

ACTION PLAN FOR JOBS

2016



First Progress Report

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Commentary

This is the first report of 2016 from the Monitoring Committee established by Government to monitor and drive implementation of the measures contained in the Action Plan for Jobs 2016. It outlines progress made on measures due for completion in the first quarter of 2016.

The Government published the fifth in its multi-annual Action Plan for Jobs series in January this year. This Plan, which contains 304 actions to be implemented in 2016 by all 16 Government Departments and by 46 agencies under the remit of these Departments, will build on the progress made since 2012 to improve supports for job-creating businesses and remove the barriers to employment creation across the economy. These actions are additional to the over 2,300 actions already implemented under Action Plan for Jobs 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 cumulatively, and reported on by the Monitoring Committee in its previous quarterly reports (see www.djei.ie).

The latest official statistics on employment and unemployment in Ireland (CSO QNHS Quarter 1 2016) show that total employment increased by 46,900 in the year to Q1 2016, bringing total employment to 1,976,500. There was an increase in full time employment of 30,700 and an increase in part-time employment of 16,300. Over the period since the launch of the Action Plan for Jobs in quarter 1 2012, over 151,000 jobs have been created in the Irish economy. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2016 was 7.9%, down from a high of 15.1% in February 2012.

Actions due in Quarter 1

In the first quarter of 2016, Departments and agencies were to deliver 91 measures under the Action Plan. 14 of the measures due in Quarter 1 of 2016 have not been delivered, giving a completion rate of 85%.

Measures not delivered as planned in Q1

As stated above, 14 of the Q1 measures outlined in the Plan have not been delivered on schedule:

- *Develop a new certification scheme, underpinned by legislation, to enable the Controller of Patents to consider applications for inventions that claim to be novel, non-obvious and useful in line with the OECD nexus approach and that qualify for the Knowledge Development Box in line with the Finance Bill 2016; finalise the outline certification scheme, and seek Government approval for the scheme as well as approval for priority drafting of the heads of a Bill to underpin it – Action 32.* Draft heads of a new Bill are at an advanced stage of preparation in parallel with discussions with the Patent Office on the method for certifying novelty of the inventions. A draft Memorandum for Government and heads of a Bill are expected to be ready for submission to Government in Q2.
- *Progress legislative reform in the copyright area to provide a more progressive IP environment fit for the digital age and responding to the work of the Copyright Review Committee; submit copyright legislative reform proposals for Government approval together with the draft heads of a Bill – Action 36.* Draft heads of a new Bill are at an advanced stage of preparation in parallel with discussions with the Patent Office on the method for certifying novelty of the inventions. A draft Memorandum for Government and heads of a Bill are expected to be ready for submission to Government in Q2.
- *Roll out the Youth Employability Initiative to enhance the employability of young people aged 15 to 24 years who are most at risk of unemployment and who are not in education, employment or training; issue the first tranche of funding – Action 44.* First tranche of funding will issue in Q2.
- *Roll out the Youth Employability Initiative to enhance the employability of young people aged 15 to 24 years who are most at risk of unemployment and who are not in education, employment or training; provide training workshops to projects – Action 44.* Training workshops to be provided in Q2 and Q3.
- *Finalise and publish the Foreign Languages Strategy; Publish the Foreign Languages Strategy – Action 54.* The publication of the Foreign Languages Strategy has been delayed to Q3.
- *Examine the appropriateness of the sub-minima rates which currently apply, with regard, in particular, to their impact on youth employment rates and participation in education; as per headline action – Action 79.* An extension has been granted to the timeframe for the submission of this report to allow additional data which will become available over the coming months to be used. The report is now due to be submitted in Q4 2016.

- *Publish and implement the Public Sector Energy Action Plan; publish the action plan – Action 125. A draft Action Plan has been prepared. It will be submitted to the new Government for approval.*
- *Advance the Africa Strategy which provides a comprehensive framework for the development and management of Ireland's official engagement with Africa, through a clearly targeted engagement on trade and economic relations with Africa, including: a renewed Africa Ireland Economic Forum; the strengthening of our embassies' trade promotion tools and capacities, in co-operation with the State agencies; and ongoing support to Irish business representative bodies and companies focused on doing business in Africa; consult with relevant stakeholders and deliver a revised Africa Ireland Economic Forum; including events to engage Irish business representative bodies and relevant companies – Action 223. Following a consultation process with the resident African embassies, other Departments and the State Agencies, Irish business representative bodies and relevant companies, a renewed Africa Ireland Economic Forum will be held in May 2016.*
- *In line with previous Global Irish Economic Fora, Government Departments and state agencies will have a key role to ensure implementation of relevant recommendations and outcomes from the 2015 Global Irish Economic Forum; publish the report of the 2015 Global Irish Economic Forum – Action 225. To be completed in Q2 following the formation of a new Government.*
- *In line with previous Global Irish Economic Fora, Government Departments and state agencies will have a key role to ensure implementation of relevant recommendations and outcomes from the 2015 Global Irish Economic Forum; publish the report of the 2015 Global Irish Economic Forum – Action 225. To be completed in Q2 following the formation of a new Government.*
- *Issue social clauses guidance material to procuring authorities; as per headline action – Action 233. It is expected that a final draft of the Guidance on the use of Social Clauses in Public Procurement will be ready for legal review by the CSSO in Q2.*
- *Review the operation of the Tender Advisory Service pilot; As per headline action – Action 238. The review of the Tender Advisory Service is expected to be completed during Q2.*
- *Implement the Construction Contracts Act; Publish the Code of Practice for the conduct of adjudications – Action 280. The Minister for Business and Employment Gerald Nash circulated a comprehensive Code of Practice on the conduct of adjudications, as required under Section 9 of the Construction Contracts Act 2013, to the relevant stakeholder organisations during February 2016. The stakeholder organisations provided observations on the Code of Practice and these are currently being considered. The Code of Practice will be published as soon as possible.*

- *Implement the Construction Contracts Act; commence public information campaign –* Action 280. The public information campaign to highlight the commencement of the Construction Contracts Act 2013 will be undertaken as soon as possible following the publication of the Code of Practice on the conduct of adjudications, as referred to above.

Quarter 1 Measures

Disruptive Reforms

Stimulating Regional Growth

Action 5: Establish Regional Implementation Committees to review progress and monitor the impact of the Plans.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DJEI, relevant public bodies)

Update: Complete

Implementation Committees have been established for Midlands, South East, South West, Mid-West, West, North East/North West and Mid East Action Plans, with membership comprising local authorities, enterprise agencies and other key regional stakeholders and agencies.

Key industry figures have been appointed to act as Enterprise Champions within each Regional Implementation Committee, to bring their business acumen and skills to bear on implementation and ongoing development of the plans.

Meetings of the Implementation Committees took place in March/ April, with further meetings planned for July 2016. Key areas of focus for the meetings will include progressing and monitoring the impact of the Regional Action Plans, including the identification of best practice initiatives across the regions.

