

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 18 January 2024 19:57
To: DRCD SE Consultation
Subject: Re: Reminder due by 31 January. Public Consultation for a new National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland

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Hello
I would like to contribute under Growing Social Enterprise

1.

The state - its agencies, supporting rural regeneration should provide a social enterprise advisory service in each county , a one stop shop concept that would get to know each social enterprise and back them up with funding options, best practice options, contacts, solutions for adoption and replications and other learnings. If that was done it would have a tremendous impact on results-impact. There is too much good advice, information and funding lost to the sector from across the whole of government. There are many active resources available and even more dormant resources available currently unused.

There should be ONE simplified low cost legal format for social enterprises in rural communities to help them start up and sustain themselves.

There should be 95/100% capital grants made available for climate action projects that impact on carbon reduction and other beneficial outcomes in the improving environmental field

There should be two year funding for managers based on the applicant making a sufficiently strong case for covering the manager for third year and thereafter. Many social enterprises need a full time manager to help set up with a motivated voluntary board of directors to get projects off the ground or to drive existing - rejuvenate existing social enterprises. It would make a massive difference to many boards if they could get such support.

The deminimis rule should be removed for new funding programmes i.e climate action and it should only be applied within new programmes. New developments should not be barred from financial support based on money received for entirely different purposes if government is to be serious about rural regeneration and the strengthening of rural and urban communities where many socio-economic problems can be solved at source with best results and lowest costs and then community taking ownership of the solution for ever more.

[REDACTED]
Secretary
Dunhill Rural Enterprises CLG

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From: DRCD SE Consultation <seconsultation@drcd.gov.ie>

Sent: 18 January 2024 2:11 PM

Subject: Reminder due by 31 January. Public Consultation for a new National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland

Dear [Social Enterprise Stakeholder](#),

This is a reminder that submissions for the public consultation for a new National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland are due by January 31st. Please see details below, including a link to the consultation.

Kind regards,

Rural Strategy and Social Enterprise Unit

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

Trinity Point, 10-11 Sráid Laighean Theas, Baile Atha Cliath 2, D02 EF85
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**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Minister Humphreys Launches Public Consultation for a new National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland

- ***Stakeholders encouraged to feed into second ever National Social Enterprise Strategy***
- ***Public Consultation opens today and will run until January 31st, 2024***
- ***‘Social Enterprises have incredible potential to play an even greater role in our society’ – Minister Humphreys***

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today (Thursday, 7th December) launched a public consultation for the Government's second National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland.

The main purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of all interested parties on the content of the next National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland.

The public consultation is the final stage in a broad-ranging process of stakeholder engagement, which began last year, to support the development of the policy. The policy will underpin ongoing government action and investment to support social enterprise over its lifetime, up to 2027.

All interested parties are encouraged to make a submission through the consultation, which may be found [here](#)

Launching the consultation Minister Humphreys said:

"I am delighted to launch this public consultation for the second National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland. Social enterprises have an incredible potential, and play an important role in the social and economic life of this country.

"It is an important opportunity to further ensure that the voices of all are listened to and heard during the development of the new Policy.

"Our vibrant community of over 4000 social enterprises is having a huge impact, generating income of €2.34 billion and providing jobs for 3.7% of the Irish workforce, more than two thirds of which are women. This is an extraordinary platform to build on. Our new policy will play a central role in developing their huge potential in the years to come.

"The public consultation opens from today and will run until January 31st, 2024. I am encouraging all social enterprises and interested parties to feed into the consultation process."

Notes to editors:

Social Enterprises

Social enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, social enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis. However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving the core social objectives.

They frequently work to support disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, Travellers, etc., or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or environmental matters.

National Policy

In 2019 the Government published the first [National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022](#), which was the first policy aimed specifically at developing and realising the potential of social enterprise. Since then there has been significant public investment to grow and strengthen social enterprise and real progress in advancing the potential, impact and awareness of the sector.

New Policy

Work has been progressing on a second policy and, as with the first policy, the Department is adopting a partnership approach to its development. Ongoing communications, engagement, and consultations with stakeholders (internal and external) are a key principle throughout its development. This has included six regional ‘town hall’ type consultation events, receipt of written submissions from stakeholders, and bilateral meetings between the Department and a broad variety of stakeholders, including social enterprises, representative organisations, public bodies, and Government Departments. Following the public consultation stage, it is planned to publish the policy following Government approval in Q1 2024.

Public Consultation

The public consultation can be found [here](#), and will be open from 7th December 2023 to 31st January 2024. The consultation paper is structured around five thematic objectives which have been selected for the policy, informed by experience gained in the period since the first policy was introduced, feedback received from stakeholder engagement and consultation, the evidence base provided by a 2023 [Baseline Data Collection Exercise on Social Enterprise](#), and recent recommendations of an [OECD review](#) commissioned by the Department and a [NESC review of social enterprise in Ireland](#).

These are:

- Building Awareness of Social Enterprises
- Growing Social Enterprise

- Climate Action Contribution
- National and International Engagement
- Data Collection and Social Impact Measurement