Overview Brief for the Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation

Mid-Year Review of JEI Estimate 2015

For Committee Meeting – Tuesday 29th September 2015
Vote 32 - Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Briefing material to assist consideration by Committee

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Vote 32: Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Introduction

The remit of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is arguably one of the broadest of all Government Departments spanning across a range of enterprise and regulatory areas. The Department leads on policy development and implementation in respect of indigenous enterprise development, foreign direct investment, trade, competitiveness, innovation (research & development), corporate regulation and compliance, competition and consumer issues, employment rights, industrial relations and intellectual property. Added to this the Department also represents Ireland in a large number of EU and other internationally related fora and in recent years has been a leading participant in the public sector reform process.

Across the wide range of activities, the Department, its Offices and Agencies contribute to most aspects of Ireland’s ongoing economic and societal development. This typically and regularly involves close interaction with other Departments, Agencies, numerous local, regional, national and international stakeholders and of course the general public.

There are a multitude of factors at play across the totality of Departmental operations which impact on the overall outputs being delivered by the Department annually. While the broad range/nature of enterprise supports and agency operations means that performance reviews are generally best undertaken on an annual basis after financial year end, this briefing note provides an update on the significant developments across the Department in 2015 to date (i.e. to the end of August). The Committee members should also note that during August 2015 the Department provided detailed and extensive information to the Committee Secretariat relating to the Department’s 2013 and 2014 outputs.

In the material that follows there is also some brief commentary on the 2016 Estimate and on how the Performance Budgeting model operates via the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. A key objective of the Department is developing and influencing policy development at national and EU level and whilst much of this critical work does not always readily lend itself to what might be determined as smart performance related metrics, the Department’s role is pivotal to contributing positive outcomes, continued economic recovery and progress towards full-employment levels. In that context and at a high level it could be said that the “sum of all the parts” and the primary indicator of the effectiveness of what DJEI does can be measured in jobs.
A quick reminder of 2014 & JEI deliverables

To place the 2015 year-to-date developments in some context, the Department believes it is appropriate to have a quick glance back at the 2014 developments. Last year was a very significant year of progress on the jobs and reform front with the Department playing a key role in both aspects.

During 2014 economic recovery took a firmer hold with good progress being made on the jobs front. Across the enterprise agencies, 2014 saw Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland client companies enjoying excellent years with strong growth in jobs supported figures for both agencies.

Total direct employment in Enterprise Ireland client companies stood at 180,072 at the end of 2014. Enterprise Ireland reported that client companies created 19,705 new jobs in 2014. This resulted in a net increase of 8,476 in the number of people employed in their client companies - the highest net gain in the history of the agency.

Indicative export figures for the EI client base in 2014 was €18 billion (up from €15.3 billion in 2011). Significantly, in 2014 EI clients recorded the lowest level of job losses since 2000.

IDA Ireland also had a very significant and successful 2014 with a total of 197 client investments which represents a 20% increase over the 2013 level. Of the overall IDA investment wins, there was further progress in terms of an increased regional dimension with 37% of all investments outside of Dublin and Cork. (up from 30% in 2013).

IDA client companies created a total number of 7,131 net new jobs in 2014 bringing the total jobs in IDA client companies to 174,488 – the highest in IDA history.

The IDA client companies spent €22.4 billion in the economy last year – up 13% since 2011 (€19.8 billion).

On the research and innovation front further progress was delivered through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Enterprise Ireland research grant supports and the Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions.

In 2014, SFI funded five new Research Centres of international scale investing €155 million over 5 years, matched by a €90m commitment from industry. These research centres will focus on research in areas including applied geosciences, the “internet of things”, telecommunications, software and medical devices – all areas where Ireland can be a genuine world leader. A key aspect of the SFI investment is their relevance to continued and future FDI investment wins for Ireland. In recent years typically 30% to 40% of new IDA client wins each year have involved companies who are connected to SFI funded research teams.

Enterprise Ireland’s Research and Innovation division works closely with the sectors and start-up teams to deliver training, supports and establish the building blocks for sectors and technologies of the future.
In 2014 a record number of 878 collaborative projects between companies and Irish HEIs were supported by Enterprise Ireland. EI also supported 104 High-Potential Start-Ups last year. This HPSU cohort is expected to deliver over 2,100 new jobs in a three year period.

The quality of collaborations between industry and HEIs will be greatly enhanced by the supports now available through “Knowledge Transfer Ireland” which was formally launched in 2013 and became fully operational in 2014. This service gives companies a clear route to access research skills and knowledge in Irish Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), increasing their innovation capabilities.

After significant preparatory work and legislative changes across a range of areas, 2014 proved to be a year of delivery by the Department on a number of significant reforms and assuming new responsibilities.

In April 2014 the County Enterprise Boards were dissolved and replaced by the Local Enterprise Offices.

July/August 2014 saw the dissolution of Forfás and the distribution of its former functions across the Department, and into Enterprise Ireland and also the Health & Safety Authority.

In September Shannon Development was formally dissolved.

In late October the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency were amalgamated to form the Competition & Consumer Protection Commission.

Also during October the Department assumed responsibility for the work associated with the Construction Contracts 2013 Act with the transfer of functions from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

In November the Government approved the establishment of the new Low Pay Commission, which is being managed by the Department.

**Legislation progressed by JEI and enacted in 2014**

- Competition & Consumer Protection Act 2014
- County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Act 2014
- Companies Act 2014
- Industrial Development (Forfas Dissolution) Act 2014
- Employment Permits Act 2014
2015 - Increased Jobs level & an improving competitiveness position

At the end of July 2015 the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) published its annual benchmarking report, Ireland’s Competitiveness Scorecard 2015. The Scorecard provides a comprehensive statistical assessment of Ireland’s competitiveness performance with regard to a range of countries with which we compete on international markets for trade and investment.

The Irish economy is the fastest growing in Europe, with GNP growth of 5.2% in 2014 being driven by a strong export performance and increasingly by new enterprise investment, which is underpinned by our improving competitiveness performance. Ireland has moved from 25th to 16th on the IMD Competitiveness rankings, with progress being made in areas such as the environment for start-ups, regulation, and access to credit – all areas where the Department is playing a significant role. This improving competitiveness is contributing to strong employment growth.

The Council did warn that sustaining the momentum of employment growth is under threat. While we have made progress at national level in improving our competitiveness, our ability to compete in international markets has been boosted by benign external factors – a weaker euro against our main trading partners of the UK and US and low energy prices – and these favourable factors could be quickly reversed, eroding the competitiveness gains made to date.

Nonetheless the latest CSO data (released August 26th 2015) shows that the number in employment has now grown to 1.95 million - a further 57,100 people in employment when compared to July 2014. Every region in the country has experienced jobs growth and reduced unemployment over the period.

In the year to date in 2015 effectively there has been an additional 1,300 jobs created per week with Quarter 2, 2015 alone seeing 19,000 extra jobs being created.

The CSO data shows that the level of unemployment has been reduced to 9.5% (down from 15.2% in 2012) with 211,000 people now unemployed, the lowest level since 2008. The number of long-term unemployed also continues to fall and is now at 5.5%, down from 6.8% a year ago. The number of self-employed is up by 11,800 over the past year.

The increasing employment levels are also contributing significantly to tax revenue generation and increased consumer spending levels. Latest Department of Finance figures show that at the end of August, the Exchequer tax receipts were €27.3 billion for year to date and up €2.4 billion (+9.7%) on the comparable 2014 position. The end August tax position is running €1.4 billion ahead of Department of Finance’s initial profile.

The Department recognises the importance of maintaining momentum in job creation, and through close interaction with our agencies, other Departments and agencies and stakeholders, the Department will continue in the quest to deliver full employment by 2018.
Vote Structure for the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

The Department’s Estimate is set out in three key financial programmes across which the Department’s objectives are pursued and delivered. The Programme Areas are:

- **A- Jobs and Enterprise Development** [includes agencies (Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices, InterTrade Ireland, National Standards Authority of Ireland, Temporary Partial Loan Guarantee Scheme and other supports)]
- **B- Innovation** (includes Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland (research and development), the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions, and Ireland’s membership of certain international research organisations, primarily the European Space Agency.)
- **C- Regulation** (includes Companies Registration Office, Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement, Workplace Relations Programme, Competition & Consumer Protection Commission, Health and Safety Authority and the Low Pay Commission amongst others).

**Departmental Administration costs**

The Administration costs associated with the delivery of activities across the 3 programme expenditure areas are in the nature of Pay for JEI staff and the associated Non-Pay costs supporting a range of activities across the Department that span areas such as Office Premises, ICT, Travel & Subsistence, Consultancy, Postal & Telecommunications, Advertising and Information, Learning and Development costs and Incidental Expenses eg. Room hire etc.

The 3 areas of programme expenditure are covered by 40 Subheads with administrative support spanning across each programme area via 6 Administrative Subheads. The Vote structure reflects the wide diversity of the Department’s remit and range of functions. The following chart and Table 1 indicate the relative levels of expenditure for under each programme area in 2015.
The table below provides a summary of the Department’s Exchequer allocations for 2015, broken down by Programme area.

**Table 1: Summary 2015 Revised Estimates Volume – JEI by Programme Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Area</th>
<th>2015 Estimate</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current €000</td>
<td>Capital €000</td>
<td>Total €000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOBS &amp; ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>191,041</td>
<td>168,030</td>
<td>359,071</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNOVATION</td>
<td>26,414</td>
<td>320,970</td>
<td>347,384</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULATION</td>
<td>83,731</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>83,731</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Total: -</td>
<td>301,186</td>
<td>489,000</td>
<td>790,186</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID</td>
<td>49,274</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>49,774</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Total:-</td>
<td>251,912</td>
<td>488,500</td>
<td>740,412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition Deferred Surrender (Capital Carryover) of €20m was sanctioned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform for carryover into 2015 bringing the total (gross) allocation for the Department to €810.186m for 2015.

