

Appointments to the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Closing Date: 3pm on Tuesday 8th November 2016

**State Boards Division
Public Appointments Service
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stateboards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that the PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which the PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard and in accordance with 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, "it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards."

The [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016](#) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies. While the Code of Practice does not apply directly to the Central Bank of Ireland (the 'Central Bank'), it has adopted the Code, adapted in some instances to take account of the Central Bank's particular governance framework and the statutory requirements of the Central Bank Acts and the ESCB Treaties, including the requirement for the Bank to be independent.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Location: Meetings will be in Dublin.

Number of Vacancies: 1

There will be at least one vacancy on the Fiscal Council at the beginning of 2017. The successful candidate(s) will be appointed for a four-year term with effect from 1 January 2017.

Remuneration: €11,970, where applicable (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are provided for under statute, e.g., the appointment of Worker Directors).

Time Requirements: Monthly Board meetings with additional commitments (see Section 2 - below)

1. Background

The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in being appointed to fill a vacancy for a Member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. The Fiscal Council is independent in the performance of its functions.

The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council is an independent statutory body with a range of functions specified under the [Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012](#). These include:

- Endorsement of, as it considers appropriate, the macroeconomic forecast prepared by the Department of Finance on which the Budget and Stability Programme Update are based.
- Assessment of the official forecasts produced by the Department of Finance. These are the macroeconomic and budgetary forecasts published by the Department twice a year.
- Assessment of whether the fiscal stance of the Government is conducive to prudent economic and budgetary management, with reference to the EU Stability and Growth Pact.
- Monitoring and assessing compliance with the budgetary rule as set out in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The budgetary rule requires that the Government's budget is in surplus or in balance, or is moving at a satisfactory pace towards that position.
- In relation to the budgetary rule, assessment of whether any non-compliance is a result of 'exceptional circumstances'. This could mean a severe economic downturn and/or an unusual event outside the control of Government which may have a major impact on the budgetary position.

The Fiscal Council comprises five Council Members and a Secretariat of six. Further information about the Council, its work and its publications may be found on its website – www.fiscalcouncil.ie

The current composition of the Council is:

Name	Role	Date appointed	Expiry Date
Prof. John McHale	Chair	31-12-2012	31-12-2016
Sebastian Barnes	Member	31-12-2012	31-12-2016
Dr Íde Kearney	Member	11-03-2015	11-03-2019
Michael G. Tutty	Member	24-09-2015	31-12-2019
Seamus Coffey	Member	01-01-2016	31-12-2019

2. Time commitment

Council Members are expected to participate at monthly full-day Council meetings, as well as some additional meetings relating to the endorsement of the Budget and Stability Programme Update forecasts and to appear before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform. Council Members have responsibilities both as Members of the Council and to input into and review the Council's substantive work.

3. Person Specification

Applications are being sought for appointment as Member of the Council from persons with relevant skills, knowledge and experience in domestic or international macroeconomic or fiscal matters.

In particular, skills, knowledge and experience in areas relevant to the Council's statutory mandate are being sought. These include:

- significant experience with macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasting;
- familiarity with domestic and/or European fiscal frameworks; and
- significant experience with macroeconomic and/or fiscal policy analysis

Applications from both Ireland- and international-based candidates are welcome.

In accordance with the [Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012](#), the term of office for the appointed Board Members is four years from date of appointment.

Members may be re-appointed by the Minister for another term.

4. Submitting your Application

Before submitting your application, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an expression of interest - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of the Council you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may arise if appointed to the Council.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your application. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

1. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Council position(s) specified in this booklet, and*
2. *That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*
- 3.

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

5. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the “Panel”) will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the applications received by PAS. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - Meeting¹/conference call; and/or
 - Referee checks; and/or
 - Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include PAS requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).
- arrive at a shortlist of suitable candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

6. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

7. Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

Should your name be forwarded to a Minister for consideration, please note that your cover letter and curriculum vitae will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant department and may be retained for up to one year.

For further information on Data Protection please follow the [link](#).

¹ The Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your expression of interest

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

1. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
2. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
3. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
4. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page
5. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to create one.
6. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
7. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
8. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
9. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Council. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Council member.