

**Freedom of Information Publication Scheme**

Prepared under Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014

**Introduction:**

This publication scheme is provided in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (“the FOI Act”) to enable you to find out information about the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (“the Fiscal Council”) and what we do. If you do not find what you are looking for, please contact the Freedom of Information Officer, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson’s Quay, Dublin 2 D02 K138 or by email on [foi@fiscalcouncil.ie](mailto:foi@fiscalcouncil.ie).

**Purpose of the Publication Scheme:**

The Fiscal Council has prepared its FOI Publication Scheme in accordance with the model publication scheme and guidelines, made by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in October 2014. The Scheme commits the Fiscal Council to make information available as part of its normal business activities. Publication of documents which are not exempt under the Scheme is in line with the intention of the Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information and the obligations under that Directive to publish information and ensure that it is accessible and re-usable for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

**Publication Format**

The Scheme is web based and contains links to reference material on our website, which will be updated as provided for under the Act. A hard copy will be made available for viewing by appointment.

The information in the Scheme has been grouped into the six headings listed in the model publication scheme and guidelines made by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. These six headings are:

- A. Information about the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council**
- B. Services provided to the Public**
- C. Decision Making process for major policy proposals**
- D. Financial Information**
- E. Procurement**
- F. FOI Disclosure Log and Other Information to be Published Routinely**

## A. Information about the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

### Who we are and what we do

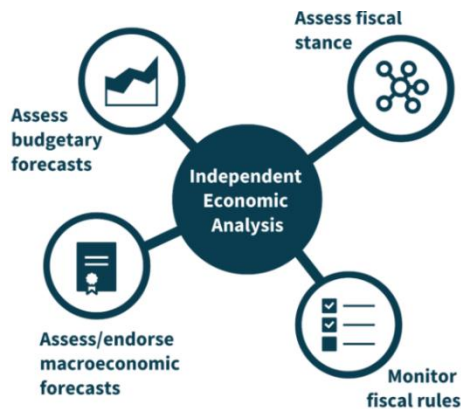
In this section are details in respect of: Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts.

**Establishment of organisation:** The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (“the Fiscal Council”) is an independent statutory body established on an interim basis in July 2011 and put on a statutory footing in December 2012 by the [Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012](#) (“the Act”).

**Roles, responsibilities and functions:** The Fiscal Council was established as part of a wider agenda of reform of Ireland’s budgetary architecture. The Act sets out the responsibilities of the Fiscal Council.

### The Council has a four-part mandate, which is explained as follows:

- To assess and endorse, as we consider appropriate, the macroeconomic forecasts prepared by the Department of Finance on which the autumn Budget and spring [Stability Programme Update](#) are based.
- To assess the official budgetary forecasts produced by the Department of Finance.
- To assess whether the fiscal stance of the Government is conducive to prudent economic and budgetary management, with reference to the [EU Stability and Growth Pact \(SGP\)](#).
- To monitor and assess compliance with the [budgetary rule as set out in the Fiscal Responsibility Act](#).



Additional information is available in this section of the website: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/about-the-council/>

**Governance/Management arrangements** Details of the membership and functions of any governance Boards of the Body.

Information on governance is available at

<https://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/about-the-council/transparency-2/governance/>  
[Details of the Audit & Risk committee can be found here](#)

### Corporate Plans and Strategies

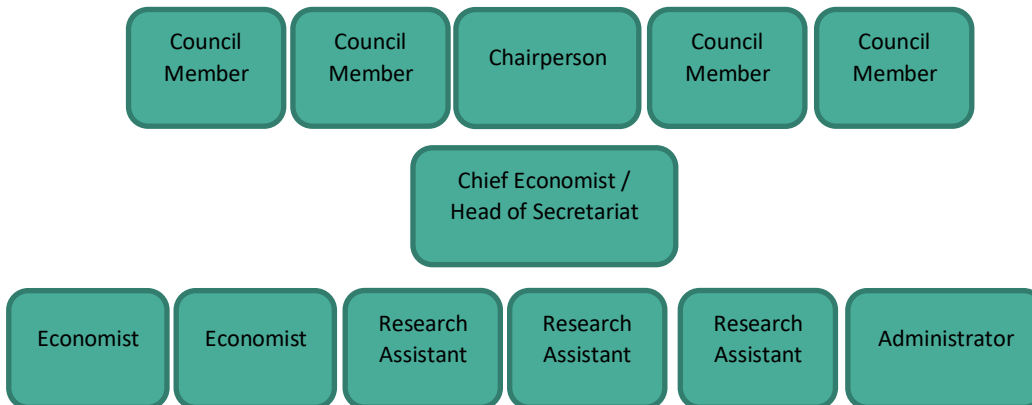
All Corporate Governance documents can be viewed here: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/annual-report-and-accounts/>

### Annual Report

Annual Reports can be viewed here: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/annual-report-and-accounts/>

### Organisation and Pay/Grading Structures

The Council comprises five Council members and a Secretariat of seven (at full complement).



\* This relates to the organisational structure at full complement.

Council members are drawn from academia, think-tanks and international organisations.

The work of the Secretariat feeds into both the deliberations of the Council as well as the final outputs of the Council.

A summary of the grading structure is provided in the table below for the Secretariat at full complement. Grading is in line with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform [circular on public sector pay](#).

