NCC productivity project referenced above.</li> <li>▪ DECLG will be finalising the National Planning Framework in 2016 and noted that DECLG may seek input from the Council prior to publication of the draft NPF.</li> <li>▪ Ongoing developments in encouraging Diaspora to return to work in Ireland were outlined.</li> <li>▪ The issue of increasing traffic congestion as a productivity issue was noted.</li> <li>▪ The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NCC Meetings in 2016:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 March</li> <li>▪ 2 June</li> <li>▪ 15 September</li> <li>▪ 1 December</li> </ul>