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IN IRELAND

Institute of Directors in Ireland
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to your National Cyber Security Strategy 2019-2024 Mid-Term Review Consultation. This is on back of the launch of our new research on the area of cyber security. This was published on Thursday, 2nd February 2023.

The below information is in respect to the **skills area** of the consultation, as we raise the importance of board cyber security training and planning in our new report.

A cyber security attack can have a negative impact on an organisation's reputation, finances, and operational resilience. It is crucial that the governance of cyber security evolve in line with the sophistication of the threat landscape, along with the introduction of necessary cyber security protection legislation and regulation measures.

Among the top research findings:

- **Cyber security attacks:** 41% of respondents flagged that their primary organisation have experienced a cyber security attack. Of those, 46% said this happened within the last year.
- **Concern about cyber security threats:** 70% of respondents said they were extremely/very concerned about potential cyber security threats to the business continuity of your primary organisation.
- **Board agenda:** 36% of respondents noted that cyber security is on the agenda of every board meeting.
- **Incident response plan:** 81% of respondents noted that their primary organisation have a cyber security incident response plan in place.
- **IT and cyber security strategy:** 67% of respondents note their primary organisation have a board-approved IT and cyber security strategy.
- **Cyber security training:** 67% of respondents have undertaken cyber security training in the last 12 months.

In our new research, we outline several recommendations to strengthen a directors cyber security resilience. These include having both an incident response plan and a board approved cyber security strategy. The discussion of cyber security at board level is also essential, and we would recommend

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that directors are mindful of the questions they ask the executive to ensure a clear understanding. For a director to be able to do this effectively cyber security training and guidance will be essential.

I am raising these new findings and recommendations with you and seeking your assistance in highlighting the significance and importance of cyber security training, and resilience planning. More education and understanding is crucial so business leaders can deal with this issue effectively. IoD Ireland would be happy to provide a pathway for the exchange and sharing of information between the Government and our members to help facilitate this.

Kindest regards

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