

Call for Expressions of Interest:

Member of the National Competitiveness Council

A. National Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation invites expressions of interest for consideration for appointment as a Member of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

The NCC was established by Government in 1997, and reports to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, on key competitiveness issues facing the Irish economy and offers recommendations on policy actions required to enhance Ireland's competitive position.

In accordance with the European Council recommendation of September 2016 on the establishment of National Productivity Boards by euro area countries, in March 2018, the Government designated the National Competitiveness Council as the body responsible for analysing developments and policies in the field of productivity and competitiveness in Ireland.

B. The Operation of the Council

The Work Programme of the NCC

Under the NCC Terms of Reference, the Council is required to prepare two annual competitiveness reports:

- a report benchmarking the competitiveness of Ireland's business sector against international peer countries; and
- a report outlining the main competitiveness challenges facing the business sector in Ireland over the medium term, and the policy responses required to meet them.

In addition, the Council prepares and publishes an annual Cost of Doing Business report and other reports and submissions on competitiveness issues, with recommendations on measures required to improve competitiveness. Some examples of the topics that NCC research and publications have addressed in recent years include:

- Economic Concentration;
- Housing Affordability;
- Harmonised Competitiveness Indicators;
- Exchange Rates and Competitiveness;
- Insurance Costs; and,
- Legal Costs.

As Ireland's National Productivity Board, the NCC is also responsible for analysing developments and policies in the field of productivity and competitiveness in Ireland in accordance with the European Council recommendation of September 2016. In this capacity, the NCC publishes an annual Productivity Statement.

The Council's reports are submitted to Government prior to publication. All NCC publications can be found on the NCC website at: <http://www.competitiveness.ie/Publications/>

Time Requirement

The NCC meets in plenary session 3-4 times a year and meetings usually last 2-3 hours. Members are expected to read draft research documents that are circulated a week in advance and comment on them at the meeting.

Remuneration

There is no fee for attending NCC meetings. Travel and subsistence expenses can be claimed through the Finance Unit, Corporate Services, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation for expenses incurred in travelling to meetings.

Secretariat

The Secretariat to the NCC is provided by the Competitiveness and Productivity Unit, in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

C. Expressions of Interest – Appointment as Member of the NCC

Expressions of interest are now being sought from suitably qualified persons, (for example, economists, or individuals who have a direct experience of competitiveness and productivity issues from a business perspective), at an appropriately senior level, for consideration for appointment as a Member of the NCC for a period not exceeding 6 years.

Members are drawn from civil society (e.g. union representatives, business representatives, businesses, and academia) and must have an interest in, and understanding, of the factors that affect the competitiveness of the Irish economy and of the policies that can influence productivity levels in the economy. As evident from the work programme of the Council and its publications (see Section B above), this involves the Council and its members considering and commenting on a wide range of important national and sectoral policy issues.

The members of the NCC are appointed by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance and regional and international perspective on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate.

The Minister shall have regard to the particular skills, knowledge and abilities of applicants when making appointments to the Board.

Desirable attributes include but are not limited to:

- Demonstrated understanding of the factors that affect the competitiveness of the Irish economy and the policies that can influence productivity levels in the economy
- Experience of effective leadership at a senior level in an applicant's area of expertise
- Demonstrated understanding of the policy development process
- Critical thinking skills with a proven ability to grasp the detail of a wide range of issues
- Experience of participation on similar committees or groups.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to nccnewmembers@dbei.gov.ie

An expression of interest should include:

1. a cover letter expressing interest and outlining suitability and relevant experience for the role; and
2. a detailed CV.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 7 June 2019 at 3pm.

Selection Process

Subject to a shortlisting process, undertaken by a panel, the Council members will be appointed by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Questions and Inquiries

If you have any questions or require any clarification related to this call for expressions of interest, please email nccnewmembers@dbei.gov.ie

D. Miscellaneous

Confidentiality

Subject to the provision of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquiries, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone outside those directly involved in the selection process.

Data Protection

The NCC will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Acts 2018. The data will be kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which that data is processed, and it shall be kept in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data including the unauthorised or unlawful processing of the data.

If your application is successful for the role as a Member of the NCC, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with the GDPR for the specified reason of Council membership and your data will not be held longer than is necessary.

The NCC may disclose the data that you provided on the application form to external sources for the following reasons – where there is an external assessor assisting in the shortlisting for the vacancy on the Council to which you have applied, and to internal and external auditors.

Term of Office

The term of office for Council members is for a period not exceeding 6 years, subject to the provision on rotation of members. On 31 December each year, three members of the Council retire from office. The members to retire each year are those who have been longest in office, based on their date of appointment, or re-appointment where appropriate. Where more than three members hold identical period in office, those to retire are (unless they otherwise agreed amongst themselves) determined by lot.