



An initiative of the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

6th Meeting DETE Responsible Business Forum

Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, 23 Kildare Street, Room 12A

12 June 2025 @ 12.00pm

Attendees

Chair: Minister Niamh Smyth (virtual)

Forum Members:

American Chamber of Commerce	Colm O'Callaghan
Business in the Community Ireland	Laura Morrison
Business in the Community Ireland	Marian Curry
Chambers Ireland	James Kiernan
Construction Industry Federation	PJ Ryan
Enterprise Ireland	Jennifer McCormack
Fáilte Ireland	Caeman Wall
The Family Business Network Ireland	John McGrane
Ibec	Ailbhe Byrne
IDA Ireland	Cillian Harford
Irish Exporters Association	Simon McKeever (virtual)
RGDATA	Tara Buckley
Small Firms Association	Jonathan McDade

Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment:

Eoghan Richardson (Co-Chair, Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Colm O'Neill (Company Registration and Regulation Policy Unit), Aisling McCarthy (Climate Programmes Unit), John Lee (Inward Investment Unit), Paul McMahon (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Helen Pyke (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Jessica Flynn (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit).

Items

1. Members were welcomed to the sixth meeting of the Forum. The agenda items were introduced, and the newly appointed Chair provided an introductory message to members and thanked the organisations for their participation and engagement to date. The operation of the Forum will continue under its existing Terms of Reference.
2. The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum were agreed.

3. Members were invited to introduce themselves to the new Chair and to provide a brief update from their organisations on the Responsible Business agenda. The issues highlighted by members included:
 - the costs associated with complying with responsible business regulations and the need for simplicity and coherence of the various regulations
 - challenges of remaining competitive in the current environment
 - the need for membership of the Cost of Doing Business Forum to be expanded to include organisations who can relay the experiences of businesses on the ground
 - the importance of sustainability remaining a high priority for businesses
4. An update was provided to members on the status of the EU Commission's Omnibus package, focussing on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) which come under the remit of the Department.
5. The Co-Chair spoke to members about the communications efforts of the Department to ensure businesses are aware of their obligations in the responsible business space, including the Forum itself, media outreach and webinars. Members were asked to consider what topics should be included in future outreach efforts that would be most relevant and valuable to their member groups.
6. The Co-Chair provided a brief update on the Responsible Business Compass.
7. Under AOB, a further update was provided to members on the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.
8. The next meeting of the Forum is expected to take place in September.
9. The Chair thanked attendees and concluded the Forum.