Delivery on the Department’s wide remit is achieved with a number of statutory offices and agencies, which are listed by Programme Expenditure area in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Offices and Agencies by Programme Expenditure Area**

| Programme A – Jobs and Enterprise Development | Enterprise Ireland (EI) |
|                                             | IDA Ireland |
|                                             | InterTrade Ireland |
|                                             | Local Enterprise Offices (x31) |
|                                             | National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) |
| Programme B – Innovation                     | Enterprise Ireland (Research and innovation supports) |
|                                             | Patents Office |
|                                             | Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) |
|                                             | *Higher Education Authority (HEA) |
| Programme C – Regulation                     | Companies Registration Office (CRO) |
|                                             | Competition & Consumer Protection Commission |
|                                             | Health & Safety Authority (HSA) |
|                                             | Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) |
|                                             | Low Pay Commission |
|                                             | Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE) |
|                                             | Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) |
|                                             | Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS) |
|                                             | Workplace Relations Programme |

* Since May 2010, the HEA (an agency of D/Education & Skills) has administered the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions on behalf of the Minister for JEI.
Financial Overview of 2015 Estimate

Comparison of 2015 JEI Estimate v 2014 Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 Provision</th>
<th>2014 Provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(gross figs)</td>
<td>(gross figs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>€489m*</td>
<td>€442m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>€301.18m</td>
<td>€339m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€790.18m</td>
<td>€781.0m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to new EU Standards of Accounting €39m of JEI expenditure was reclassified from Current to Capital with effect from 1st January 2015.

In 2015 the Department also secured Deferred Surrender (i.e. Capital Carryover of €20m) to bring the total capital funding provision to €509m in 2015.

(i) Breakdown by category (Capital, Pay, Pensions, Non-Pay) of the 2015 v 2014 Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>€489.00m</td>
<td>€442.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>€158.75m</td>
<td>€159.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>€50.18m</td>
<td>€47.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>€92.25m</td>
<td>€132.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€790.18m</td>
<td>€781.0m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Estimate

The Department’s Finance Unit had an initial 2016 Estimates preparatory meeting with colleagues in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in mid-July. To date it has not been possible for DPER officials to provide details regarding likely Current and Capital figures for DJEI for 2016.

What the Department can say at this point is that the 2015 current ceiling set as per the Revised Estimates Volume process was €301.18m. The 2015 Expenditure Report (published on Budget Day 14th October 2014) indicated a flatlined current allocation for the Department for 2016 and 2017. At the time of preparing this briefing material the
Department had not been asked by the DPER to deliver any further current savings for 2016 and on that basis the Department is hopeful that it will retain a similar current expenditure ceiling of c. €300m to operate within for 2016.

In terms of Capital requirement, the capital ceiling set out for 2016 in the 2015 Expenditure Report was €450m (plus the €39m in reclassified monies) which would see a no change 2016 scenario if that were to transpire to be the case.

Earlier this year the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform approved a new 5 year IDA Regional Advanced facilities property programme amounting to up to €150 million in additional funding for the period to 2019. The new IDA regional property programme will require €20 million capital funding in 2015 which will most likely require a Supplementary Estimate to be undertaken before year end. Furthermore the programme will require €30 million in capital funding in 2016 bringing the IDA capital capital provision to c. €120m next year.

**Performance Budgeting**

In 2011 as part of the Programme for Government and as part of public service reforms, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform introduced a new Performance Budgeting approach relating to Departmental Vote Management. This sees Departmental Votes set out their expenditure at a strategic high-level programme level with a series of output targets/indicators for the forthcoming financial year. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation was one of the first Departments to participate in the pilot phase of Performance Budgeting in 2012 and has been involved each year since.

In terms of the appropriate outputs and indicators, the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform agrees the high-level outputs and targets for the forthcoming financial year, through the annual Revised Estimates Volume (REV) process. Ultimately the REV is approved by Government each year and it is published in December each year by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

These same REV target areas are also used by DPER in populating Ireland Stat (http://www.irelandstat.gov.ie). The objective of Ireland Stat is to provide the public with a whole-of-Government performance measurement system. It aims to show what Ireland’s Government has achieved, what it did in order to deliver on those achievements, what it cost and how Ireland compares with other countries. Departments’ Statements of Strategy are the anchor documents to the Government’s approach of presenting performance information. Each ‘High Level Goal’ in a Statement of Strategy is associated with a ‘Strategic Programme’.

The issue of Performance Budgeting was discussed at meetings on June 23rd and August 10th 2015 between officials of the Oireachtas Secretariat and JEI Finance Unit. The meeting of 10th August also included officials from various other Government Departments. Both meetings were arranged by the Oireachtas Secretariat with a view to considering improvements to some of the metrics being used across Departmental Votes.
The Department made the point at both meetings that it is more than willing to consider possible improvements to certain indicators relating to the three high-level programme areas specific to the JEI Vote.

The Department believes that it is also important to recognise that the Performance Budgeting model, if one is looking to do comparisons over a medium-term (3 to 5 year period) needs to be cognisant of the significant reforms that the Department has delivered over the past number of years and as well as the constantly evolving nature of certain enterprise and innovation grant programmes. Other issues such as key policy areas, external factors and cross-Government operations all have a significant bearing on what the Department and our agencies ultimately can deliver and capturing all of the factors “neatly” for Performance Budgeting purposes in the context of the REV publication is a challenge.

Finally the Department also stresses the point that it is essential that colleagues in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, given their lead role in overall Exchequer expenditure matters and specifically their responsibility for Performance Budgeting, are directly involved in any discussions relating to proposed changes for Performance Budgeting that would then be subsequently reflected in the annual REV publication and on Ireland Stat.

**JEI Expenditure as at 31st August 2015**

As required by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, DJEI expenditure is profiled on a monthly basis at the start of each financial year. Then as the financial year progresses the Department is required to report (twice per month) to D/PER on:

(a) the indicative expenditure likely to be incurred in a particular month; and

(b) the actual expenditure incurred in the previous month. Table 4 below shows the level of JEI expenditure incurred to the end of August 2015 across Capital and Current expenditure lines.

There is now demonstrable proof across the enterprise and innovation client base being supported through JEI capital supports of significant progress in the economy. There is increasing demand and growing capacity for Irish based enterprise and across Ireland’s research system to effectively utilise more JEI capital supports to contribute positively to further employment growth.

As at the end of August the Department was 3% ahead of initially profiled capital expenditure primarily relating to IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland supported programmes. Capital (gross) expenditure at the end of August was €245.13m.

On the current expenditure side (total current spend is €187.37m) is 4% behind profile and is due to a number of variables such as timing issues on certain Administrative activities across the Department, the further extension of the retirement grace period by DPER (pensions are €1m behind profile) and a number of staff vacancies across the Department and Agencies.
Table 4: DJEI 2015 allocation and expenditure to end August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 provision</th>
<th>Expenditure to the end of August 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>€489.00m</td>
<td>€245.13m (+€8.2m) (3% ahead of profile at end Aug)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>€158.75m</td>
<td>€103.68m (-€3.6m) (3.3% behind profile at end Aug)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>€50.18m</td>
<td>€31.15m (-€1.6m) (4.8% behind profile at end Aug)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>€92.25m</td>
<td>€52.54m (-€3.1m) (5.5% behind profile at end Aug)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€790.18m</td>
<td>€432.51m (-€239k) (-0.05% behind overall profile at end Aug)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition the €20m in deferred surrender (i.e. capital carryover from 2014) has also been expended bringing the total JEI capital spend to the end of August to €265.13m.
2015 Highlights to date

By spring of this year, in conjunction with other Departments and agencies, the Department had exceeded the initial 100,000 new jobs target set in the Action Plan for Jobs (APJ) process back in 2012. Over 125,000 jobs have been added since the APJ was first launched with the target being exceeded eighteen months ahead of schedule.

Enterprise Agencies Jobs Announcements

At the end of 2014 the total number of direct jobs being supported by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices client companies amounted to over 385,000 jobs. Allowing for the multiplier effect of indirect jobs, effectively over 750,000 jobs, or c. 40% of those in employment are in companies connected in some way to enterprise supports.

From January to the early August 2015 a further 8,100+ new jobs have been announced in IDA and EI client supported companies this year with a good regional spread as outlined by some of examples cited in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Examples of IDA and EI client companies with jobs announcements in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Jobs announced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zimmer, Galway</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amax, Shannon</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple, Galway</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakelands Dairies, Cavan</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nearForm, Waterford</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bausch &amp;Lomb, Waterford</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbvie, Sligo</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anmeal, Tipperary</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pramerica, Letterkenny</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uber, Limerick</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*not all IDA and EI client new jobs are announced publically*
JEI Reforms process continues

The Department has continued progressing significant structural reforms underpinned by the enactment of:

- The Workplace Relations Act 2015 which will see the Workplace Relations Commission established on 1st October 2015. (See further detail in Programme C – Regulation that follows on page 43.

- The National Minimum Wage (Low Pay Commission) Act 2015 which saw the Low Pay Commission being established on a statutory basis with effect from 1st July 2015.

- The Industrial Relations Act, 2015 which came into effect on August 1st. The primary element of the Act provides for the reintroduction of a mechanism for the registration of employment agreements between an employer or employers and trade unions governing remuneration and conditions of employment in individual enterprises.

Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2015

The Regional Action Plans for Jobs Initiative was launched in February by the Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Minister Bruton. The purpose of the action plan is to identify a range of actions over the period 2015 - 2017 aimed at facilitating each region to achieve its economic potential and raise employment levels in each of the regions.

These plans build on the national Action Plan for Jobs process, but with a bottom-up approach working with key stakeholders from the regions. This is a Whole-of-Government initiative, being led by Minister Bruton, with input from across the widest possible range of stakeholders in the public and private sector. The goal is to have a further 10 to 15 per cent at work in each region by 2020 and to ensure the unemployment rate is within 1% of the State average, building on existing strengths and assets and identifying opportunities within each region.

By early September 3 Regional plans (Midlands, South West and South East) have been published with a further 2 (Mid-West and West) close to finalisation and likely to be published in September. Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in the Border Region and it is hoped to have this plan finalised by end October. Consultation recently commenced on the Mid East plan, with a stakeholder forum to be held on 7th October and the plan likely to be published in early December. Consultation on the Dublin Regional plan will commence shortly.

Funding of up to €250 million is to be provided over the next five years to support the Action Plan for Jobs: Regional initiative. €150 million of this funding will support an IDA property programme (as mentioned on p11), while up to €100 million will be made available
through Enterprise Ireland for three separate competitive calls which will support innovative and collaborative approaches to job creation across the regions. The first two of these calls were launched on 15th May and have now closed. Each call will provide €5 million over the period 2015-2017 for community-based initiatives and for collaborative projects from Local Enterprise Offices respectively. A third Regional Competitive Fund of up to €40 million for collaborative regional enterprise initiatives will be announced later in the year.

Each Plan will be overseen by a Regional Implementation Committee which will review progress on the Plan every six months and Progress Reports will be published twice each year. The Plans will be flexible and dynamic to allow additional actions to be added as they emerge over the lifetime of each Plan.

**New JEl Statement of Strategy 2015 – 2017**

In 2011, on the appointment of Mr. Richard Bruton TD as Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, DJEI set out a Strategy that identified how we would address the challenges facing us at that important time, in the context of restoring Ireland’s competitiveness, increasing the number of people at work, and strengthening Ireland’s enterprise economy.

