

Equality Budgeting Interdepartmental Network

Terms of Reference

July 2021

1. Purpose

Government Decision: S180/20/10/2141 agreed to establish an Inter-departmental Group on Equality Budgeting in order to fully implement equality budgeting across all departments, in line with recommendations contained in the OECD 2019 Report on Equality Budgeting in Ireland.

A key OECD recommendation that will underpin overall implementation is the establishment of an inter-departmental network of equality budgeting contact points. By improving knowledge sharing across departments, this network will help to resolve several challenges highlighted by the OECD. The network will also facilitate cross-government training on the purpose and application of equality budgeting.

In conjunction with the Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory group, this network will also help inform the future direction of equality budgeting policy, in line with broader cross-governmental developments, including the wellbeing framework.

2. Membership

The inter-departmental network will include a senior member of staff from each department with that member having a broad knowledge of the policy work undertaken by that department and its relevance to advancing the goals of equality and inclusion. Departments may select to have more than one member of this network in order to reflect all areas under its remit.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Members are accountable for:

- ensuring that policy makers in their departments are fully aware of, and implementing, Equality Budgeting policy where applicable;
- bringing all relevant work within their department to the attention of the Equality Budgeting unit, to ensure that strategic direction of Equality Budgeting is fully informed, and;
- attending all scheduled meetings, or where this is not possible, nominate a suitably informed deputy to attend, to represent their department.

4. Meetings

The Network will be chaired jointly by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and will meet approximately on a bi-monthly basis.

Secretariat will be provided by the Performance Budgeting unit of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be published on the Equality Budgeting page of Gov.ie.

5. Amendment, Modification or Variation

This Terms of Reference may be amended to reflect any developments in Equality Budgeting policy, following consultation and agreement by the Network.