



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment



1st Meeting DE TE Responsible Business Forum

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 23 Kildare Street, Room 110
27 September 2023 @11am

Attendees

Chaired by Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Dara Calleary, TD

American Chamber of Commerce	Colm O'Callaghan
Business in the Community Ireland	Bernadette Phelan
Construction Industry Federation	PJ Ryan
Enterprise Ireland	Joanne Sheahan
Fáilte Ireland	Caeman Wall
Ibec	Niamh O'Keeffe
IDA Ireland	Ian O'Hora
Incoming Tour Operators Association	Rob Rankin
Irish Exporters Association	Karl Picard
Irish Tourism Industry Confederation	Eoghan O'Meara Walsh
RGDATA	Tara Buckley
Small Firms Association	Elizabeth Bowen
The Family Business Network Ireland	John McGrane

DE TE Officials:

Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary, Trade Division), Eoghan Richardson (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Aisling Byrne (Company Registration and Regulation Policy Unit), Breda O'Brien (Organisation Culture Unit), Sandra Mullen (Retail and Locally Traded Enterprise Unit), Nick Barwise (Climate Action and Energy Policy Unit), Paul Mc Mahon (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Helen Pyke (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Declan Moran (Responsible Business Coordination Unit) and John Morris (Responsible Business Coordination Unit)

Items

1. Members were welcomed to the inaugural meeting of this newly established Forum, which is a subgroup of the Enterprise Forum, and an overview of the role and remit of the forum was provided. The Responsible Business Forum will provide a platform to discuss Responsible Business initiatives that are within the remit of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Some

of these include the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, a Proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, a Proposal for Regulations on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products, a Proposal on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition, and the Proposal for a Regulation to Prohibit Products Made with Forced Labour. The central aim of the forum is to ensure consistent and coherent messaging from the Department and to provide practical advice which will be critically important for businesses.

2. The draft terms of reference, which was previously circulated to members of the forum, was agreed and the Department's obligations regarding the Lobbying Act and the Transparency Act was highlighted. A discussion paper which was also previously circulated to members was introduced and members were invited to introduce themselves and to provide feedback on the paper.

3. Some of the points raised by attendees included:

- The importance of consistent and concise communication from the Department
- The challenge of businesses to comply with their responsible business obligations due to time and resource constraints
- Likewise, the lack of understanding of what the initiatives and directives are, what they will mean for businesses, and why businesses need to adhere to them
- Access to Responsible Business certification for SMEs
- The need for the Department and the business representative bodies to work together to get the message out to businesses and to help them upskill

4. No issues were raised under A.O.B.

5. The forum will meet again before the end of the year.