That Strategy, which covered the period from 2011 to 2014, delivered substantial progress, in tandem with a turnaround in Ireland’s economy. The Department has come through those recent challenging years and delivered significant success – in competitiveness, jobs, exports, and the high standards of our business and regulatory environment. The Action Plan for Jobs has been the driving force in placing jobs at the centre of the agenda across the whole of Government. As a Department, we have advanced major structural reforms to streamline our organisation, including our agencies, and to maximise our capability to develop policy, drive jobs and competitiveness, develop and support enterprise and optimise research and innovation.

In April 2015 the Department launched its new Strategy for the period 2015 – 2017 that will build on the achievements and progress of recent years and support the drive towards full employment.

**Other Key Strategies**

In tandem to the new Departmental Statement of Strategy, the finalisation of two key and complementary strategies in 2015, *Enterprise Policy 2025* and a successor to *Strategy for Science, Technology & Innovation 2006 – 13* (see p.31-32) will set the longer term enterprise and innovation strategic direction.

Enterprise Policy 2025 aims to set out strategic actions needed to ensure that Ireland’s enterprise policy is sufficiently robust to build Ireland’s New Economy, in the context of a changing and intensely competitive global environment to deliver on Government’s ambition for job creation and to ensure sustained growth over the coming decade to 2025. The development of these strategies involves extensive consultation led by DJEI with other
Government departments as well as agencies, the research and education sector and Irish based enterprises. These strategies will provide the framework for the development of annual deliverables/actions through the Action Plan for Jobs and other implementation processes.

**Trade Policy**

One of the key areas of work for the Department relates to Trade Policy and the Department’s Trade Division covers a range of trade policy issues. Outlined below are the primary 2015 related developments.

**The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

On 14th June 2013, during the Irish Presidency, EU Member States authorised the European Commission to commence trade and investment negotiations with the US. The mandate for these negotiations, *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership* (TTIP), is ambitious and goes beyond conventional style trade agreements by including for example a possible new mechanism for closer regulatory cooperation.

The US is the EU’s most important trade partner. The TTIP aims to link the two biggest economies covering 22% of global GDP, 25% of global exports, 33% of global imports and more than 50% of global R&D spending. For Ireland the importance of the deal is even greater given that the US is our largest export market outside the eurozone and the potential for new exports from Ireland from our growing SME sector. The 10th round of the TTIP negotiations took place in Brussels from the 13th to the 17th July. Another round is expected in the Autumn. The EU Commission hope to make substantial progress in the TTIP negotiations in 2015.

**TTIP Study of Impacts for Ireland**

A Study on the Impacts in Ireland of a potential Agreement was published on 27 March 2015. The key findings of the study are very positive for Ireland overall with a potential impact on the Irish economy of 1.1% increase in GDP. This is more than double the impact for the EU as a whole.

- The Irish Economy could grow by 2 billion euros or double the impact on the EU overall. This is the equivalent of a fiscal stimulus without extra demands on tax payers.

- Ireland's growing services sector should gain if the US opens its markets further.

- Smaller companies could benefit from common standards and less bureaucracy.

This study will be used to inform Ireland’s priorities in the negotiations, these include removing technical barriers to trade, improved market access especially for SMEs and greater openness in public procurement. Progress in these areas would deliver real economic impact and create jobs in Ireland.
Throughout 2015, the Department is representing Ireland in various EU discussions about negotiations on Free Trade Agreements and investment agreements with countries such as Japan, Vietnam and China. The Department also represents Ireland’s interests in the World Trade Organisation and work is continuing to finalise the work programme for the next WTO Ministerial Council which is to be held in Nairobi in December this year.
Programme Area Overview - 2015 Developments

The output targets listed below by Programme area provide an overview of the wide ranging and varying nature and level of the Department’s activities.

Programme A - Jobs and Enterprise Development

Overview

Programme A: The Jobs and Enterprise Development programme accounts for approximately 44% of the Vote when Departmental administration costs are excluded. Expenditure relates to the operating costs of the Offices and Agencies and the funding provided to support both indigenous and foreign enterprises to grow and create jobs.

The primary objective of this Programme Area is to maximise sustainable job creation across the enterprise base. The Department aims to position Ireland as a competitive, innovation-driven location in which to do business, to promote entrepreneurship, to develop a strong indigenous enterprise base, to target future inward investment and to grow exports in existing and fast-growing markets.
This Programme Area covers the Action Plan for Jobs, as well as activities carried out by specific policy areas of the Department, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices, the National Standards Authority of Ireland and Inter Trade Ireland. Funding is also provided for the Enterprise Development strand of the cross-border INTERREG programme, the Temporary Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme and for monitoring and evaluation of certain EU programmes (European Regional Development Fund) under this Programme Area. The following Subheads are included under Programme A:

A.3 Agency Legacy Pensions
A.4 Inter Trade Ireland
A.5 IDA Ireland
A.6 Export Credit Insurance – Refund to the Exchequer
A.7 Enterprise Ireland
A.8 Local Enterprise Development
A.9 Monitoring & Evaluation of EU Programmes
A.10 INTERREG Enterprise Development
A.11 National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)
A.12 Temporary Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme
A.13 Subscriptions to International Organisations
A.14 Commissions, Committees & Special Inquiries
A.15 Legal Costs & Other Services

Programme A – Jobs and Enterprise Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Estimate (000s)</th>
<th>2014 outturn (000s)</th>
<th>2015 Estimate (000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>€359.5m</td>
<td>€331.84m</td>
<td>€359.07m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure to the end of August 2015 for Programme A is

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>€ 88.054m</td>
<td>16% ahead of profile at the end of August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Surrender (Capital Carryover)</td>
<td>€ 11.00m</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>€ 61.90m</td>
<td>-1% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>€ 29.72m</td>
<td>-5% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>€ 34.99m</td>
<td>On profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Programme A: Capital Grants allocation 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Carryover</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intertrade Ireland</td>
<td>5,530</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDA Ireland</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Ireland</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Enterprise Offices</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matching Funding for Interreg</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAI</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Loan Guarantee Scheme</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>168,030</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>179,030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Programme A – Jobs & Enterprise Development - 2015 targets as published in REV:**

- EI to deliver gross jobs gains of 13,300 and generate €20 billion in exports.
- EI to support c. 130 entrepreneurs through participation on EI New Frontiers Programme.
- EI to continue the implementation of the Seed and Venture Capital, Development Capital and Innovation Fund Ireland Schemes. Issue a second competitive call for expressions of interest under the Seed and Venture Capital Scheme 2013-2018.
- Facilitate up to €150m additional lending to eligible SMEs under Credit Guarantee.
- *Microfinance Ireland* to make loans to over 500 microenterprises, creating over 700 jobs.
- EI to assist the LEOs to prepare and implement 31 Local Enterprise Development Plans.
- IDA to approve approximately 180 investment projects and circa €500m spend on new R&D and Innovation projects.
- IDA to Target 14,000 new gross jobs yielding approximately 7,000 net new jobs across all of its initiatives.
- Coordinate, prepare and develop policy inputs for c. 8 meetings of the CCERJ.
- National Standards Authority of Ireland to publish 15 national, 1,500 EU and International standards
- Continue the focus on the EU Jobs, Growth and Trade agenda- provide inputs to 6 Competitiveness Councils and 4 Trade Councils. Reflect Ireland’s position in EU, OECD, ILO, WTO, WIPO policy initiatives.
- Promote Ireland’s export interests in EU trade and investment agreements including those with US, Japan and growing Asian economies and in WTO talks.
- Further develop regulatory regime on export licencing.
- Oversee State Agencies and Offices through Service Level Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, Codes of Practice of Corporate Governance, verified by Annual Accounts and Statements of Assurance.
Mid-year Overview for Programme A - Jobs & Enterprise Development

The primary Subheads in Programme A for jobs maintenance and job creation are Subheads A5 – IDA Ireland, A7 – Enterprise Ireland and A8 – Local Enterprise Development (LEOs). Subhead A12 relates to the Temporary Partial Loan Credit Guarantee Scheme and is a contributory factor to Government’s plan to improve credit facilities to microenterprises, a policy area that the Department works closely in conjunction with the Department of Finance.

IDA Ireland - 2015 progress to date

At the end of 2014 IDA Ireland was directly supporting over 174,000 jobs across their client companies, the largest number in the history of the agency. It should be noted that for every 10 IDA supported jobs a further 7 indirect jobs are supported in the economy through sub-supply and services provision.

The first half of the year represented a very strong performance for Ireland from an FDI perspective, particularly when one considers the challenging backdrop in Europe and parts of Asia. In the first half of the year IDA Ireland approved 110 investment projects [almost half being first time investments (i.e. new clients)]. These 110 projects which will lead to the creation of 9,000 direct jobs this year and over future years as the companies gradually roll out their investment plans. This compares to 100 investments in the same period in 2014 and 8,000 direct jobs. A notable feature of the first half of the year was the strong regional element with a large number of the year to date investments going outside of Dublin. Currently almost 60% of employment in IDA client companies is outside of Dublin. The full-year 2015 performance for the IDA, including gross and net employment creation levels at client companies, will be measured via the Annual Employment Survey which is undertaken one a year, and will be released in January 2016. Examples of some of the 2015 investments to date are:

- Apple making a €850 million investment in Athenry, Galway with 300 jobs
- Alexion Pharmaceuticals making a €450 million investment in its first biologics facility outside the US, in Blanchardstown, west Dublin.
- Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, operating as Vistakon Ireland, investing over €100 million in the expansion of its site at Plassey, Limerick.
- DePuy Synthes of Johnson & Johnson, investing €53 million at a plant in Ringaskiddy, Cork which is expected to bring an additional 80 new jobs to the c. 800 positions already at site.
- Northern Trust expanding its operations and creating 300 new jobs in Limerick
- Facebook planning to construct a new data centre in Clonee, Co Meath.
- Slack of San Francisco opening a European HQ in Dublin creating 100 new roles
• Agora Publishing setting up a multilingual contact centre in Portlaw, Co Waterford, adding 100 jobs

• Viagogo planning to double its workforce in Limerick, creating 200 roles.

• Medical devices company Zimmer investing €51m in Oranmore, Galway creating 250 jobs.

• US engineering Company ABEC Inc planning to expand its global operations in Fermoy, Co Cork creating 100 jobs.

• Zalando setting up an online fashion platform in Dublin creating 200 jobs in Dublin’s Silicon Docks.

• Pramerica Systems Ireland expanding its operations in Donegal with the creation of 330 new jobs.