Action 16: Continue to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, which as the primary social inclusion programme of Government, has a strong focus on community activation, social inclusion and community development, while also prioritising those hardest to reach.

Q1 Measure: Confirm the annual allocation for the programme and ensure LCDCs are notified of their Lot specific allocations. (DECLG, Pobal)

Update: Complete

The annual allocation for the Programme was confirmed and the Programme Implementers will be notified of their Lot specific allocations on schedule.

Q1 Measure: Set SICAP targets. (DECLG, LCDCs)

Update: Complete

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programmes national targets were set and the Local Community Development Committees set their Programme targets in Q1.

All Government Transactions with Business Online by 2017- Reducing Red Tape

Action 19: Examine the licensing, authorisation, certification, permit application, and payment-taking procedures most relevant to business users, especially SMEs, which it and all offices, agencies, local authorities and other licensing bodies under its aegis provide, and present a detailed plan for the full e-delivery by November 2017 of such procedures.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (All Departments)

Update: Complete

Examination of the licences, authorisations, certificates and permits is at different stages across various Departments. It is expected that those Departments who have not yet completed this exercise will have submitted the list and detailed plans for full e-delivery in Q2.

Action 20: Provide updates each quarter on progress achieved towards the Government's commitment to make all licensing, authorisation, certification, permit application, and payment-taking procedures for business fully available online on a progressive basis by November 2017.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (All Departments)

Update: Complete

As per Action 19 above – The Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation has secured agreement with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform that DJEI will join a renewed CIO Council to promote delivery of this commitment across the Public Service.

National Clustering Initiative

Action 27: Support the development of local adaptation strategies to advance adaptation at the local scale, local authority level.

Q1 Measure: Publish guidelines. (EPA)

Update: Complete

The guidelines have been completed and arrangements for its publication are being finalised.

Action 30: Building on the Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Smart Ageing, map out and implement a programme of actions and proposed timelines.

Q1 Measure: Map out a programme of actions and proposed timelines. (D/Taoiseach, DJEI, DoH, other relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

A Senior Officials' Group (SOG) on Smart Ageing chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, and including senior representatives from relevant Departments and agencies has been established and has worked on mapping out a programme of actions and proposed timelines. The Smart Ageing Programme of Actions has now been finalised and agreed by SOG members.

Increasing Labour Market Participation

Action 46: Initiate a pilot Employment Support Scheme, in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection, to enhance the prospects of participants aged between 18 and 24 years obtaining employment to help develop a path to economic independence.

Q1 Measure: Finalise the details of the scheme. (D/Defence, DSP)

Update: Complete

Details of the scheme were completed on 31 March 2016. The pilot Defence Forces Employment Support Scheme is scheduled to commence in June 2016.

Delivering Skills for a Growing Economy

Action 47: Finalise and publish the new National Skills Strategy. The new strategy will set out the framework for the period to 2025 for how Ireland can continue to develop relevant skills and ensure that our supply of skills is activated and effectively used.

Q1 Measure: Finalise and publish the new National Skills Strategy. (DES, DJEI, DSP, SOLAS, HEA, education and training providers, employers)

Update: Complete

Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025 was published on 27 January 2016.

Action 52: Systematically monitor and evaluate the impact of Springboard+ to further strengthen the contribution of the programme to supporting learners and skills development, job creation, reducing unemployment and meeting the skills needs of emerging industries.

Q1 Measure: Continue to gather the full range of quantitative and qualitative data on Springboard+ inputs, outputs and outcomes. (HEA)

Update: Complete

The evaluation framework for Springboard provides for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of outputs. The HEA are currently gathering a full range of quantitative and qualitative data on Springboard+ inputs, outputs and outcomes. Further trend analysis will be published during 2016.

Action 53: Roll out the 2016 call for proposals for Springboard Courses, with a particular focus on priority areas identified by industry through the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) including ICT, the medtech and biotech sectors; skills for enterprise to trade internationally; international financial services; entrepreneurship and business start-ups.

Q1 Measure: Issue competitive call to HEIs for Springboard+. (HEIs, Employers)

Update: Complete

A call for Proposals for Springboard 2016 was issued by the HEA on 5 February 2016. The closing date for receipt of proposals was 11 March. A guidance document, prepared by the EGFSN, on current and future skills needs of enterprise, to include areas such as ICT, the medtech and biotech sectors; skills for enterprise to trade internationally; international financial services; entrepreneurship and business start-ups, accompanied the call.

Action 58: Develop a new strategy for technology-enhanced learning for the further education and training sector.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (SOLAS)

Update: Complete

SOLAS have developed a new strategy for technology-enhanced learning for the further education and training sector.

Action 59: Increase the number of research Masters awards under the Irish Research Council Employment Based Programme to address national skills requirements, particularly in the SME sector.

Q1 Measure: Promote Programme to the enterprise community and in particular SMEs. (IRC)

Update: Complete

The Irish Research Council's (IRC) enterprise suite of programmes aims to stimulate links between industry, academia and emerging researchers. Two of the programmes, the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS) and the Employment Based Postgraduate Programme (EBP), foster highly effective research collaborations between researchers from higher education institutions and enterprise and allow the researchers to experience a variety of workplace settings outside academia.

The EBP scheme is a unique mechanism for job creation and research opportunities for early-career researchers in Ireland. It offers co-educational collaborations between Irish-based businesses and organisations and Irish third level institutions and more than 50 employment partners have participated in the scheme so far. In addition, more than 120 jobs have been created for researchers who are currently embedded in a range of organisational types, across all academic disciplines and enterprise sectors.

In 2015, 36 awards were made across the HEI sector which is an increase of six awards over 2013. It is anticipated that the number of awards will increase further in 2016. Applications to the programme have increased year on year with 2016 seeing an increase on the 2015 number. A quarter of the awards made are research Masters based.

The IRC has delivered on a significant promotional and awareness campaign to grow the enterprise suite of programmes. In December 2015 the Irish Times featured a number of case studies as well as an overview of our programmes. The IRC has also attended various events around Ireland including the Innovation Showcase in the Convention Centre. The IRC held an information session at the recent Grad Ireland conference and presented at the innovation conference in Croke Park in March 2016.

Action 63: Deliver a strengthened Communications Strategy for the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, which will result in more effective dissemination of information on the skills needs of the economy through improved engagement with education and training providers and other key stakeholders.

Q1 Measure: Review the existing Communications Strategy of the EGFSN. (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) was established in 1997 to advise the Government on emerging and future skills needs of the economy. The Group's work is

widely disseminated to education and training providers, industry bodies, guidance counsellors, and through relevant websites.

Identifying and addressing the future skills needs of the economy is critical to Ireland's continued economic and social development and to the ability of enterprises to grow - particularly in the current climate of intense international competition to attract talent.

There have been many developments in the education and training system in the last number of years, including the establishment of the Education & Training Boards and SOLAS, the formation of new Regional Skills Fora, the publication of a new National Skills Strategy, etc. In the context of these changes, the EGFSN considered it timely to review how it communicates its key messages to stakeholders and whether there is scope for using additional avenues or media tools to deliver these messages. The overarching objective is to ensure the maximum awareness of the emerging skills needs of the Irish economy so that these skills needs can be met in a timely way.