Grade	No of employees at this grade
Research Assistant	3
Higher Executive Officer	1
Assistant Principal Officer	2
Principal Officer	1
Total	7

\* This is correct for the structure at full complement.

Disclosures in respect of certain pay/grading structures within the Fiscal Council, required under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, can be accessed in our Annual Report and Financial Statements <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/annual-report-and-accounts/>

**Locations and contact details for the organisation** Please see the “Contact Us” Section of the Website: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/contact-the-council/>

### Details of Service Level Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding, if any:

The MoU with the Department of Finance is available [here](#) .

The Council has a Shared Service Agreement (SSA) with the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) in respect of the provision of office accommodation and building services on a pro rata basis and support services relating primarily to accounts, IT, and other corporate services.

**Codes of Practice or Guidelines :**

<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/about-the-council/transparency-2/governance/>

**B. Services Provided or to be provided to the Public**

**The services we offer**

In this section are details in respect of: Details of functions and services that the Fiscal Council provides.

**The main outputs of the Fiscal Council**, in line with the Council's mandate, are the biannual Fiscal Assessment Reports, Annual Pre-Budget Statement and periodic Analytical Notes and Working Papers. All publications are available on the Fiscal Council's website:

<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/publications/>

**C. Decision Making process for major policy proposals**

**How we make decisions on policies**

In this section are details in respect of: Decision Making processes and records of decisions.

**Major functions including any public consultation exercises** *Major policy proposals, including any public consultation exercises and the results of such consultations. Regard is to be had to the Consultation Guidelines published and a link should be provided, as appropriate, to information required under those guidelines.*

Major functions of the Fiscal Council are set out under (A) above. Public consultation exercises do not apply to the Fiscal Council.

**Background information relating to functions** *Reports, papers, facts and analyses provided for considerations which are relevant and important to framing major policy proposals and decisions.*

The Fiscal Council's Fiscal Assessment Reports (FAR) explain and document the rationale for the Fiscal Council policy assessments. Data behind all charts and tables in recent Fiscal Council reports are now published online and can be found [here](#)

**Reports on the operation of public services by the FOI body**

In 2021, a review was conducted by an expert team led by the OECD. The project was funded by the European Union, and implemented by the OECD in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM). The review was informed by virtual visits for stakeholder interviews in summer 2020 and the final report was published in February 2021.

In 2015 the Council appointed an independent peer review group to provide an evaluation of the Fiscal Council's outputs in line with the Fiscal Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2016.

Both reports can be accessed here: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/peer-review/>

## **D. Financial Information**

### **What we spend**

In this section are details in respect of: Financial information relating to income and expenditure.

**Financial statements** Financial Statements, including annual accounts, and any regular update statements.

These are published here: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/annual-report-and-accounts/>

**Payments or Purchase Orders for goods and services** Details, on a quarterly basis, of payments or purchase orders for goods and services of more than €20,000, if applicable, will be published [here](#).

**Governance Board Member remuneration** *Non-executive Governance Board Member remuneration for attendance at Board meetings, or work as a Board member (where applicable).*

A schedule of attendance at Council meetings and Committee meetings, including the fees and expenses received by each Member, are detailed in Note 4 'Council Members' Fees and Expenses' to the Financial Statements, which are published as an appendix to each Annual Report. Further information to include Annual Reports & Financial Statements, Council Fees and compensation for Employer costs incurred are available on this link - <https://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/about-the-council/transparency-2/funding-2/>

### **Funding/Sponsorship of non-public bodies**

This is not applicable to the Fiscal Council.

## **E. Procurement**

### **How we spend**

In this section are details in respect of: Information relating to how we procure goods and services – current information beginning from date of publication of Scheme

**Procurement policies** – The Fiscal Council adheres to Government Procurement norms

**A link to all current tender competitions on the eTenders website** Details of current tender competitions over €25,000 are available on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie)

**Public contracts awarded including contract type, contractor, value, award date, duration and brief description (tabular format) over €25k contracts** On a quarterly basis, details of public contracts awarded for values over €25,000 (exclusive of VAT) are published here:

<https://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/2016/01/foi-what-we-spend/>

## **F. FOI Disclosure Log and Other Information to be Published Routinely**

### **Other information**

In this section are details in respect of: the publishing of other types of information, listed below as appropriate, that would provide additional information to the public.

### **FOI Disclosure Log**

In accordance with Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act, 2014* ('Publication of information about FOI bodies'), the Fiscal Council publishes its FOI Disclosure Log on its website. This Disclosure Log provides details of certain FOI requests but, in line with the *General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR) and the *Data Protection Act, 2018*, does not contain personal information. It does, however, contain information such as the date of the request, the category of the requestor, a summary description of the FOI request, the decision made and the date of the decision.

Details of requests received since 2012 are provided in the Fiscal Council's FOI Disclosure Logs available at: <https://www.fiscalcouncil.ie/freedom-of-information/#logs>

### **Information to be published routinely<sup>1</sup>**

The Fiscal Council publishes Information on a routine basis. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- [Annual Reports and Financial Statements](#)
- [Prompt Payments Reports](#)
- [Minutes of Council Meetings](#)
- [Appearances before Oireachtas Committees](#)
- [Information released under Access to Information on the Environment Regulations](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Such information should not include details which would be exempt under FOI