• Ellucian creating 50 new jobs in Dublin

• Parexel opens a Global Decision Making Hub in Dublin with the creation of 130 new jobs over the next 12 to 18 months

• Uber opening a Centre of Excellence in Limerick with the creation of 150 jobs

• Industrial Info Resources expanding in Galway, creating 50 new jobs.

• Amneal Pharmaceuticals creating 250-300 new jobs in Cashel, Co Tipperary.

In February IDA Ireland announced ambitious targets to boost FDI in Ireland by over 40%, creating 80,000 new jobs in the economy over the next five years. The ambitious targets will bring total direct employment by overseas companies in Ireland to 209,000 people by 2019. This will be the highest level of employment from overseas firms in the history of the State and will deliver wide-ranging economic benefits for the country.

IDA aims to win 900 individual projects over the next five years, increasing its investment target by over 40%. This will be based on an ability to respond to client's needs efficiently, effectively and ahead of the competition. As part of its growth strategy, IDA has committed to itself to increasing the level of investment into each region of Ireland by between 30% and 40%. A €150m Regional Property investment plan, spread over five years, has been approved by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and it will support the IDA's regional goals. The funding will be used to upgrade Ireland's Business and Technology parks, make investments in a number of strategic utility-intensive sites and build new advanced technology buildings in regional locations.

In relation to its global strategy, IDA said North America will remain the key source market for FDI, but it is targeting market share growth in Europe and increasing returns from regions such as Asia-Pacific. A strong emphasis in the strategy will be on bringing first time investors to Ireland from all three markets. IDA will continue to target high growth companies.
Enterprise Ireland – 2015 developments

Subhead A7 of the Vote relates to Enterprise Ireland. The subhead funds the costs of Enterprise Ireland's administration, including pay and other staff costs. Supports to companies are provided under this subhead by EI in the form of capital grants to indigenous industry projects and for equity/seed and venture capital investments.

2014 was an excellent year for Enterprise Ireland’s client base with total direct employment across the EI client companies standing at 180,072 at the end of 2014. Last year saw a net increase of 8,476 in the number of people employed in their client companies - the highest net gain in the history of the agency. Allowing for the multiplier effect (1:1) (i.e. 1 indirect job being supported per each direct job) this means that in the region of 360,000 jobs in Ireland are in client companies connecting in some way with Enterprise Ireland supports.

Exports for the EI client based in 2014 also grew to €18.6 billion – up from €15.3 billion in 2011.

The positive developments across the EI client base has continued in 2015. To date (@23rd July 2015) almost 3,000* new jobs had been announced by Enterprise Ireland supported client companies across the country with examples being:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company, Location</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICON, Dublin</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combilift, Monaghan</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland Dairies, Bailieboro, Co Cavan</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nearForm, Tramore, Waterford</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payback Loyalty, Limerick</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricel, Killarney, Co Kerry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Coast Bakehouse, Drogheda, Co Louth</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* 2,961 jobs at 23rd July. Not all new jobs are announced).

The full-year 2015 performance for Enterprise Ireland, including gross and net employment creation levels at client companies, will be measured via the Annual Employment Survey which is undertaken one a year, and will be released in January 2016.

EI performance across its range of programmes is broadly on target for 2015 as can be demonstrated in the table that follows on page 24. There is higher than expected demand for Competitive Start Funds and very good progress made in terms of securing new contracts overseas.
**EI Performance across target areas to the end of June 2015**

The table below shows the Enterprise Ireland’s performance against a number of the key targets to end Q2 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EI PROGRESS AGAINST KEY TARGETS TARGETS 2015 – End Q2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative HPSU Approvals</td>
<td>2015 Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Start Fund Approvals</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. FOSTERING INNOVATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Innovations between Industry &amp; Third Level</td>
<td>2015 Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Technology Gateway projects Approved</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Innovation Vouchers Redeemed</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: FP7 Projects (Horizon 2020)</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Innovation Partnership Programme approvals</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. DELIVERING INTERNATIONAL SCALE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalisation</td>
<td>2015 Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Contracts Secured Overseas (with EI assistance)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Overseas Presences</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Client Investments &gt; €500k</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Committee Approvals &gt; €100k (Non HPSU)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Enterprise Offices

Subhead A8 of the JEI Vote relates to Local Enterprise Development and funding supports to the 31 Local Enterprise Offices. At the end of 2014 total direct employment among the 6,058 LEO client companies across the country stood at 31,326. These client companies created 4,012 net new jobs last year. A capital grants provision of €18.5m is available in 2015 for allocation across the 31 LEOs.

In the year to date the LEOs have made strong progress towards delivering on their work programme for 2015. Among the key deliverables so far this year are:

- Each LEO and Local Authority has developed a Local Enterprise Development Plan for 2015.
- Ireland’s “Best Young Entrepreneur 2015” competition was launched in May by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. and Minister Bruton T.D. A total of 1,364 applications were received by the closing date on 21 August.
- The LEO Forum was held in July.
- 50 applications were received under the new LEO Competitive Fund.
- A LEO Graduate Programme has been developed with 26 graduates being assigned to LEOs around the country.

The Committee members should note that, following the CEB restructuring process, the LEOs are now embedded within the Local Authority structure, with LEO operations overseen by the “Centre of Excellence” (CoE) based in Enterprise Ireland. The CoE reviewed the LEO client portfolio as part of the restructuring process, a result of which is that LEO output data for 2014 and CEB-related data for 2013 and earlier years are not directly comparable.

Temporary Partial Loan Credit Guarantee Scheme

Subhead A12 relates to the Temporary Partial Loan Credit Guarantee Scheme. As at the 28th August 2015 the Credit Guarantee Scheme had sanctioned 231 facilities with 1,023 new jobs created and 609 jobs maintained.

A review of the Credit Guarantee Scheme was undertaken and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas in July 2014. On foot of this review Government agreed to amend the Credit Guarantee Act 2012 with a view to making the Scheme more attractive and more aligned with the SME finance market, to increase the take-up and impact of the Scheme.

In broad terms these amendments will increase the level of the State guarantee (from 75% to 80% on individual finance products and from 10% to 13% on a finance providers portfolio), and extend the range of SME finance providers and products included (to include
Invoice Finance, Leasing, Hire Purchase etc.). At present only licensed banks and loans are covered.

The Bill was on the A list of the Government’s 2014 Autumn legislation programme and the 2015 Spring legislation programme. The Department has been working with the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) for over a year on drafting the Bill. This work has proven to be very complicated and a range of technical and legal issues have been raised by the AGO since the original Government decision, which have meant progress has been much slower than anticipated in having the amended legislation enacted. Following this complex work the Minister received permission to publish the Bill from Government. It is planned to publish the Bill in the autumn and then have it enacted as early as possible thereafter.

In addition and as a result of the review of the Credit Guarantee Scheme, as well as on foot of concerns raised by the Credit Review Office, the business representative organisations and banks a specific issue was raised in relation to banks exiting the Irish SME Credit market, where SMEs needed to have loans with these banks taken over or refinanced. As an interim measure in advance of amending the Credit Guarantee Act 2012, a new Credit Guarantee Scheme 2015 regulation was made in accordance with the terms of the Credit Guarantee Act 2012 which allows guarantees for refinancing loans where an SME’s bank has exited or is exiting the Irish SME market. This new Scheme also increases the maximum length of guarantees under the Credit Guarantee Scheme from 3 years to 7 years.

Earlier in 2015, under the Action Plan for Jobs process, a number of enhancements to the Micro-enterprise Loan Fund through Microfinance Ireland (MFI)* were also announced. The enhancements include removing the requirement on micro-enterprises to have a bank refusal before applying for an MFI loan, allowing the Board of MFI greater flexibility to adapt to market changes, introducing an automatic referral system to MFI when banks decline loans to micro-enterprises and developing a renewed and expanded marketing and communications strategy. The enhancements are made on foot of a review of MFI which was completed in Q1. It should be noted that as at end of August 2015 MFI has provided loans to 660 microenterprises, totalling €10.17 million which is supporting 1,498 jobs.

*The Microfinance Ireland funding was a once-off €10m provision in 2012. It does not feature in the JEI Estimate in 2015.*
Programme B – Innovation

Overview

The Innovation Programme, excluding Departmental administration costs, accounts for approximately 43% of the Vote. The primary objective of this programme is to optimise the national innovation system for economic and societal impact through sustainable growth and quality jobs.

The Department’s activities under Programme Area B are delivered by Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Patents Office, Tyndall National Institute, the Higher Education Authority and IDA Ireland (albeit through its funding under Programme A).

Funding under this programme area also covers Ireland’s memberships of various international research organisations such as the European Space Agency, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC),
COST – Co-operation in Science & Technology; EUREKA and small programmes delivered for the Department by the Irish Universities Association (IUA).

The table following compares Programme B expenditure and costs for 2014 and 2015 exclusive of Department administration costs:

**Programme B – Innovation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Estimate (000s)</th>
<th>2014 outturn (000s)</th>
<th>2015 Estimate (000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>€341.7m</td>
<td>€340.38m</td>
<td>€347.38m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following Subheads are included under Programme B:

B.3 Patents Office

B.4 Science & Technology Development Programme (inc. SFI, EI and Tyndall)

B.5 Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI)

B.6 Subscriptions to International Organisations

B.7 Commissions, Committees & Special Inquiries

B.8 Legal Costs & Other Services

**Expenditure to the end of August 2015 in Programme B – Innovation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount (000s)</th>
<th>Percentage Behind Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>€157.07m</td>
<td>-2% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Surrender (Capital Carryover)</td>
<td>€9.00m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>€9.89m</td>
<td>-2% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>€4.72m</td>
<td>-27% behind profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(there is no Pensions provision in Programme B)*
Programme B – Capital grants by agency/programme area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 Capital</th>
<th>2015 Capital Carryover</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subhead B4 : Enterprise Ireland</td>
<td>€113.4m</td>
<td>€6.0m</td>
<td>€119.4m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subhead B4: Science Foundation Ireland</td>
<td>€154.0m</td>
<td>€3.0m</td>
<td>€157.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subhead B4: Tyndall National Institute</td>
<td>€2.9m</td>
<td></td>
<td>€2.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subhead B5 : PRTLI</td>
<td>€32.014m</td>
<td></td>
<td>€32.014m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions to International Research Organisations (Ireland’s membership of ESA, EMBL, EMBC, Eureka, COST)</td>
<td>€18.62m</td>
<td></td>
<td>€18.62m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€320.97m</td>
<td>9.0m</td>
<td>€329.97m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programme B – Innovation : 2015 Targets