The EGFSN has held initial discussion on how it communicates its key messages, and has considered issues such as more concise formats and better use of visual tools such as infographics to help deliver its messages.

Further consideration will be given by the Group to the issue at its next meeting in June 2016, as envisaged under the Action Plan for Jobs delivery schedule, with a view to agreeing measures which can be taken to strengthening the EGFSN's Communications Strategy.

Increasing ICT Skills

Action 66: Through strengthened collaboration between Government, the education system and industry and as part of the goal of making Ireland the most attractive location in the world for ICT skills and ability, implement the key actions from the ICT Skills Action Plan 2014 – 2018.

Q1 Measure: Issue a competitive call for a new round of ICT skills conversion programmes and ICT upskilling courses as part of Springboard+ 2016. (HEA, HEIs, employers)

Update: Complete

A call for Proposals for Springboard+ 2016, to include the ICT skills conversion programme, issued by the HEA on 5 February 2016. The closing date for receipt of proposals was 11 March 2016. The full suite of ICT skills conversion courses will be launched in Q2 2016.

Action 67: To continue to increase the supply of ICT graduates, provide a higher incentive for 500 additional places on Level 8 ICT programmes in 2016. Review implementation of the ICT Skills Action Plan 2014-2018 in 2016 and what additional measures can be taken.

Q1 Measure: Issue the call for additional 500 incentivised places. (DES, HEA, HEIs)

Update: Complete

A call for an additional 500 Level 8 ICT incentivised places was issued by the HEA during February 2016.

Action 68: Continue collaboration and engagement between enterprise and higher education providers to provide Level 8 ICT Conversion programmes as part of the Springboard+ 2016 programme.

Q1 Measure: Develop proposals by HEIs and employers. (HEIs, employers)

Update: Complete

A call for proposals for Springboard+ 2016, to include the ICT skills Conversion Programme, issued by the HEA on 5 February 2016. The closing date for receipt of proposals was 11 March 2016. Proposals approved for funding as part of the Springboard+ 2016 call will be finalised and rolled out during 2016/17.

Action 72: Enhance industry input to programme content, provision of work placements and promotion of ICT programmes as part of the implementation of Skillnets ICT Conversion Programmes.

Q1 Measure: Finalise programme design with ICT sector to train 220 trainees across four Skillnets Networks. (Skillnets)

Update: Complete

The design of Skillnets suite of ICT Conversion Programmes across four Skillnet networks was finalised in Q1.

Q1 Measure: Commence delivery of ICT Conversion Programmes. (Skillnets)

Update: Complete

The first Skillnets ICT Conversion Programme commenced in Q1. The ICT Ireland Skillnet “Fundamentals of Java Programming” started on 8 February 2016, and the training element of the programme is now finalised.

Attracting world class talent to Ireland

Action 73: Deliver the online application system for employment permits.

Q1 Measure: Complete the system analysis and design. (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The system analysis and design are now completed. Through stakeholder consultation and outreach, we have now identified and agreed with the service provider the features of the online employment permit system.

Innovation

Action 86: Publish a revised IP Protocol to ensure that the Irish protocol remains best in class and knowledge transfer capabilities between academia and industry are increased.

Q1 Measure: Publish a revised IP protocol incorporating feedback from industry and other stakeholders on issues identified in operating the current protocol. (DJEI/KTI/EI)

Update: Complete

Revised IP Protocol agreed by Government on 5 January 2016 and published on 14 January 2016.

Action 103: Increase the early career stage human capital in Ireland.

Q1 Measure: Launch the 2016 Future Research Leaders Programme. (SFI)

Update: Complete

The 2016 Future Research Leaders Programme launched on 11 January 2016 and is now open for applications. SFI held a webinar on 20 January 2016 to discuss the main points of the Programme. The deadline for applications to the President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Programme is 8 April 2016.

The President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Programme is a recruitment-only programme designed to attract to Ireland outstanding new and emerging research leaders in both scientific and engineering domains. Candidates may have both academic and/or industry relevant backgrounds with a focus on research excellence with impact.

Awardees are expected to address current gaps in leadership, methodologies and skill sets in specific discipline areas (including, but not limited to advanced manufacturing, bioprocessing, agri-food, cyber-security, smart cities, energy and marine research).

Action 106: Fund new world-leading, large-scale research centres that will provide major economic impact for Ireland.

Q1 Measure: Launch a new call for Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre applications. (SFI)

Update: Complete

SFI aims to develop a set of world-leading, large-scale research centres that will provide major economic impact for Ireland. The goal of SFI, in partnership with its sister agencies and departments, is to develop a dynamic research centre ecosystem that can evolve to meet the changing needs of industry and society. SFI Research Centres funded under the forthcoming call will contribute significantly to achieving this and as such, are expected to integrate with other SFI- and non-SFI-funded centres, where appropriate, to maximise capabilities, outputs and industry offerings.

The 2016 Research Centres Programme is now open for applications. SFI held a webinar on 27 January 2016 to discuss the main points of the Programme. The deadline for submissions of abstracts to the 2016 Research Centres Programme was 4 March 2016. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is 28 April 2016.

Competitiveness

Institutionalising the Drive for Competitiveness

Action 120: The National Competitiveness Council's priority issues for sustainable competitiveness over the short and medium term will be brought to Government. Individual Government Departments will respond and bring forward proposals as appropriate to enhance competitiveness. This work will be overseen by the relevant Cabinet Committees.

Q1 Measure: Lead on a response from relevant Departments and agencies to the NCC recommendations to address data deficits in the insurance sector (in particular costs and award levels) through the Cabinet Committee structures. (DoF, DJEI, DTTAS, DJE, CBI, CSO, PIAB)

Update: Complete

The Department of Finance has commenced a Review of Policy in the insurance sector. This is being undertaken in consultation with the Central Bank and other Departments and Agencies. The objective of the Review is to recommend measures to improve the functioning and regulation of the insurance sector. This Review will include an examination of the factors contributing to the cost of insurance and the availability of insurance data.

The first phase of the review is examining the framework for motor insurance compensation and the Department of Finance has established a joint working group with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Department of Finance has also commenced detailed research on options to provide greater availability of flood insurance. This work will be in the form of a comparative analysis of the different approaches to flood insurance in other countries and will feed into the Review Project. Consultation with key stakeholders has commenced.

Reducing the Cost of Doing Business

Action 123: Encourage local authorities to exercise restraint in adopting the Annual Rates on Valuation and, where appropriate, the Base Year Adjustments for 2016. Encourage local authorities to provide to the greatest extent possible certainty for commercial ratepayers in terms of the impact harmonisation may have on their rates bills in future years.

Q1 Measure: Report on the extent to which restraint was exercised in setting Annual Rates on Valuation and, where appropriate, Base Year Adjustments by Local Authorities and progress with achieving harmonisation of Annual Rates on Valuations in 2016. (DECLG, LAs)

Update: Complete

Following the reorganisation of local government structures arising from the Local Government Reform Act 2014 there are 31 local authorities which adopted an Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV).

