



# Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin D02 K138, Ireland

Dear Secretary General Hogan,

The Council has a statutory obligation to independently endorse the Department of Finance's macroeconomic forecasts.<sup>1</sup>

The Council's endorsement approach considers four elements:

- 1) how the Department's forecasts compare with the Council's own Benchmark projections and with forecasts from other bodies;
- 2) the methodologies used by the Department to produce its forecasts;
- 3) whether the Department's past forecasts show any signs of systematic bias; and
- 4) how coherent the Department's forecasts are.

The Council discussed the Department's forecasts at its endorsement meeting on 27th March 2025.

**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 its Annual Progress Report 2025 covering the years 2025 to 2030.**

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

This endorsement comes at a time of growing uncertainty related to international trade policies. While the forecasts already incorporate some negative effects associated with these, there is a risk that further policy changes lead to more adverse impacts on the Irish economy.

The Council welcomes the Department's adoption of a five-year-ahead forecast horizon, and its engagement and transparency during this endorsement. It also welcomes the Department's continued efforts to advance the methods underpinning its macroeconomic forecasts.

The Council will discuss the endorsement process in a separate endorsement note.

Sincerely,

Seamus Coffey  
Chairperson  
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

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<sup>1</sup> The Fiscal Responsibility Act 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". The latter are typically considered the Department's "spring forecasts", with the Stability Programme Update now replaced by the Annual Progress Report.