- Through EI enable 829 companies to invest more than €100k in R&D annually;
- Support 100 High Potential Start Ups.
- Secure benefits of research - 100 marketable technologies transferred to SMEs and 820 collaborative innovations between industry & Third Level.
- Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to support 21 existing research centres
- SFI to make 10 Spokes awards associated with the 12 existing Research Centres.
- SFI research teams to enter into collaborations with over 900 industry partners (split evenly between MNC and SMEs). SFI to continue support to the existing cohort of up to 3,000 researchers, subject to excellence and relevance to enterprise needs.
- SFI to make 50 new TIDA awards, 20 Industry Fellowship awards and 30 Investigator awards in areas of national economic and societal importance.
- SFI to make up to 10 Strategic partnership awards involving Industry engagement and co-funding.
- PRTLI: Continue to support 18 Capital infrastructural projects along with 15 Structured PhD / Emergent Technologies programmes.
- Target €150m in competitive research awards for Irish based researchers from EU “Horizon 2020” programme.
- Build on work to operationalise the unitary patent system and unified patent court in preparation for a Referendum on the patent court.
- Examine and evaluate the Copyright Review Report and recommendations with a view to presenting and proposing legislative proposals for amendment to the governing legislation.
- Process 100% of applications for patents, trademarks and industrial design received. Deliver 55 IP information activities in support of business.
- Oversee performance of State Agencies and Offices through Memos of Understanding and Service Level Agreements, Liaison meetings. Codes of Practice of Corporate Governance, verified by Annual Accounts and Statements of Assurance.
2015 Mid-year overview for Programme B – Innovation

It is important to appreciate that over 40% of the total public investment in research and innovation in Ireland is undertaken via DJEI under Programme B expenditure area via Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, the Tyndall National Institute and membership of various international research organisations such as the European Space Agency. The research and development offerings through Programme B span the full research spectrum from basic oriented research to applied research and also include significant research infrastructural investment via the Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions.

Ireland’s Innovation System – Ireland moves up international rankings

One of the key consequences of continued investment in research excellence, primarily through Science Foundation Ireland and the Higher Education Authority, is that Ireland has this year moved up the global scientific rankings from 20th to 16th (source: Essential Science IndicatorsSM from Thomson Reuters based on international scientific citations per paper.)

In specific disciplines Ireland is amongst the global leaders in areas such as:

- 1st in Nanosciences
- 2nd in Immunology
- 2nd in Computer Science
- 3rd in Animal and Dairy
- 5th in Materials Sciences

Such positive rankings have a very significant positive reputational impact as research capability is one of the first elements prospective investors in Ireland look at when it comes to considering first time investments. So maintenance and enhancement of a properly functioning research eco-system and the associated talent is a key FDI selling point for IDA Ireland.

The JEI capital research funding programmes through Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation and the Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions have also helped positive developments in other rankings, such as:

- Ireland is now 9th (of 28) in the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014.
- Ireland is now ranked 11th (of 143 countries) in the Global Innovation Index 2014.
- Ireland is ranked 17th (out of 94 countries) in the European Research rankings for 2014 based on funding generated out of European funding programmes (ResearchRanking.org – based on data published by the European Commission).
EU Horizon 2020 funding – Ireland exceeds 2014 Action Plan for Jobs target by 27%

On 28th July 2015 the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation Damien English T.D. announced that Ireland’s researchers and companies had successfully leveraged €127 million in the first year of Horizon 2020, the current EU programme funding research and innovation. Ireland’s success exceeded the Action Plan for Jobs 2014 national target of €100m (+27% ahead of target).

85% of funding won in 2014 came from ICT, research grants from the European Research Council (ERC) and training grants for researchers (‘Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions’), Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology, Health and Agrifood. Enterprise Ireland leads the National Support Network for Horizon 2020.

The 2015 drawdown target is €150m and the results of same will not be available until spring/mid 2016.

Ireland winning at the European Research Council (ERC)

As a significant component of the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, the prestigious ERC grant awards will provide approximately €13 billion over seven years (2014-2020) to support exciting and challenging research projects through highly competitive calls.

The first (2014) ERC calls under the Horizon 2020 Programme have seen an unparalleled level of success for researchers based in Ireland. In total 18 awards, with a combined value of over €30 million, were won. Ten of these awards were won through the Starting Grant scheme; this result ranked Ireland second in terms of rate of success, rising from 20th position the previous year. This level of success is largely attributable to SFI funded initiatives (past and present) which target ERC funding programmes.

New national Science Strategy

The Department is currently developing a successor to the “Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation” (which ran from 2006 – 13). The new strategy will build on research prioritisation and further support a competitive and productive research base that is closely aligned with enterprise needs and a magnet for foreign direct investment (FDI). It will drive growth through research and innovation in enterprise, improve Ireland’s competitiveness and enhance our capacity to develop innovative products and services, assisting exports and employment growth.

An Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) on Science, Technology and Innovation, which comprises membership from key Government Departments and the Higher Education Authority, along with the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, is working towards formulating the new Strategy. Key areas under consideration by the Committee include:
- Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation and key goals/targets
- Prioritised Approach to Public Research Funding
- Enterprise-level R&D and Innovation Performance
- International collaboration and engagement
- Organisational/Institutional arrangements to enhance research excellence and deliver jobs
- World class IP regime and dynamic systems to transfer Knowledge and Technology into jobs
- Government wide goals on innovation in key sectors for job creation and societal benefit
- Research for knowledge and the development of human capital

The IDC is taking a focussed examination of the key issues and policy questions arising under each of these areas. The IDC is also considering the outcomes and emerging findings of relevant consultations/studies underway, many of which are reaching their conclusions and which will feed into the development of the new Strategy. The IDC is also be drawing on conclusions and recommendations of other studies and analyses completed recently along with feedback and experience of recent policy initiatives. A consultation process with key stakeholders commenced in early Spring and Minister English T.D. hosted a one day Consultative Workshop with key stakeholders in early July to address questions emerging from the written consultation and from deliberations of the IDC. It is intended that the new Strategy will be finalised in Q4, 2015.

**Science Foundation Ireland 2014/15**

The capital provision to SFI in 2015 is €157m, up €3.55m from 2014. *(Subhead B4 – Science & Technology Programmes.)*

Given the nature of SFI operations and the timelag effect involved with its Annual Census, the SFI Annual Report for 2014 was published in June 2015. The primary scientific outputs from SFI funding last year were:

SFI directly supported a human capital base of 2,851 researchers/team members throughout the research eco-system in Ireland (up from 2,656 at the end of 2013).

SFI researchers reported over 1,200 industry collaborations; 650 with Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and 561 with Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This continues the recent very significant growth in industry engagement with SFI funded teams.

SFI continues to grow its global reach as the SFI funded community is now involved in 1,843 international academic collaborations in 57 countries across the globe.
SFI & Industry Collaboration 2015

**SFI Research Centres** - At the start of the 2015, SFI was supporting twelve SFI Research Centres, with a total investment of c. €455 million over the period to 2020. These large-scale SFI Centres involve approximately 300 industry partners who are committing €190 million of the €455 million total investment. The industry partners are roughly split 50:50 between the SME and MNC sectors. Seven of these centres were funded in 2013 and the remaining five in late 2014.

During 2015, SFI is enabling new industry and academic partners to join these existing Research Centres via the SFI Spokes Programme. The Spokes programme supports the expansion and sustainability of Research Centres, enabling the addition of new capabilities, new industry and academic partners, and support for new projects with existing partners.

**SFI Spokes Programme** - Considerable interest was shown from industry in engaging in new research projects with the 12 SFI Research Centres. Eight new Spokes applications were reviewed in the first half of 2015 and four were approved for funding in June. Public announcements will be made later this year. In addition, a number of new Spoke collaborations agreed in 2014 have been announced this year by SFI Research Centres including:

- IBM and the INFANT Centre (Irish Centre for Foetal and Neonatal Translational Research) collaboration on ‘LEANBH’, a pilot research project providing remote healthcare monitoring to expectant mothers to improve the detection and treatment of hypertension and pre-eclampsia during pregnancy.
- Janssen Biotech Inc., (Janssen), one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, will collaborate with the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre’s Microbiome Institute of Cork to explore the role of viruses in shaping the human microbiome and their potential use as novel treatments and/or biomarkers of inflammatory bowel disease.
- A new research partnership between Stryker and the Irish Photonics Integration Centre (IPIC) at Tyndall National Institute, Cork. This interdisciplinary team is applying photonics technologies to develop next-generation smart surgical tools that enable faster, simpler, and novel procedures to improve patient outcomes.

**SFI Industry Fellowship Programme** - Funding of €1.5 million was announced in June 2015 to support twenty new industry–academia research projects through SFI’s Industry Fellowship Programme. The programme places academic researchers in companies and industry researchers in Irish Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to conduct research and to stimulate knowledge transfer between academia and industry. The twenty projects announced involve both major multinational and small Irish companies in areas such as medicine and pharmaceuticals, materials science, data management, agriculture and aquaculture.

**SFI funding calls help to stimulate Irish based applications to EU Horizon 2020** - A major objective of the 2015 SFI Investigators Programme (IvP 2015) call, which was launched in March 2015, is to stimulate and catalyse strong participation by Ireland’s researchers in the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 research framework programme (H2020). In
recognition of the national importance of H2020 and the need to demonstrate a collaborative all-island approach, the call involves the participation of a number of Government Departments and funding agencies including the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland (DEL), Teagasc, the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), the Marine Institute (MI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Irish Research Council (IRC).

**Education & Public Engagement undertaken through SFI Discover programme** - 549 Irish primary schools received the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Primary Science and Maths (DPSM) Award of Science and Maths Excellence in June. 25 schools received their 10th Award of Science and Maths Excellence. Plans are well underway for the 20th anniversary celebrations of National Science Week which will take place in November 2015.

SFI has commissioned a survey of the general public on attitudes and awareness of STEM in Ireland. The results of the survey will be published in the autumn.

SFI will continue to support innovative engagement projects in 2015. The SFI Discover funding call was launched on the 3rd June. 118 applications were received by the call deadline – up from 90 in 2014.

RTÉ and SFI agreed a new a pilot initiative to provide grant funding for the development of additional television programming related to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) that has broad audience appeal. This joint initiative will assist RTÉ over the next 12 months with the development of prime time programming on RTÉ One.