11 local authorities are not affected by rates harmonisation measures provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. This is due to those local authorities either having amalgamated prior to establishment day under separate amalgamations, or due to there being no former town or borough councils in the local authority area. 2 of these local authorities (Galway City Council and Limerick City and County Council) increased their ARV for 2016 and 9 adopted the same ARV in 2016 as in 2015. The average increase in ARV for this group of local authorities was 0.46%.

The remaining 20 local authorities are required by law to harmonise their rates through implementing the Base Year Adjustment (BYA) process. There are 74 former rating authority areas within the 20 local authorities subject to the BYA. As per the 2016 adopted budgets, effective ARVs have increased in 40 former rating areas, decreased in 17 and remain unchanged in a further 17. This equates to an overall average increase of 1.40%.

In the 40 areas where there was an effective ARV increase, the average rate of increase for 2016 is 3.07%. The average decrease in effective ARVs in the 17 areas where a lower rate was applied for 2016 is 1.12%. The largest percentage increase is seen in Kilrush Town in Co. Clare, which saw an increase of 8.93% in the effective ARV. There are a further 7 areas where the increase is over 5%; Ennis, Mallow, Midleton, Ballinasloe, Athy, Kilkenny County and Offaly County. The largest decrease is in Monaghan Town, where the effective ARV decreased by 4.69%.

Action 130: Ensure the implementation of Regulating for a Better Future across Departments, building upon recent progress and completing outstanding actions. Actions will focus on enhancing national competitiveness and securing Ireland's ongoing economic recovery.

Q1 Measure: Finalise Memoranda of Understanding between regulatory organisations to share their front and back office administrative functions. (DCENR)

Update: Complete

In Broadcasting/Communications, on 15 December 2015 BAI and ComReg signed a Memorandum of Understanding on shared services.

In the Energy sector, the establishment of an independent economic regulatory function for water services within the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is presented as a 'model for which will be used by Government when establishing new independent regulatory functions in the various sectors'.

In relation to outsourcing, the CER has contracted its IT Operations to an external service provider. This service provider supports all day-to-day operations of IT. CER also outsources day-to-day handling of customer complaints with energy suppliers and network operators. This allows CER to concentrate on more complex complaints between customers and supplier/network operators.

The CER interacts with a number of other governmental bodies for which it has Memoranda of Understanding including:

- Irish Competition Authority
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority (25 June 2008 – revised 26 February 2014))
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)(3 September 2013)
- An Bord Pleanála (8 February 2013)
- Commissioner for Irish Lights (15 April 2013)
- Irish Aviation Authority (26 February 2014)
- Air Accident Investigation Unit (7 February 2013)
- Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (7 February 2013)
- Marine Casualty Investigation Board (15 April 2013)
- National Standards Authority of Ireland (16 April 2013)
- Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation on Common Arrangements for Gas (5 February 2008)
- Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation on Single Electricity Market (23 August 2004)
- The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited (ETCI) (30 April 2009)

Q1 Measure: Conclude the initial reporting and public consultation process on the combined Corporate Offences and Regulatory Enforcement project, as outlined in the Fourth Programme of Law Reform. (LRC)

Update: Complete

The Law Reform Commission (LRC) is an independent body. The LRC published an Issues Paper on Regulatory Enforcement and Corporate Offences on 27 January 2016 in relation to which submissions had been invited by 30 March 2016.

Easier to do Business

Action 134: Develop a Client Relationship Management system in the Irish National Accreditation Board which will make it easier for business to apply for accreditation.

Q1 Measure: Agree system design. (HSA/INAB)

Update: Complete

Workshops, mapping of processes and documenting requirements for the system design have been completed. The final system design document sign-off was concluded in April 2016.

Action 136: Further promote and expand the small business, construction and agribusiness sections of BeSMART.

Q1 Measure: Construction canteen poster campaign (Q1 and Q2). (HSA)

Update: Complete

This campaign is continuing and is on schedule. The HSA's intention is to engage with the Top 50 Construction companies to leverage the use of BeSMART across their many sub-contractors. The HSA is targeting 5 to 10 companies a month until all 50 are completed. Feedback to date for the initiative is very positive.

Action 138: Undertake an assessment of the impact of the EU Chemicals Policy (REACH) on the Irish economy and the experience of companies of the registration /authorisation processes and, following consultation with industry stakeholders and the relevant national authorities, identify the steps to be taken to enhance Ireland's capacity to engage and influence the REACH process at EU level.

Q1 Measure: Establish steering group to prepare and oversee assessment exercise. (DJEI, HSA, IDA, EI, DAFM, DECLG, EPA)

Update: Complete

The Steering Group has been set up to undertake the assessment of the impact of the EU REACH Regulation in Ireland.

Planning for Medium Term Growth

Action 141: Prepare a National Planning Framework to set a long-term national framework to ensure proper planning and sustainable development and the optimal economic and social development of the country as a whole.

Q1 Measure: Publish the arrangements for the preparation of the National Planning Framework, including consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment aspects. (DECLG)

Update: Complete

In December 2015 the Department published a document entitled *Towards a National Planning Framework (NPF) - A Roadmap for the delivery of the National Planning Framework 2016*. This followed Government approval (2014) for the commencement of the preparation of a new National Planning Framework to act as a new long-term national planning and regional development framework as a successor to the 2002 National Spatial Strategy which was Ireland's first national strategic spatial planning framework.

This document (i) signalled that the preparation of the NPF is commencing, (ii) provides information as to the approach and timetable proposed, (iii) outlines matters to be considered and (iv) indicates how persons and organisations can become involved in the process.

The roadmap document sets out general arrangements for the preparation of the NPF.

Work on the NPF is now underway and is at project set up stage. A Cross Departmental Steering Group and a demographic/econometric modelling working group have been established.

Stakeholder engagement has commenced and arrangements for wider consultation are being put in place. Procurement of various specialist elements to support the project is also being undertaken, including Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Finance for Growth

Ensure viable SMEs can access appropriate finance

Action 144: Detailed data from AIB, Bank of Ireland and PTSB will be collated and examined, on a monthly basis, ensuring a more informed understanding of the SME bank lending environment.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DoF, CRO)

Update: Complete

Latest monthly and quarterly figures received from AIB and Bank of Ireland. Quarterly meetings held with both banks. Meetings to take place shortly with PTSB regarding data collection.

Action 146: Collate and monitor data on lending to SMEs from both bank and non-bank sources and report on this issue to the relevant Cabinet Committee.

Q1 Measure: Report to relevant Cabinet Committee on SME lending. (DoF, SME State Bodies Group)

Update: Complete

The SME State Bodies Group provided input to a document containing recent data pertaining to SME lending and State sponsored schemes. There was no meeting of the relevant Cabinet Committee in Q1.

