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Minutes of Meeting

Advisory Group on Small Business

12th April 2017, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

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Attendance

Minister Pat Breen (Chair)
Nina Brennan, DBEI
Eoghan Richardson, DBEI
Garry Purcell, DBEI (Secretary)

Joe Kelly, National Association of Community Enterprise Centres
Patricia Callan, SFA
Martin Stapleton, IFA
John Dillane, Top Part Motor Factors
Elisha Collier O'Brien attending for Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland
Lorraine Higgins, Retail Excellence Ireland
Ciarán Casey, Office of the Dublin Commissioner for Start-ups
Neill McDonnell, ISME
Gail McEvoy, CPA Ireland

Apologies: Mark Christal, Local Enterprise Offices, Marie Bradley, Irish Tax Institute, Tim Fenn, Irish Hotels Federation, Karen Hennessy, Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

Eamonn Balmer of the Minister's Office attended the full meeting, as did Críona Brassil of our Tax Policy Unit who assisted with our considerations on our Budget Submission.

Opening:

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Minister Breen informed the meeting that Ciarán Casey of the Office of the Dublin Commissioner for Start Ups has stepped down from the group. The Commissioners Office is being wound down in its current form and the duties are being shared between the Digital Hub and the Ryan Academy.

Agenda Item One:

A presentation from Anne Lanigan, Manager of Enterprise Ireland's Brexit Unit on EI's recently launched online Brexit Tool. Followed by Q and A.

The free planning tool is available to all Irish exporters to the UK, not just EI and other State Agency clients. The initiative was welcomed by members.

Minister Breen asked AGSB members to assist in publicising the tool.

Agenda Item Two:

AGSB input into the Annual Budget Process.

Members had been asked to send suggested topics for inclusion in the AGSB's submission into the annual budgetary process. There was some discussion on members' suggestions, with a view to agreeing a smaller number of proposals to go forward into the final submission.