**Enterprise Ireland - Research & Innovation supports in 2015**

*The capital provision to EI for innovation supports in 2015 is €119.4 million (Subhead B4).*

Enterprise Ireland’s role in Ireland’s research and technology landscape is centrally focused on empowering Irish companies to create high-value, innovative and differentiated products for international markets, leading to revenue and jobs growth in Ireland. For Irish businesses to remain sustainability and competitive, they need to be constantly reviewing their levels of innovation to ensure that their products and processes are leading edge. The barriers to this happening include:

- the potential high costs of R&D
- the associated risk of undertaking R&D
- low capability in businesses to undertake R&D in-house
- access to, and affordability of capital equipment

Enterprise Ireland operates a range of supports to help companies mitigate these issues by providing funding and support to undertake these activities in-house where appropriate or by supporting them to engage with third level researchers to undertake collaborative research for the benefit of the company. In this way Enterprise Ireland helps to unlock the skills and expertise of higher level research so that companies can access solutions to their challenges and thus improve their economic competitiveness. The Enterprise Ireland
research supports are broken down into 3 principal areas of activity, comprising of many different programme offerings (depending on company scale):

**Activity 1 – Transforming R&D Activity in Enterprise:** comprises direct supports for R&D activity within Irish firms, and supports for companies to build R&D capability and acquire new technology through licensing. This activity is an important element in supporting companies to bring new products to market and to drive down costs through product and process innovation.

**Activity 2 – Industry Collaboration with the Third Level Sector:** comprises programmes to increase the level of collaborative R&D activity between industry and academia.

**Activity 3 – Realising the Commercial Potential of Ireland’s Research Community:** Enterprise Ireland works with researchers in higher education to help maximise the commercial return from publicly-funded research.

EI supports help companies of all scales and capability levels. Even the smallest firm can avail of an **Innovation Voucher**, with 415 such projects completed to date this year, and engage with an academic research group on a challenge or opportunity they are facing; this can have transformative effects on their business and their approach to innovation in the future.

Larger company-academic projects are supported via **Innovation Partnerships** and 40 such projects were completed to date.

Very large collaborative research initiatives that address sector-wide challenges of opportunities for clusters of companies are also supported via **EI Technology Centres** and 278 companies are involved with the 15 Technology Centres this year.

An example of the real benefits of this Industry-academic collaborative approach can be witnessed by and Innovation Partnership project funded this year. This project is between UCD’s Institute of Food and Health, Creme Software Limited (an SME employing 33 people with strong growth potential), Nutrition Supplies Ltd. (an SME employing 14) and 5 leading food and nutrition companies – Dairygold, Dawn Farm Foods, Glanbia, Kerry, Mead Johnson Nutrition. This project is an excellent example of the ability of EI Innovation programmes to wed some of the best economic assets in the country together in order to achieve greater impact, namely:

- superbly qualified academic researchers from our higher education system
- novel and agile SMEs,
- Large MNCs based here (in this case most of them are actually Irish owned).

This is an ambitious project with a total project cost of €1.6 million with the company partners are collectively providing close to 50% of the investment. The aim of the project is to develop a state of the art food safety and quality decision making toolset to mitigate the risk of contamination in the food supply chain.

Successful implementation of this project across the partner companies will copper-fasten previously supported new jobs, particularly in R&D and quality management by introducing
a range of new advance quality management tools and data analytical systems. It supports Ireland’s position as country with strong regulatory environment and innovation in food safety. This project will also assist in progressing IDA’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) agenda with Mead Johnson Nutrition with a view to securing a significant investment in Ireland in infant and maternal nutrition products and helps position Ireland as a location for future investment.

Enterprise Ireland also works with researchers in higher education to help maximise the commercial return from publicly-funded research. The Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund provides supports for academic researchers to take research outputs with commercial potential and bring them to a point where they can either be transferred into industry or spun out into a new start-up company. 41 one such projects have been completed to date in 2015.

Knowledge Transfer Ireland (which is the national Technology Transfer Office) plays a key role in the Irish innovation system by providing a responsive interface between companies and the wealth of technology, skills and “know how” available in the higher education system. This office also supports the knowledge transfer system in all Universities and Institutes of technology in the State and has facilitated the transfer of 50 commercially relevant technologies transferred to industry to date in 2015 and the creation of 8 spinout companies.

In order to leverage the higher education system’s ability to further drive company creation and regional development Enterprise Ireland also operates the New Frontiers Entrepreneurial development programme and the national campus incubation programme for start-up companies. Enterprise Ireland will provide support for 150 new entrepreneurs through New Frontiers in 2015 and it is expected that at least 130 will fully complete the programme.

In addition the Campus Incubator Scheme which provides space for spin out & spin-in companies has over 350 companies in regional dispersed incubation centres and these companies employ nearly 1,600 people around the country.

The Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions

Subhead BS of the JEI Vote relates to the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLI). The capital provision is just over €32 million in 2015. The programme is administered on behalf of the Minister for JEI by the Higher Education Authority.

The PRTLI supports the provision of top-class research infrastructure (buildings, laboratories and cutting edge equipment) as well as human capital development through Structured PhD/Emrgent Technology programmes across Ireland’s higher education institutions. A key aim of the PRTLI is to develop critical mass in key research areas, thereby enhancing collaboration and coherence across Ireland’s research system.

The PRTLI operates in Cycles of funding with the latest Cycle 5 initiating in 2011 (there are no new awards until a new Cycle is launched). Cycle 5 award funding spans 33 distinct
projects (through 18 Capital infrastructural projects and 15 Structured PhD/Emergent Technologies projects involving current expenditure) in the following areas:

- Pharma/biopharmaceuticals
- Medical Technologies
- ICT
- Energy and environment
- Translational research biosciences/biomedical
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Food and Drink
- Engineering, physics and chemistry.

2015 sees continued PRTLI financial support to the 18 Capital infrastructure projects which by the end of 2015 are expected to be completed or substantially completed. Some projects are expected to run into early 2016. Approximately 475 students/researchers/other personnel are also being supported across the various Structured PhD/Emergent Technologies projects.

**Ireland and the European Space Agency**

Subhead B5 of the JEI Vote relates to membership of certain international research organisations. In terms of scale and funding provision the primary membership contribution in this subhead relates to Ireland’s membership of the European Space Agency (€17.2m in 2015).

The purpose of Ireland’s membership of ESA is to participate in European space industry programmes with a focus on facilitating innovative Irish companies to develop leading edge space industry technologies with the aim being to increase exports, sales and employment. The annual investment through ESA can be seen in the context of an industrial stimulus and is directly aligned with the strategy and objectives of similar EI investment in the R&D capability of Irish Industry. It also fits with the Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland strategy of supporting high potential start-ups, company scaling, as well as foreign direct investment.

Based on a recent evaluation of Irish membership of ESA (undertaken by Technopolis) Irish companies involved with ESA had a combined turnover of €274 million in 2013 and exports of €249 million, with €39 million in exports directly related to ESA. In addition, these companies had €43 million in total ESA-related sales, with total employment estimated at 1,662 FTEs in 2013. A high proportion of the overall income (space and non-space related) of these companies is critically dependent on sales to ESA and it is estimated that 40% of the combined turnover would not arise without ESA membership. Furthermore, Ireland’s space
businesses contributed more than €110 million in additional net output to the Irish economy in 2013 and a return on investment (ROI) of 3:1 direct.

In the year to date 2015, the value of ESA contracts placed in Ireland recorded in the period is €7.6 million. The target of €12 million in contracts placed by ESA in Ireland in 2015 is expected to be achieved. The number of companies recorded as having secured ESA contracts to date in 2015 is 17, four which are first time ESA contractors. The target of 5 first time new entrant companies in 2015 is expected to be achieved or exceeded.
Programme C – Regulation

Overview

Programme Area C - the Regulation Programme, excluding Departmental administration costs, accounts for approximately 9% of the Vote.

The primary objective of this Programme is to ensure that the business regulatory system and dispute resolution mechanisms facilitate fair, efficient and competitive markets, for businesses, employees and consumers. The Department aims to make markets, including the labour markets, work more efficiently through smart regulation which encourages innovation, keen competition, high standards of employee safety and protection and corporate governance and consumer protection but without unnecessary regulatory cost.
The Department has a number of Offices and Agencies with regulatory remits namely:-

- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission,
- Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE),
- Companies Registration Office (CRO) incl. the Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS),
- Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA),
- National Employment Rights Authority (NERA),
- Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT),
- Equality Tribunal,
- Labour Relations Commission (LRC),
- Labour Court,
- Health and Safety Authority (HSA), incorporating the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB),
- Patents Office (Programme B) and
- Legal Metrology Unit of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) (Programme A).

The Department also undertakes regulatory functions itself including export licensing (Programme A) and employment permits. The Department assumed responsibility for the Low Pay Commission in December 2014.

The activities of the High-Level Group on Business Regulation, the Company Law Review Group and the Sales Law Review Group are also included under this Programme area. The table following compares Programme C expenditure and costs for 2014 and 2015 exclusive of Department administration costs:

**Programme C – Regulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2014 Estimate (000s)</th>
<th>2014 provisional outturn (000s)</th>
<th>2015 Estimate (000s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Provision for expenditure</td>
<td>€79.78m</td>
<td>€70.39m</td>
<td>€83.73m</td>
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</table>

Programme C: Regulation includes current expenditure (Pay, Pensions & Non-Pay). There is no capital provision in Programme C.
Expenditure to the end of August 2015 in Programme C: Regulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Behind Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>€ 31.88m</td>
<td>-9% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pay</td>
<td>€ 12.82m</td>
<td>-11% behind profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>€ 1.42m</td>
<td>-8% behind profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following Subheads are included under Programme C:

- C.3 Workplace Relations Programme
- C.4 Grants for Trade Union Education
- C.5 Health & Safety Authority
- C.6 Trade Union Amalgamations
- C.7 Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement
- C.8 Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
- C.9 Personal Injuries Assessment Board
- C.10 Consumer Support
- C.11 Companies Registration Office & Registry of Friendly Societies
- C.12 Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority
- C.13 Low Pay Commission
- C.14 Subscriptions to International Organisations
- C.15 Commission, Committees & Special Inquiries
- C.16 Legal Costs & Other Services

Programme C – Regulation 2015 Targets

- Publish Bills and progress through Oireachtas: Companies (Accounting) Bill, Companies (Auditing) Bill, Hallmarking (Amendment) Bill
- Promulgation of regulations on certain practices in the grocery goods sector.
- Companies Registration Office (CRO) to process 70% of statutory submissions within 5 working days (after introduction of new provisions of Companies Act 2014)
- Health & Safety Authority (HSA) to conclude:
  - workplace inspections: 11,955
  - chemicals inspections: 1,755
- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission will consider all merger applications within the Statutory Deadline.
- Work with business interests (through the High Level Group on Business Regulation) to identify and pursue priority areas where administrative burdens could be further reduced.
- Further raise awareness of key regulatory information through further ‘Taking Care of Business’ events.
- HSA to rollout Year 2 of the Taking Care of Business Plan 2014/16, enabling more efficient management of workplace health and safety by small businesses.
- BeSMART online tool to be extended to construction and agriculture sectors
- Represent the Irish position in EU Working Groups and Committees. Participate in EPSCO Councils, ILO Governing Bodies and ILC.
- Optimising the finalisation of EAT legacy cases
- Progression of the Workplace Relations Bill through the Oireachtas.
- Establish Workplace Relations Commission with new business processes and structures in place.
- Customer Relationship Management Solution Complaints and Adjudication Solution in place for Establishment Day for the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC).
- Oversee State Agencies and Offices through Memos of Understanding and Service Level Agreements, Codes of Practice of Corporate Governance, verified by Annual Accounts and Statements of Assurance.