Entrepreneurship

Action 172: Host the High Potential Start-Up Class of 2015 Event and Annual Showcase.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (EI)

Update: Complete

Over 300 start-ups, investors and entrepreneurs gathered at Dublin Castle for the High Potential Start Up (HPSU)* Class of 2015 Investor & Networking Event on 10th February 2016. The Start-Up Class of 2015 is the largest HPSU event in the calendar year bringing together the HPSU companies which EI has invested in during 2015.

The participants include all of the HPSU companies and the Competitive Start Fund companies that EI invested in 2015 and a representative from each of the 12 New Frontiers Programmes. At the HPSU Investor Day-Class of 2015, companies have the opportunity to meet with many investors, banks and other support organisations for start-ups.

Over 1,500 jobs will be created over the next three years by the 105 HPSU companies supported by Enterprise Ireland in 2015.

*HPSUs are start-up businesses with the potential to develop an innovative product or service for sale on international markets and the potential to create 10 jobs and €1m in sales within 3 to 4 years of starting up.

Action 174: Initiate a detailed assessment of Local Enterprise Office performance potential and available resources in association with the Local Authorities.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (EI/LEOs)

Update: Complete

The assessment of Local Enterprise Office performance potential and available resources has been initiated. Enterprise Ireland has set out Terms of Reference for the detailed assessment and has engaged an external provider. Initial discussions have commenced with a number of Local Authorities.

Action 178: Begin rollout of funding for the delivery of successful projects under the Local Enterprise Office Competitive Fund.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (EI/LEOs)

Update: Complete

The LEO Competitive Fund is a three-year, €5m initiative that was set up as part of the Government's €250m Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The initiative was aimed at fostering collaborations between Local Enterprise Offices and public and private organisations across a wide range of sectors such as food, engineering, digital, gaming, craft and agri-business. A total of 50 applications were received from across the LEOs for the first round, which includes project proposals to incubate start-ups, develop graduate programmes, grow export-led small business and support job creation in microenterprises.

All of the applications for the first round were fully evaluated and the results will be announced before the end of May with funding to be allocated thereafter.

Growing Irish Companies

Action 206: Promote new business management standards (ISO) to maximise their uptake.

Q1 Measure: Plan and confirm programme of engagements/events for 2016. (NSAI)

Update: Complete

A rolling programme of engagements promoting the most popular management systems standards has been drawn up to be delivered throughout 2016. The first six roadshows focussing on the updated ISO 9001:2015 (quality management) and ISO 14000:2015 (environmental management) standards were delivered by the end of Q1, with follow on events scheduled for the second half of the year.

The programme also plans for events to promote the new draft Occupational Health and Safety standard ISO/DIS 45001 (formerly OHSAS 18001), and ISO 13485:2016 (medical device management systems) later in the year.

The free workshops and promotional events are aimed at businesses interested in implementing for the first time or upgrading their existing management systems to the most up-to-date international standards by demonstrating the advantages and benefits of using such systems regardless of the size or sector of the business.

Action 209: Provide advice and support to Enterprise Ireland supported companies and research institutions in the defence and security sector in the area of research and innovation.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (D/Defence)

Update: Complete

The Defence Forces were involved in a number of proposals that were submitted to the Commission in August 2015. The proposals covered topics such as Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear (CBRN), protection of critical infrastructure and Maritime Border Security. In January 2016 when the results were issued, one of the H2020 proposals was successful which involves the Defence Forces as a consortium member. The scope of the project is to develop mobile, remotely-controlled technologies to enable an improved identification and detection of CBRN materials and collection of forensic evidence in a variety of situation and conditions. The overall goal of the project is to fundamentally change how CBRN events are assessed and ensure the safety of Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel and crime scene investigators by reducing the need for them to enter a dangerous scene to gather evidence.

Quarterly meetings will continue to take place between the Defence Organisation and Enterprise Ireland; the Defence Organisation will continue to provide assistance to Enterprise Ireland and Enterprise Ireland Companies throughout 2016.

The Department will continue to ensure that all interested parties are kept abreast of EDA and Horizon 2020 developments, in order to ensure that the Defence Organisation's involvement in EDA and Horizon 2020 projects are fully supported, thus ensuring their best possible chance of success.

Action 210: Apply the lessons and recommendations emerging from the evaluations of the enterprise development agency programmes across all programmes.

Q1 Measure: Assess progress on the adaption of programmes and implementation of the changes required. (DJEI, development agencies)

Update: Complete

Over the period 2012-2014, Forfás and subsequently the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation (DJEI) undertook a programme of evaluations across the full range of agency supports delivered by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland and the County & City Enterprise Boards (now Local Enterprise Offices). The evaluations made a number of recommendations across different individual programmes, as well as at Agency level.

An assessment was carried out in Q1 2016 by the enterprise agencies and DJEI on the progress made by the agencies on the adaptation of programmes and the implementation

of changes recommended in the evaluations. The assessment focussed on:

- (a) the measures the agencies have taken to implement changes recommended in relation to programme design and evaluation,
- (b) the progress that is being made with regard to deepening an evaluation culture in the agencies,
- (c) ensuring independence of approach to evaluations, and
- (d) identifying any further steps that need to be taken.

A summary of the assessment is now being prepared by DJEI, with a view to identifying any further actions required to ensure that the learnings from the earlier evaluations are fully applied across the agencies' programmes.

Supporting Trade

Action 221: Continue to develop the coordinated approach to international messaging across Government, including through the regular updating of key messages and their communication by Ireland's Embassy network.

Q1 Measure: Update, on a quarterly basis, key messages for international audiences on Ireland's economic progress and our trade, tourism and investment strengths. (DFAT with relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

A comprehensive set of key messages on Ireland's economic progress and our strengths in trade, tourism and investment were prepared by DFAT in coordination with relevant Government Departments and State agencies in advance of the St. Patrick's Day period. The key messages have been circulated to the Embassy network and State agencies.

Action 222: Develop and implement a programme of trade missions and other trade, tourism, investment and education events focused on key target markets, including exploratory and high potential markets as defined under the Review of the Government Trade, Tourism and Investment Strategy. A substantial number of these trade missions and related events will be led at Ministerial level.

Q1 Measure: Coordinate programme of trade and promotional Ministerial-led visits over the St. Patrick's Day period. (DFAT with relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

Programme of trade and promotional Ministerial-led visits delivered by the Embassy network, with support from Government Departments and State agencies, over the St. Patrick's Day period

Q1 Measure: Agree programme of Enterprise Ireland Ministerial-led Trade Missions and Events. (DJEI/EI/DFAT with relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

A programme of 2016 Ministerial led trade missions is now in place. This will focus on existing and high growth markets including the US, China, India and the Gulf region.

Action 224: In light of the expiry of the Government Trade, Tourism and Investment Strategy 2010-2015, carry out a scoping exercise, in cooperation with all relevant Department and State agencies, to examine the possible format, structure and opportunities relating to a new strategy. The implementation of same will be a priority in 2016 and subsequent years.

