

National Economic Dialogue

As outlined in the recent Spring Economic Statement, the Department of Finance and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform decided to host a National Economic Dialogue in Dublin Castle. The dialogue took place over two days, 16-17 July, and was an important element of Ireland's new budgetary framework. The dialogue was structured around plenary sessions, chaired by an independent moderator and smaller break-out sessions on specific themes. Arrangements were also made to show the plenary sessions on RTE news now.

The objective of the dialogue was to facilitate an open and inclusive exchange on the competing economic and social priorities facing the Government as we prepare for Budget 2016. It was informed by the macro-economic and fiscal parameters, including the EU budgetary framework, which were set out in the Spring Economic Statement.

The National Economic Dialogue was a genuine and robust dialogue which examined the realistic options open to the Government within the available fiscal space of around €1.2 billion to €1.5 billion. This will be shared on a 50:50 basis between expenditure and tax measures. Representatives of community, voluntary and environmental groups as well the Opposition, business, unions, research institutes, the academic community and the diaspora attended.

Any queries in relation to the organisation of the National Economic Dialogue can be directed by phone to Mary Carrick 076 1007599 or by email to ned@budget.gov.ie.