**Mid-year assessment for Programme C – Regulation**

**Formal establishment of the Workplace Relations Commission**

The Minister announced his proposals to reform the State’s existing employment rights and industrial relations structures following extensive public consultation. A new two-tier workplace relations structure will be established. This means there will be two statutorily independent bodies i.e. a single body of first instance to be called the Workplace Relations Commission and a separate appeals body, which will effectively be an expanded Labour Court.

The legislation which will give statutory effect to the reforms, namely the Workplace Relations Act 2015, was enacted on 20th May, 2015. The legislation will provide for the services of the Labour Relations Commission, the Equality Tribunal, the National Employment Rights Authority (NERA), and the first instance functions of the Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT) to come together under the remit of the Workplace Relations Commission. The Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT) will continue to function for a limited period after the establishment of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) to dispose of all legacy first instance complaints and appeals referred to it prior to the establishment date of the WRC, including cases which a division of the EAT had commenced hearing.

The appellate functions of the EAT will be amalgamated into a reconfigured Labour Court. All first instance or initial complaints will be made to the Workplace Relations Commission.

The Minister intends to commence the legislation in a number of stages with certain technical and operational provisions having been commenced on 1st August, 2015 and the majority of the remaining provisions (including the provisions that will establish the new workplace relations structures) being commenced on 1st October, 2015.
The Health & Safety Authority

Subhead C5 of the JEI Vote relates to the Health & Safety Authority. The 2015 Year to date overview is as follows:

Fatal Workplace Injuries

Out of the 25 workplace fatalities reported to the HSA so far this year (to early August) 9 out of 25 arose in the agriculture sector. The figure is still unacceptably high though the figure is somewhat lower than the level of 13 fatalities that had occurred in the sector by this time last year.

Inspection Programme

A total of 4,766 inspections and 587 investigations have been carried out to the end of Q2 by the HSA. This is 45% of the planned target.

A total of 1,442 agriculture inspections have been carried out to end of Q2 - 62% of target and the agriculture inspection programme will be complemented in the second half of the year by Discussion Groups held in cooperation with Teagasc.

Additionally, 15 farm talks were delivered to agriculture groups up to Q2 2015.

The HSA is continuing to prioritise activity in construction - a total of 1,682 construction inspections and 193 investigations were carried out to the end of Q2, 60% of the targeted number.

Support to Business

The construction module of BeSMART was launched on May 26th by Minister Nash, delivering on a commitment under the Action Plan for Jobs. Already some 175 risk assessments have been completed online. Initial feedback from the construction sector users has been very positive. A tool box talk kit (onsite health & safety advice forum) for the Construction Industry was also published simultaneously by the HSA.

A Safety Representative Resource Book was launched by Minister Nash on the 28 April 2015. The publication not only provides all the information needed for a safety representative to carry out his or her role effectively, but is also a valuable resource for employers and occupational health and safety advisers.

The new Agribusiness module of BeSmart is on schedule for launch in Q3.

There have been a total of 213,800 visitor sessions to the BeSmart website up to end of Q2; with 25,953 of these sessions in 2015. Work continues on increasing the range of businesses and options available in BeSmart for all the sectors covered so that by end of Q2, a total of 18 new business types and 50 risk assessments had been added.
A One Stop Shop event was held in Waterford on April 30th with over 200 participants in attendance and 25 different State agencies. The next event is scheduled for Drogheda on October 8th.

The HSA held a very successful work related vehicle safety campaign on July 2nd together with the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), RSA and the Gardai, at which Minister for Transport Donohue attended.

In addition, the HSA delivered on a commitment under the Action Plan for Jobs with 3 new E-learning modules covering small business start-up, employers and employees being made available on the HSA’s e-learning website (www.hsalearning.ie). It also offers a range of e-learning courses covering work related vehicle safety etc. Future modules on chemicals and bullying are in the pipeline.

Chemicals Policy

At the end of Q2, the total number of inspections and audits completed by the chemicals inspection teams totalled 668 (38% of target). In addition, 63 investigations were also completed.

The HSA completed its countdown to the CLP Regulation introduction date of 1 June with campaigns targeted at industry sectors. An awareness raising campaign (#readtheback) was launched in June to coincide with the new labels that became visible on consumer chemicals from 1 June.

Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB)

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the national body with responsibility for the accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies. It provides accreditation in accordance with the relevant International Organisation for Standardisation ISO 17000 series of standards and guides and the harmonised EN 45000 series of European standards. As part of Forfas dissolution INAB functions transferred to the HSA in autumn 2014.

During 2015 the INAB function of the HSA has maintained accreditation of existing 207 clients and has completed 129 onsite assessments to date. Some 79 new accreditations have been awarded across all sectors in 2015, particularly in the environmental, medical and food sectors. INAB will continue to make improvements to its service to existing clients and stakeholders through ICT enablement by year end.

The Competition & Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)

Subhead C8 of the JEI Vote relates to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC). The CCPC was established on 31 October 2014 through the amalgamation of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency as provided for in the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014. Under the Central Bank Reform

1 Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation
Act 2010, the consumer information and education functions carried out by the former Financial Regulator were formally transferred to the former NCA with effect from 1 January 2011. The CCPC’s financial services function is funded by a levy imposed by the CCPC on regulated financial service providers.

CCPC Strategy Statement 2015-2018

Under the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014, the Commission is required to submit to the Minister a Strategy Statement covering a three year period. The Commission’s Strategy Statement 2015-2018 was laid by the Minister before the Houses of the Oireachtas as required under Section 30 of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Act 2014, and it was then published by the Commission on its website www.ccpc.ie

Mergers

As of 25 August 2015, 47 mergers have been notified to the CCPC since 1 January 2015. This represents a significant increase on previous years and may reflect in part (i) an increase in economic activity and business confidence and (ii) changes in the turnover criteria for mandatory notification, introduced in the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014 and designed to focus the Commission’s attention on the impact of mergers within Ireland. For example, a number of mergers in the hotel sector have been notified to the Commission under the new thresholds which would not have required notification under the previous turnover thresholds. If this trend were to continue it is estimated that approximately 65 merger notifications could be made to the CCPC before the end of the year.

2015 CCPC activities year to date are as follows:

- Total helpline contacts: 22,557
- Total visitors to the consumer website: 812,216
- Facebook followers: 20,827
- The consumer newsletter is issued to 19,280 recipients per month.

The following Public Awareness campaigns, designed to inform and educate consumers about personal finance, ran in the first half of the year:

- Personal Finance: managing your money
- Personal Finance: savings
- Personal Finance: loans
- Consumer rights/Personal Finance: buying a car

Companies Registration Office – new Companies Act

Subhead C11 of the JEI Vote represents expenditure by the Companies Registration Office (CRO) and the Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS) on the delivery of the following core activities:
- Registration of new companies, societies, co-operatives and trade unions and issuing of certificates of incorporation.
- Registration of business names, limited partnerships and all company statutory filings.
- Registration of statutory annual returns of companies and societies.
- Enforcement of the Companies Acts to ensure companies and societies file their statutory annual returns correctly and on time.
- Provision of public access to company information via CRO website.
- Maintenance of the registers of companies and business names, the register of mortgages and charges and the register of auditors.
- Maintenance of the integrity of the CRO database.

The key block of work in 2015 is the implementation of the Companies Act 2014 which commenced on June 1, 2015. The Companies Act 2014 is the biggest reform of corporate law in Ireland in 50 years and to achieve the successful commencement and implementation of this Act, the CRO has:

- completed the development and publication of new forms, information leaflets and new website content,
- conducted an advertising campaign, continued to issue e-zines, and distributed a leaflet to every company director in the country,
- provided an enhanced helpdesk service for customers enquiring about the new Act.
- The CRO took the opportunity to review and streamline existing systems in order to further improve customer service options and to facilitate presenters filing documents.
- CRO has also modernised its e-filing environment, with new e-filing options made available during the first half of 2015.

Details of some of the CRO related throughput for the year to date are as follows:

**Compliance:**

To date, the CRO has received 81,523 Annual Returns.

**Electronic Filing:**

- 150,130 documents filed on-line to date in 2015
- 87% of all documents can be now be electronically filed.
- 9,000 sets of PDF accounts were filed in the first half of 2015

**Legal Standards and Enforcement:**

- 22 companies were prosecuted in the District Court, of which 15 were convicted, resulting in a total of €17,300 in fines imposed and €2,500 in costs awarded.
- 3,072 companies were involuntarily struck-off.
- 1,837 companies were voluntarily struck-off.
- 948 companies were dissolved as a result of liquidation.
Customer Service:

Approximately 19,532 phone calls were answered by the CRO Information Unit. The average waiting time was one minute and fifty-four seconds per phone call.

7,623 emails were received, with > 97% replied to within 8 working hours

Target turnaround times for processing documents were generally achieved though work on preparations for the new Companies Act has had an adverse effect on some processing targets.

Other Outcomes:

- 10,278 new companies were Incorporated
- 16,603 new business names were registered
- 290 companies were restored to the Register of which 64 were by High Court Order
- Appointments of Receivers were notified in respect of 171 companies

Since the CRO’s introduction of a new Auditor Registration Number (ARN) system in 2011, there has been an 80% reduction in the number of individuals signing audit reports when not qualified to do so, or fraudulently using the name of a registered auditor.

Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement

Subhead C7 of the JEI Vote relates to the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement. The purpose of this Subhead is to provide for the ODCE’s administration costs. The primary functions of the Director are to encourage compliance with the Companies Acts and to investigate and enforce suspected breaches of those Acts.

Criminal enforcement activity in the Office does not operate on a prosecution targets basis per se. Each potentially prosecutable case is assessed on its merits and the appropriate interventions then determined. However, at the start of the year, 12 civil and criminal cases were before the Courts and four were concluded, it is anticipated that some of the remaining cases will be disposed of during the year. In addition, other cases are likely to arise during the year.