Q1 Measure: Strategy orientation discussion among the Export Trade Council membership. (DFAT, DJEI, DAFM, DTTAS, DES, State agencies)

Update: Complete

A strategy orientation discussion was held following the 10th meeting of the Export Trade Council, on 26 January 2016. Consultation with Government Departments and State agencies is continuing on a successor approach.

Procurement Opportunities

Action 229: Raise awareness of the new Procurement Directives to bring about a more consistent approach to procurement throughout the State making it easier for SMEs to deal with procurers.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DPER/OGP)

Update: Complete

Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement and Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors have been transposed into Irish law by Regulation ; Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts will be transposed into Irish law in the coming months.

Action 235: Publish the Public Service Spend and Tendering Analysis for 2014, which will act as a benchmark for the Office of Government Procurement to measure its performance in assisting business.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DPER/OGP)

Update: Complete

Report is currently in production and completion is expected in Q2.

Stimulating the Domestic Economy

Agri-food

Action 239: Secure access to new third country markets for Irish meat and dairy products while maintaining access to existing markets.

Q1 Measure: Per headline action. (DAFM)

Update: Complete

DAFM hosted inward inspection visits in Q1 from China and Israel who were here to approve Irish exports of beef. DAFM also hosted an inspection from Egypt who were here to approve exports of live cattle. These visits were successful and market access has been secured. The outcome of the Chinese visit is dependent on the report of the visiting team to their authorities which is expected to happen and this will determine next steps. In addition, the Canadian market was opened to Irish beef in Q1 after DAFM secured agreement on the certificate and a list of 20 approved Irish exporting plants was forwarded to the Canadian authorities to allow trade to commence. Planning is also on-going on upcoming inspection visits from Brazil (dairy) and Saudi Arabia (beef).

Action 240: Roll out a schedule of outward and inward trade visits at Ministerial level to promote agri-food exports in key markets.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DAFM, EI, Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

A draft programme for trade missions to third countries has been prepared for the consideration by the incoming Minister. Ambassadors from Vietnam, the Philippines and Morocco have been received in the Department.

Action 241: Support the expansion of the alcohol beverages and prepared consumer foods industry.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DAFM, EI, Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

Ongoing support for the sectors by EI, Bord Bia and DAFM.

Action 242: Establish a Centre for Consumer Insights to support market prioritisation strategies and market decision making through provision of consumer insights in specific regional and country markets.

Q1 Measure: Secure premises to fit out. (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

Building lease to be signed shortly and fit out to commence immediately.

Action 243: Support a further cohort of new food entrepreneurs under Food Works and promote market outlets for food start-up companies.

Q1 Measure: Agree framework for delivery of reworked Food Works supports with the programme partners Enterprise Ireland, Teagasc following the independent review of the pilot phase of Food Works 2012-15. (Bord Bia/Teagasc/EI)

Update: Complete

Food Works 4 launched on 25 February. The 2016 programme incorporates recommendations from the pilot phase review including an extended recruitment and selection process and the introduction of enhanced services for Food Works alumni. Recruitment period will extend from January to May 2016 with the workshop programme for Food Works 4 commencing in June.

Q1 Measure: Develop and launch information and promotional campaign (PR and website) for Food Works 4. (Bord Bia/Teagasc/EI)

Update: Complete

A new website has been developed to support the launch of Food Works 4 www.foodworksireland.ie This site will be further developed in April/May to include content relating to the Food Works alumni group. The national press release was issued on 25 February to support the launch and a regional PR plan has been developed and launched which covers press, radio and television. Additionally regional press advertisements to support recruitment and a digital marketing campaign covering promotion on national news websites, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn commenced in March 2016.

Q1 Measure: Recruitment of potential Food Works participants to 1:1 'open sessions' with the Food Works team. (Bord Bia/Teagasc/EI)

Update: Complete

The first introduction session took place on 27 January and further dates are scheduled for 8, 10, 22 March and 5 April in Dublin, Fermoy and Athenry. The information and promotional campaign (details above) will support the call for registrations for these introduction meetings which are scheduled to run until mid-April but can be extended and increased to meet demand.

Q1 Measure: Launch Food Works Plus, an activity stream aimed at previous Food Works graduates and focused on collaborative working towards new growth goals post launch. (Bord Bia/Teagasc/EI)

Update: Complete

Activity will be launched at the first Food Works alumni event on 14 April. In advance of the launch, the Food Works team from Bord Bia/Teagasc/EI will meet to review all alumni and to schedule project update meetings with past participants.

Action 244: Attract graduate talent into the sector through the Bord Bia Marketing Fellowship and Food Marketing Graduates to improve export sales.

Q1 Measure: Allocate 25 graduates to 15 companies under the Food Marketing Graduate Programme. (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

A total of 27 graduates allocated to 24 companies.

Action 246: Placement of Origin Green Ambassadors with key international food companies and international organisations.

Q1 Measure: Secure 10 placements overseas with leading food and drink multinationals and organisations for Origin Green Ambassadors. (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

Ambassadors placed in host companies in the UK, Italy, Germany, the Netherland, China, Switzerland and the United States since late January. This represents the first of three market placements between now and the middle of 2017.

Action 249: Develop additional commercial project proposals, with the relevant Government agencies, to deliver knowledge transfer on Ireland's sustainable food production systems to international customers.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (SFSI)

Update: Complete

Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI) has developed a pipeline of projects internationally, for training and consultancy services, based on Ireland's expertise in sustainable agriculture and food. Projects in development include those funded directly by governments overseas and by international funding agencies.

Action 253: Drive the implementation with client food and drink companies of: approved projects and new investments; the innovation and research development agenda; and the management capability and competitiveness agenda.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (EI)

Update: Complete

The agri-food sector is Ireland's largest indigenous industry, directly and indirectly employing over 230,000 people. The sector is continuing to perform extremely well, increasing exports by 51% since 2009 to reach a record value of €10.8 billion in 2015. The strongest categories in terms of export growth were beverages (+10%), beef (+6%), and seafood (+4%). The sustained growth in exports of Irish Whiskey, up by an estimated 18%, was the most significant driver in the beverages category. The growth in dairy exports, up 4%, occurred in the face of an exceptionally adverse trading environment and reflects the strong growth in the volume of specialist nutrition powders (infant formula), which increased by 25% overall and by 40% to China alone.

Each year, Irish food and drink is exported to over 175 markets around the world; Ireland is the largest net exporter of beef in the EU and the Northern Hemisphere, exporting nearly 90% of what we produce each year; Ireland produces over 10% of the world's infant formula and Irish Whiskey is now the fastest growing spirit category in the world. The country also produces 50% of the world's cream liqueurs.

Continuing its support for the food and drink sector Enterprise Ireland in Q1 approved a number of investments. These investments included capital, R&D, and Innovation projects. Enterprise Ireland's capital projects help companies undertake ambitious company expansions that will create employment and grow sales in international markets. R&D projects aim to develop novel products and services with a clear competitive advantage in their target market, which in turn will enable the companies to increase employment through sustainable and substantially increased sales. While innovation projects introduce companies to the research expertise in Irish Higher Education Institutes with the aim of generating innovative technologies leading to job creation.

