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## PRESS RELEASE:

### NCPC publishes *Budget 2026 and Competitiveness: Navigating Uncertainty*

Today (September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025), Dr. Frances Ruane, the Chair of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC), is pleased to announce the publication of ***Budget 2026 and Competitiveness: Navigating Uncertainty*** paper. This publication emphasises that competitiveness continues to play a central role in policy discussions, both domestically and internationally.

Dr. Ruane said:

*"It is important that we continue this dialogue with Irish Government. The Competitiveness Summit earlier this year showed that Government recognises just how important competitiveness is to our future economic well-being. While the Action Plan is a significant step and welcomed by the Council, Budget 2026 also offers a unique opportunity to address specific issues around competitiveness and productivity as outlined in our Challenge report this year."*

Although Ireland continues to hold a strong competitiveness position globally, significant challenges remain. This year, NCPC's annual report *Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge* underscores the importance of tackling issues that lie within domestic control (or "controlling the controllables"). Therefore, this Pre-Budget publication – second paper published by the Council on this topic – draws attention to those recommendations most relevant for Budget 2026.

Dr. Ruane added:

*"In order to strengthen our competitiveness, Government should focus on addressing challenges within domestic control, such as low productivity and infrastructural gaps. By aligning Budget 2026 with the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity, Ireland can better safeguard its competitive position and ensure that businesses of all sizes are supported to thrive."*