The ODCE anticipates the receipt of in close to 900 initial liquidator reports during 2015. This would represent a further reduction on the corresponding 2014 figures. Most recent trends would seem to indicate that the modest downward trend in the number of insolvent liquidations may continue into 2016 due to the gradual pick up in the economy.

Arising from the liquidation-related work of the Office a large number of 182 directors were restricted or and 16 directors were disqualified during 2014 the year. However, the actual numbers involved are not yet available.
It is estimated that the Office will receive some 900 initial liquidator reports in 2015. The Office will be aiming to make determination of at least this number of reports during the year.

**The Low Pay Commission**

Subhead A13 relates to the Low Pay Commission. The principal function of the Low Pay Commission will be, on an annual basis, to examine and make recommendations to the Minister by mid-July each year on the minimum wage, with a view to securing that –

- the minimum wage is adjusted, when appropriate, incrementally and non-disruptively,
- the minimum wage is set at a rate that is both fair and sustainable, and
- the minimum wage is, when appropriate, progressively increased, if and insofar as current economic circumstances, and the conditions of the labour markets directly or indirectly affected permit, in particular, having regard to productivity trends, international comparisons, particularly in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the need for job creation.

The Low Pay Commission was established on an interim basis on the 26th of February 2015 and on a statutory basis from the 15th July 2015. The Commission is a nine member body comprising:

- an independent chairman,
- three members who have an understanding of the interests of low-paid workers,
- three members who have an understanding of the interests of employers, particularly small to medium-sized employers and those operating in traditionally low-pay sectors, and
- two members who have relevant knowledge or expertise in relation to some or all of the following; economics, labour market economics, statistics, and employment law.

The Commission’s first report was officially launched on the 21st of July 2015. The Commission has recommended that the hourly rate of pay for an experienced adult worker should be increased by 50 cent per hour from €8.65 to €9.15 – an increase of 6%. For the remainder of 2015 the Low Pay Commission will hold meetings in regional locations in the Autumn to hear from relevant stakeholders and those interested in the area of low pay. The Commission will also tender for surveys and research to be carried out on issues relevant to the area of low pay.
Departmental Administration

Overview

Administration accounts for approximately 4% of the 2015 Revised Estimates Volume and relates to the pay and non-pay costs of the Departmental business units, which are staffed by civil servants. These business units carry out policy and legislative activity and the direct delivery of certain front line services (e.g. Employment Permits, Export Licensing). Many of these business units are also engaged in EU related activities. In addition, certain corporate units provide necessary support services, including ICT, HR, organisational support and financial administration. Output targets as published in the REV that reflect the work of policy business units are described below. While specific output targets are not published in respect of support activities, these activities are essential to ensure the effective delivery of the High Level Goals and outputs set out in the Programme Areas identified in this document.

The Pay and Non-Pay costs of these policy and support services within the Department are represented in the REV in Section (ii) according to their category of cost e.g. Salaries, Travel and Subsistence and have been apportioned across the three Programme Areas under the headings Administration Pay and Administration Non-Pay.
The Department’s 2015 Administration allocation reflects a number of key changes over the 2014 allocation, namely the transfer of administrative costs associated with the integration of Forfás into the Department, additional administrative costs associated with a new Construction Contracts Adjudication Service function for which the Department has assumed responsibility and additional funds allocated to the Advertising budget which have been provided to cover the costs of an enhanced informational campaign to raise awareness of Government enterprise supports and drive take-up and understanding of the various enterprise initiatives under the Action Plan for Jobs.

Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation

8th September 2015
Appendix 1  
JEI Subheads

Programme A  
Jobs & Enterprise Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subhead</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the payment of Salaries, Wages &amp; Allowances to staff of this Programme. It should be noted that there is an extra Payroll fortnight in 2015 (27 paydays v the &quot;normal&quot; 26), hence the increased Pay provision in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the administrative costs of this Programme. All expenditure is Current Non-Pay related.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Following dissolution of Forfas on 31st August 2014, in 2015 this Subhead now refers to Agency Legacy Pensions and the funding being provided is to pay for the pensions of former enterprise agency staff (circa 1,250) with 200+ others on preserved pension benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>The purpose of this subhead is to provide a contribution towards the programme and operational costs of InterTradeIreland, the Trade and Business Development Body based in Newry, Co. Down. Funding is provided on a 2:1 ratio with the Northern Ireland administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>This subhead finances IDA Ireland’s administration expenses and core marketing activities. The allocation covers items such as pay costs, marketing, consultancy, promotion and advertising expenses, which are crucial to attracting foreign investment. It also provides funding to IDA client companies in the form of employment grants, grants for fixed assets and R&amp;D grants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>Formerly the Shannon Development subhead (dissolved in Sept 2014). From 2015 the A6 subhead is now the &quot;Export Credit Insurance&quot; subhead – though there is no required funding in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>This subhead funds the costs of Enterprise Ireland’s administration, including pay and other staff costs, consultancy, and promotion and advertising costs associated with the agency’s activities. Monies are also provided under this subhead relating to indigenous industry projects and are paid out in grants, equity/seed and venture capital investments and contributions to third party agencies. Payments are made on the basis of full compliance with conditions associated with the funding approval. A grant is also provided under this subhead in respect of Enterprise Ireland’s own building needs (maintenance, etc.), and the purchase of technical/computer equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>This Subhead – Local Enterprise Development - funds the activities of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>This subhead covers costs that might arise for Ireland as a consequence of the formal closure process of the EU Productive Sector Operational Programme 2000-2006 which is EU co-financed under the European Regional Development Fund. This is a necessary Subhead to meet with EU requirements, a small annual provision is required until formal closure of the PSOP 2000 - 06 is determined by</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interreg Programme is a Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region and Western Scotland. The overall aim of the programme is to support strategic cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. This subhead covers Ireland’s contribution to the Enterprise Development strand of the programme.

This subhead provides Exchequer funding towards the cost of payroll, administration/general expenses and capital costs of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

Temporary Partial Loan Guarantee Scheme

This Subhead provides for the annual subscription for the World Trade Organisation which transferred from Foreign Affairs in 2013 and the subscription for OECD’s Co-operative Action Programme on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED).

This subhead covers the costs of Commissions and Committees such as the Department Audit Committee.

This subhead covers the cost of miscellaneous payments which may arise across this Programme. It is prudent to make contingency provision for possible legal costs that might arise in year.

Programme B Innovation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subhead</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the payment of Salaries, Wages &amp; Allowances to staff of this Programme. It should be noted that there is an extra Payroll fortnight in 2015 (27 paydays v the “normal” 26), hence the increased Pay provision in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the administrative costs of this Programme. All expenditure is Current Non-Pay related.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the administrative costs of the Patents Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>Subhead B4 primarily covers the cost of Science and Technology programmes operated by Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Tyndall National Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5</td>
<td>This subhead provides funding for the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI) and other research activities. As a consequence of new EU regulations relating to EU Standards of Accounting all of the PRTLI provision in 2015 is regarded as capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6</td>
<td>This Subhead provides for the annual subscription which Ireland makes as a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the European</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC), the European Space Agency, EUREKA and COST. As a consequence of new EU Regulations relating to the EU Standards of Accounting all bar WIPO are now regarded as Capital investments by Ireland and the 2015 funding provision reflects this.

B7 This subhead covers the costs of Commissions and Committees such as the Department Audit Committee.

B8 This subhead provides for potential legal costs arising under Trademark legislation and the Copyright & Related Rights Act 2000. This subhead also covers the cost of miscellaneous payments which may arise across this Programme. It is prudent to make contingency provision for Legal Costs that might arise. In 2015 the significant increase in this subhead relates to the provision of c. €1.2m necessary to support the Unified Patent Court Referendum which (at the time of the 2015 REV in late 2014) looked likely to be a requirement in 2015. It is a matter for Govt and D/Taoiseach to decide on timing of this referendum.

Programme C Regulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subhead</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the payment of Salaries, Wages &amp; Allowances to staff of this Programme. It should be noted that there is an extra Payroll fortnight in 2015 (27 paydays v the &quot;normal&quot; 26), hence the increased Pay provision in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the administrative costs of this Programme. All expenditure is Current Non-Pay related.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>This subhead provides for the administrative costs of the Workplace Relations Programme which includes the Labour Relations Commission, the Labour Court, the National Employment Rights Authority, the Employment Appeals Tribunal, the Workplace Relations Project Office &amp; the Equality Tribunal. It should be noted that there is an extra Payroll fortnight in 2015 (27 paydays v the &quot;normal&quot; 26), hence the increased Pay provision in 2015. <strong>The Workplace Relations Commission will be formally established on 1st October 2015.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>This subhead provides a grant to assist the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in meeting the cost of its Education, Training and Advisory Services (ETAS), which provides training for union officials and activists in affiliated unions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>The purpose of this subhead is to provide funding to meet the running costs of the Health &amp; Safety Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>The Trade Union Act 1975 (as amended by the Industrial Relations Act 1990) was designed to facilitate trade union mergers by simplifying merger procedures and making grants available from the Exchequer towards the costs incurred by unions in the process. This subhead provides funding to cover such costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>The purpose of this Subhead is to provide for the administration costs of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subhead</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>In 2015 this subhead is now the &quot;<strong>Competition &amp; Consumer Protection Commission</strong>&quot; - an amalgamation of the former C8 and C9 subheads from 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>The purpose of this subhead is to make provision for pension payments made by the <strong>Personal Injuries Assessment Board</strong> to retired staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>The purpose of this Subhead is to provide a grant to the Consumers Association of Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11</td>
<td>The purpose of the Subhead is to cover the running costs of the <strong>Companies Registration Office and the Registry of Friendly Societies</strong>. Pay increase relates to extra pay fortnight in 2015. The Non-Pay increase relates to additional activity promoting the range of new aspects of foot of the Companies Act 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12</td>
<td>The purpose of the Subhead is to part-fund the activities of the <strong>Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA)</strong>, established under the Companies (Auditing and Accounting) Act, 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C13</td>
<td>The purpose of this subhead is to make provision for the Low Pay Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14</td>
<td>This Subhead provides for the annual subscription which Ireland makes as a member of the International Labour Organisation, the Hallmarking Convention and the European Association of Court Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C15</td>
<td>This subhead covers the costs of Commissions and Committees such as the Joint Labour Committees, the Company Law Review Group and the High Level Group on Business Regulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16</td>
<td>This subhead provides for potential legal costs arising for the Offices under the Regulation Programme. It also covers the cost of miscellaneous payments which may arise across this Programme.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>