

2nd April 2024

Dear Secretary General Hogan,

The Council has a statutory obligation to endorse, as appropriate, the macroeconomic forecasts prepared by the Department of Finance on which the Stability Programme Update (SPU) 2024 will be based.¹

The Council's endorsement approach has three elements:

- 1) comparing the Department's macroeconomic forecasts with the Council's Benchmark projections and with forecasts from other bodies;
- 2) considering the methodologies used to produce the forecasts; and
- 3) reviewing the Department's past forecast errors for evidence of systematic bias.

The Council discussed the Department's forecasts at its endorsement meeting on 28th March 2024.

The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council endorses as within the range of appropriate forecasts the set of macroeconomic projections prepared by the Department of Finance for *SPU 2024* covering the years 2024 to 2030.

The Council is satisfied that the forecasts are within an endorsable range taking into account the methodologies used and the plausibility of the judgements made.

The Council will discuss the endorsement process and assess the macroeconomic projections in its forthcoming Endorsement Note and Fiscal Assessment Report.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McMahon, Acting Chairperson.

¹ The Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012, as amended by the Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) Act 2013, states that: "The Fiscal Council shall— (a) endorse, as it considers appropriate, the macroeconomic forecasts prepared by the Department of Finance on which the Budget and stability programme will be based".