



# Meeting of the National Enterprise Hub Contact Group

10 January 2024, 2.30pm

## Attendees

### In person:

John O'Grady, Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment  
Eimear Hayes, Department of Social Protection  
Fergus Sharkey, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (DECC)  
Richard Gavin, Department of Rural and Community Development  
Des McCarty, Microfinance Ireland (DETE)  
Conor O'Donovan, Enterprise Ireland  
Aoife O'Suillvan, Skillnet  
Breda O'Toole, IDA (DETE)

### Online:

Ruairí Ó Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta (DTCAGSM)  
Fergal Grogan, Office of Government Procurement  
Adrian Byrne, NTMA  
Darren O'Reilly, Enterprise Ireland  
Aidan Tumbleton, Department of Finance  
Pádraigín Ní Chonfhaola, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
Emma Brennan, Revenue  
John Magee, Local Enterprise Offices (DETE)  
Patrick Ryan, Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment  
Colin McCabrey, Intertrade Ireland  
Paul Caplis, Enterprise Ireland  
Fiona Collier, SBCI

### Secretariat:

Ross Church, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
Patrick Sinnott, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
Hazel Carroll, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
Cecile Lhullier, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

## Note of meeting

Ross Church opened the meeting and outlined the purpose of the contact group he spoke about the establishment of the National Enterprise Hub (NEH) and that it had been

announced as part of Budget 2024. He explained that Enterprise Ireland (EI) will operate the NEH on behalf of Government as set out in the DETE and EI Service Level Agreement. He then gave some background on the NEH noting that the NEH was designed to provide support to all sectors across Ireland helping them navigate and find the right support for their business.

Ross advised that the contact group will consist of representatives from DETE, Enterprise Ireland and Government Department and agency. He explained that DETE will chair, convene, and will provide the secretariat for the group. He advised the group that they are asked to provide updated information on supports, relevant events related to business supports provided by their Department or agency. He noted that the group will meet on a quarterly basis or possibly on ad hoc basis ensuring to keep the NEH relevant and up to date.

Conor O'Donovan (Enterprise Ireland) gave a short presentation on the National Enterprise Hub and a brief overview of what the site will look like and its functionality and finished with the next steps for the site.

There was a brief discussion with some questions that included:

- Will it be staffed – Yes sanction request in place for 6 employees, subject to approval.
- While the site will focus on directing existing businesses to supports it will work closely with the LEO offices to ensure anyone starting a business still works through the LEO as its first stop shop as this face-to-face local contact is extremely important.
- The NEH will be a fully online service with no face-to-face contact options.
- The site can be used by members to advertise specific events or supports to businesses similar to the current [supportingsmes.gov.ie](http://supportingsmes.gov.ie).

John O'Grady gave an update on the proof-of-concept AI project DETE are engaging with the OGCI on. He said it works and that when it's functioning, they may use some of EI stakeholders to test it out before deciding whether it will be a full-time part of the site. If this is the case the concept will go to tender.

Ross Church concluded the first meeting with an ask for all members to ensure that the up-to-date information on their department/agency supports is returned on the excel request document as soon as possible. He stressed the need for each representative to visit the website to ensure the information on their supports is up to date and to touch base with DETE when details on the website need updating.

## **Actions arising**

- All members to ensure that the up-to-date information on their department/agency supports is returned on the excel request document as soon as possible.
- All members to visit the website to ensure their information is up to date.
- All members to inform DETE if information is missing or needs to be updated.