



Public Consultation—July 2022

White Paper on Enterprise

Introduction

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is conducting a public consultation on the future direction of Enterprise Policy with a view to publishing a White Paper by the end of the year.

As Ireland looks towards 2030, our country and our enterprises are facing a variety of mutually reinforcing challenges – from digitalisation to decarbonisation – as well as geopolitical and global economic changes. In these circumstances, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, has secured Government approval for a review and updating of Ireland’s Enterprise Policy. Our aim is to develop a high-level White Paper on Enterprise which will outline the strategic direction of Enterprise Policy in the face of the challenges faced by business - from Micro Enterprises and SMEs to the Multi-National firms based here - both today and in the years to come.

Background

The White Paper will explore several high-level policy questions addressing:

- the global context in which enterprises in Ireland are operating
- the domestic enterprise landscape in which businesses seek to grow in Ireland
- the twin green and digital transitions which all enterprises must address
- ensuring enterprise growth policies are inclusive and the role of enterprise policy in further enhancing regional development
- skills and talent availability to support enterprise development
- enterprise productivity levels
- enterprise policy support for the Sustainable Development Goals
- the levers and mechanisms to deliver on enterprise policy objectives.

In conjunction with this public consultation, the Tánaiste and his Department are engaging with enterprise groups and sectoral bodies, particular focus groups, business schools, and an International Panel of Experts, among other outreach.

Context

In the face of various challenges, both existing and emerging, it is clear that Ireland's enterprise sector has been and remains highly resilient. The Irish economy has been at the forefront of the post-pandemic recovery in Europe, demonstrating strong employment growth, an adaptive enterprise workforce environment, and strong economic growth indicators. All of this has been accomplished despite several years of immense challenges for enterprise and jobs including Brexit, COVID-19 and now the War in Ukraine, to name just three.

Therefore, as Ireland looks towards 2030, we are facing a variety of key challenges to our current, successful, enterprise policies including pervasive digitalisation, the climate challenge imperative and the need to decarbonise production, geopolitical changes and global economic challenges. It is critical, therefore, that we use this opportunity to reflect on the successes gained as well as on how we tackle the potential headwinds we face into.

The White Paper will set out an ambitious medium- to long-term direction for enterprise policy in response to challenges, opportunities and new drivers of growth. It will assess what needs to be done differently as well as what should be retained or adapted to realise a vision of Ireland as a highly productive, thriving, jobs-rich enterprise economy.

Deadline for submissions

Submissions should be no longer than 1,500 words and should be submitted by email to enterprisepolicy@enterprise.gov.ie and the closing date for submissions is **5pm on Friday, 29 July 2022**.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information - It is intended that all submissions received will be made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI) and as such may be published on the Department's website. In responding to this consultation, parties should clearly indicate where their responses contain personal information, commercially sensitive information, or confidential information which they would not wish to be released under FOI or otherwise published. The

Department's [Data Protection Data Privacy Notice](#) is available on the enterprise.gov.ie website and explains how and when the Department collects personal data, why it does so and how it treats this information. It also explains citizen's rights in relation to the collection of personal information and how stakeholders can exercise those rights.

Conclusion

A combination of the legacy of the pandemic, fast-moving “mega trends” and international policy developments present challenges for Ireland's long-term competitiveness. In turn, this raises questions for Ireland's existing enterprise policy and how it can create the conditions to ensure our enterprises remain competitive and resilient to further shocks. Our White Paper on Enterprise will seek to chart the way forward for the decade ahead through a focussed, in-depth review of our longer-term enterprise policy, taking stock and looking critically at how policy needs to be adapted to enable Ireland tackle the challenges and avail itself of opportunities that lie ahead.

***Enterprise Strategy Unit,
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
July 2022***