



## **Statement from the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council in relation to Endorsement and Budget 2014**

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The Council would like to clarify its position on endorsement and assessment in light of public comments by a Government representative on RTE's Prime Time programme on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The Council is required under an amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility Act to endorse the macroeconomic forecasts underlying the Budget. It is not required to endorse the budgetary projections or the fiscal stance. However, under its statutory mandate it does assess the budgetary projections and the fiscal stance in its twice-yearly Fiscal Assessment Reports.

The Council has provided its endorsement for the macroeconomic forecasts underlying Budget 2014. The endorsement states:

**The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council endorses as within the range of appropriate projections the set of macroeconomic projections prepared by the Department of Finance for Budget 2014 for the years 2013 and 2014 provided to the Council on 30 September 2013.**

The Council notes that the Government has announced its intention to implement a smaller aggregate adjustment in the Budget than was assumed in the endorsement process. However, the Council has concluded that the macroeconomic forecasts remain within the endorsable range.

The Council would like to stress that its assessment of the appropriate fiscal stance is unchanged. It has previously publicly stated that the preferred policy is to continue with the previously planned aggregate adjustment of €3.1 billion in Budget 2014.

Ends.