Marine

Action 254: Launch an array of new supports for the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors under the €241 million European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Seafood Development Programme.

Q1 Measure: Official launch. (DAFM)

Update: Complete

On 14 January 2016, Minister Coveney officially launched Ireland's EMFF Operational Programme for the seafood sector, and also announced the launch of the first tranche of schemes of supports for fisheries, aquaculture, processing, Fisheries Local Action Groups, EU Data Collection and Control and Enforcement.

Action 255: Implement the 24 actions identified in the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development.

Q1 Measure: Per headline action. (DAFM)

Update: Complete

The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development identifies 24 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2020. These actions can be mostly categorised as multi-annual in nature. Minister Coveney has commenced implementation of the actions, in particular through the EMFF Operational Programme (OP) which was launched on 14 January 2016. The EMFF OP will be the vehicle for delivery of many of the actions. Together with the EMFF OP, Minister Coveney launched 2 schemes for aquaculture: a Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme and a Knowledge Gateway Scheme. These 2 Schemes will, over the period up to 2020, fund interventions to address 17 of the 24 actions identified in the Aquaculture Plan. The Department continues to work to reduce the backlog in Aquaculture Licence applications consistent with available resources and legislative tools.

Action 256: Strengthen support for the enterprise dimension of the Irish Marine and Energy Resource Cluster, to add to the training, research, industry and naval capabilities currently in place.

Q1 Measure: Per headline action. (DAFM)

Update: Complete

The IMERC focus in 2016 will be on the development of physical infrastructure, on attracting more start-ups and Foreign Direct Investment, and on enhancing capability to support maritime and energy companies to scale and grow.

Tourism

Action 262: Deliver a new suite of business supports in 2016 to enable our industry to maximise their potential in growing their revenue from overseas visitors. The key objective of these supports will be to continue to see growth in export earnings and employment from the tourism industry.

Q1 Measure: Develop strategies to increase the seasonal spread of tourism demand. (Fáilte Ireland)

Update: Complete

A set of business supports are being developed and rolled-out to help the tourism trade improve the efficiency and effectiveness of overseas sales activation efforts. This is complemented by a set of experience development workshops.

Action 263: Events Ireland, which is part of Fáilte Ireland and is tasked with growing overseas arrivals through sports, business and other events tourism, will increase sports tourism overseas arrivals by rolling-out an Event Ambassador programme and, in partnership with key stakeholders, identifying, bidding and ultimately hosting suitable internationally mobile events.

Q1 Measure: Identify and build a pipeline of relevant and appropriate bid-worthy events for Ireland through collaboration with strategic partners. (Fáilte Ireland)

Update: Complete

A number of partners are currently working with Fáilte Ireland to bid for international mobile events.

Action 269: Roll out a further built heritage jobs leverage scheme with €2 million funding which encourages the investment of private capital through the provision of matching public funds in a large number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects across Ireland.

Q1 Measure: Timely assessment of applications by local authorities and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. (DAHG, LAs)

Update: Complete

Local authorities invited owners/occupiers of eligible structures to submit applications for funding by the deadline of 7 December 2015. The scheme was advertised in the local media and on the websites of local authorities. The Department recommended that local authorities assess the applications received with the assistance of an expert panel under the following equally weighted criteria as set down in Circular BHIS 01/15:

- Significance of the Structure
- Effectiveness of the Work
- Employment Benefits

Local authorities submitted their recommendations for projects to be funded under the scheme to the Department by 16 December 2015. The projects were considered by the Department and 341 projects were approved. The number of projects submitted varies from six each in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Galway City, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and South Dublin, 25 in Limerick and 53 in Dublin city with an average of 10 applications (excluding Dublin) submitted per county.

Action 271: Invest in construction/refurbishment works at the National Library, the National Archives, Cork Event Centre and in regional arts and cultural centres nationwide.

Q1 Measure: Procurement processes. (DAHG, National Cultural Institutions, LAs, OPW)

Update: Complete

Capital development plans, including in relation to procurement processes for the construction and refurbishment works at the NLI, National Archives and Cork Event Centre are being advanced. Following the announcement by the Minister in January 2016 of a new €9 million capital investment scheme for arts and cultural centres, work is now underway on the preparation for approval and publication of the conditions and guidelines in respect of this Scheme.

Construction and Housing

Action 274: Implement the Government's Housing Package, including rollout of the targeted Development Contribution Rebate scheme announced in November 2015.

Q1 Measure: Launch the Development Contribution Rebate scheme. (DECLG)

Update: Complete

The scheme was launched in December 2015. Uptake under the scheme will be monitored on a quarterly basis, commencing April 2016 in respect of Q1 2016.

Action 279: Place Construction Industry Register Ireland on a statutory footing.

Q1 Measure: Prepare the Regulatory Impact Analysis. (DECLG)

Update: Complete

The Regulatory Impact Analysis has been completed.

Action 280: Implement the Construction Contracts Act.

Q1 Measure: Sign Appointed Day Order (S.I.). (DJEI)

Update: Complete

Minister Nash signed a Statutory Instrument, the "Construction Contracts Act 2013 (Appointed Day) Order 2016", on the 13th April 2016 which will apply the provisions of the legislation to applicable construction contracts which are entered into after the 25th July 2016.

International Financial Services Strategy

Action 292: Publish a revised set of actions for 2016, to be implemented under the IFS2020 implementation framework.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (IFS2020 Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee)

Update: Complete

Following consideration by the Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee at its quarterly meeting on 14 December 2015, the IFS2020 Action Plan 2016 was agreed by Government on 19 January and published on 27 January 2016. Reflecting experience and developments since the launch of the Strategy on 11 March 2015, the 2016 Action Plan streamlines the overall number of headline actions to 10, while setting out 46 specific measures associated with those actions for delivery over the course of the year. The 2016 Action Plan is published on the websites of the Department of Finance and the Department of the Taoiseach.

Action 293: Implement the 2016 actions under IFS2020, including:

Q1 Measure: Report quarterly to Government on progress with implementing IFS2020, and subsequently publish quarterly progress report. (IFS 2020 Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee)

Update: Complete

Following consideration by the Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee at its quarterly meeting on 14 December 2015, the IFS2020 Q4 2015/End of Year Progress Report was noted by Government on 19 January and published on 27 January 2016.

This Progress Report confirms the largely successful delivery of IFS2020 objectives for 2015, in particular the very positive growth in IFS employment. The Progress Report notes that employment in the IFS portfolios of EI and IDA increased by 2,608, from 35,448 at end-2014 to 38,056 at end-2015, representing 7.4% growth in the sector. The IFS2020 Strategy is firmly on track to reach its ambitious growth target of 10,000 net new IFS jobs by end-2019.

The implementation of IFS2020 actions in 2016 is ongoing in line with the implementation framework set out in the 2016 Action Plan. The Q1 Progress Report will be considered by the Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee and published in Q2 2016.

Q1 Measure: Launch and deploy a new banner brand for promoting Ireland's International Financial Services sector. (IDA, EI, DFAT, industry stakeholders)

Update: Complete

The new banner brand, 'IFS Ireland' was launched by Minister Harris at the European Financial Forum in Dublin Castle on 27 January 2016. IFS Ireland was developed through a process of consultation with industry, and aims to enhance and maximise the impact of Government and Industry bodies promoting the industry internationally.

Q1 Measure: Host a major international conference on International Financial Services. (IDA, EI)

Update: Complete

The European Financial Forum, held on 27 January 2016, has received over whelming positive feedback. More than 500 delegates attended with one-third of these from outside of Ireland.

Action 294: Building on investment wins in the international Banking and Asset Management sectors, IDA will develop a new value proposition for “front office” financial services activities.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (IDA, industry)

Update: Complete

Building on the announcement of the opening of the Credit Suisse prime brokerage desk in Dublin in January 2016, IDA is in the process of developing a new value proposition that captures this and other significant front office developments in Ireland. Action 294 has been incorporated into the IFS2020 Action Plan 2016 under the heading of Strategic Priority 4, the development of job-creation opportunities from emerging IFS sub-sectors and new markets.

IDA is working with Industry and other stakeholders from the Public Sector to determine the impact of investments in “front office” activities and the response we receive from the new value proposition will feed into the work being done under measure number 40 of the IFS2020 2016 Action Plan.

Action 296: Support the implementation of IFS2020, by driving International Financial Services skills development through the delivery of actions contained within the Finuas Networks Programme Strategy.

Q1 Measure: Finalise programme scope and design with Finuas Networks to train over 1400 trainees within the International Financial Services sector across three Finuas Networks. (Skillnets, DES, D/Taoiseach)

Update: Complete

Delivery of agreed, established programmes commenced in Q1.

Aviation

Action 297: Establish a framework for implementation of the relevant actions in the National Aviation Policy.

Q1 Measure: Establish a Steering Group within DTTAS to oversee implementation of the National Aviation Policy and report on progress. (DTTAS)

Update: Complete

The Aviation sector management committee (AVMAC) chaired by the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for aviation has been established within DTTAS to oversee the NAP implementation. A monitoring tool has been established to enable reporting on progress of the 73 point NAP Action Plan.

Action 298: Maintain and build on Ireland’s attractiveness as a base for aircraft leasing, finance and maintenance, repair and overhaul in order to create the conditions to grow employment in these industries.

Q1 Measure: Fully adopt the Cape Town ‘Alternative A’ insolvency arrangements and promote this benefit for aviation finance. (DTTAS)

Update: Complete

The text of the draft Government Order to give effect to the Cape Town insolvency arrangements has been developed by the Department and is currently being examined by the Attorney General’s Office (AGO).

Action 299: Commence the process for increasing and expanding Ireland’s bilateral air transport agreements.

Q1 Measure: Review Ireland’s existing bilateral air transport agreements with other States with a view to removing limits on air cargo capacity, to making any necessary updates and to identifying any necessary updates and to identifying any States which may have pote. (DTTAS)

Update: Complete

DTTAS maintains ongoing contact with relevant stakeholders in relation to bilateral agreements. Within the EU the Department is engaging in the discussion through the EU level agreements proposed as part of the EU’s Aviation Strategy adopted in December 2015.

Audio-Visual

Action 303: Deliver the 2016 Showcase-Ireland’s International Creative Expo.

Q1 Measure: As per headline action. (DCCOI)

Update: Complete

The showcase took place at the RDS, Dublin, 24th – 27th January 2016. 225 DCCOI registered clients exhibited at the show (which featured 445 exhibitors in total), with 91 clients in the “Creative Island” area.

The 2016 show attracted over 5,300 trade buyers from Ireland and around the world. Overall attendance at the fair increased by 6.6% versus 2015, including a growth of 22% from France, 7% from the US and 7% from Ireland.

Research conducted by Business Information Group indicates trade orders placed during the show of €21.6 Million, a 21% increase versus 2015. The researchers equate this to an annual market opportunity value of €121 Millino for the exhibitor body.

Planning is now underway for the 41st Showcase which will take place 22nd – 25th January 2017.

Glossary of Terms

AIB	Allied Irish Bank
APJ	Action Plan for Jobs
BAI	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
BPFI	Banking and Payments Federation Ireland
CBI	Central Bank of Ireland
COSME	EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs
CRCI	Clinical Research Coordination Ireland
CRO	Credit Review Office
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
daa	Dublin Airport Authority
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DCCoI	Design and Craft Council of Ireland
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
D/Defence	Department of Defence
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DG GROW	Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DoF	Department of Finance
DoH	Department of Health
DJEI	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
DJE	Department of Justice and Equality
DPER	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
DSP	Department of Social Protection
D/Taoiseach	Department of Taoiseach
DTTAS	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
ECB	European Central Bank
EGFSN	Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
EI	Enterprise Ireland

EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
EFSI	European Fund for Strategic Investments
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
ETB	Education and Training Board
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FET	Further Education and Training
GEDI	Global Entrepreneurship Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GPO	General Post Office
GRO	General Register Office
HEA	Higher Education Authority
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
HIHI	Health Innovation Hub Ireland
HPSU	High Potential Start-ups
HRB	Health Research Board
HSA	Health and Safety Authority
HSE	Health Service Executive
IBEC	Irish Business and Employers' Confederation
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
IDC	Inter-Departmental Committee
IFB	Irish Film Board
IFS	International Financial Services
IICM	Irish Institute of Credit Management
IMDA	Irish Medical Devices Association
INAB	Irish National Accreditation Board
IoT	Institute of Technology
IP	Intellectual Property
IRC	Irish Research Council
ISIF	Ireland Strategic Investment Fund
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation

ITI	InterTradeIreland
JOC	Joint Oireachtas Committee
KTI	Knowledge Transfer Ireland
LA	Local Authorities
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEADER	Liaisons entre actions de developpement de l'économie rurale
LEO/s	Local Enterprise Office/s
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LPC	Low Pay Commission
LRC	Law Reform Commission
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
NAMA	National Asset Management Agency
NCC	National Competitiveness Council
NCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NGI	National Gallery of Ireland
NPB	National Promotional Bank
NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland
NTA	National Transport Authority
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Office of Government Procurement
OPW	Office of Public Works
PAS	Public Appointments Service
PCI	Pharmaceutical Ireland
PIAB	Personal Injuries Assessment Board
PSO	Public Service Obligation
ptsb	Permanent TSB
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
RDI	Research, development and innovation
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
RP	Research Prioritisation
RPO	Research Performing Organisations
SBCI	Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SFI	SFI
SFSI	Sustainable Food Systems Ireland

SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SOLAS	An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
SVCS	Seed and Venture Capital Scheme
UCD	University College Dublin
ÚnaG	Údarás na Gaeltachta
VAT	Value Added Tax
WDC	Western Development Commission
WEF	World Economic Forum

