

Minutes of the Meeting
Advisory Group on Small Business (AGSB)
Tuesday 1st May 2018

Attendance

Minister Pat Breen (Chair)

Nina Brennan, DBEI

Eoghan Richardson, DBEI

Eamonn Balmer, DBEI (Minister's Office)

Laura Byrne, DBEI (Secretary)

Lorraine Higgins, Retail Excellence

Karen Hennessy, DCCOI

Sarah Freeman, Chambers Ireland

Joe Kelly, NACEC

Edel Gahan, IFA

Tim Fenn, Irish Hotel Federation

Linda Barry, SFA

John Dillane Top Part Motor Factors

In addition:

Felix O'Kane and Stephen Walsh (DBEI) attended the meeting for the discussion on the pre-budget submission.

Sean Hurley from the Department of An Taoiseach joined the first half of the meeting to give a presentation on GDPR and partook in a question and answer afterwards.

Eamonn Sayers, Manager of the Guinness Enterprise Centre, Pamela Newenham of Girlcrew and John Ryan from Loylap joined the first half of the meeting to give a synopsis of their roles in the Guinness Enterprise Centre and respective businesses.

Opening Remarks

Minister Breen thanked Eamonn Sayers for facilitating the group's meeting and the two client companies for giving their time to brief the group on their businesses. Minister welcomed Eamonn Sayers to give a presentation of the work of the GEC. Minister Breen commended the GEC for all their hard work and invited both client businesses forward to deliver their individual presentations.

Once the presentations were over, Minister Breen invited the table to engage with Eamonn, Pamela and John which proved a very informative session for all involved.

Main Points of each presentation were:

Eamonn Sayers GEC:

- Not for Profit Organisation
- Supported by DBEI Agencies and Dublin City Council
- Indigenous Irish registered companies
- Ready access to supports, programmes, business development
- Accelerated process of becoming investor ready and securing finance
- Work alongside start-up business advisors and seed capital investors
- Expansion project – 2 extra floors over the next 2-3 years will support 750 people

Girlcrew

- On-line platform via app, started originally on Facebook
- Free app for Female population age bracket 25-40
- Women seeking friendship
- Generate revenue through subscriptions, advertising, ticketed events
- 100,000 membership worldwide

Loylap

- Fintech company delivering a Cash payless system
- Designed uniquely to clients' needs
- Currently employing 14 staff
- 80% export product from Dublin
- 500,000 users
- Example clients: AIB, Central Bank, Bannatyne Health Spas (UK)
- Concerns identified for their business: Payment Service Directive 2 and GDPR

The following topics were discussed in detail, main points and actions are attached as follows:

GDPR

- Sean Hurley from the Department of An Taoiseach provided a concise presentation and remained for a question and answer session
- Rules already in existence but not enforced prior to 25th May 2018
- Only keep personal information if required
- Lots of scare mongering – leading to so called GDPR experts
- Fear factor real - Fine of 4% of global turnover
- DPC – seeking compliance and deliver knowledge – no fine led
- Noted comments from around the table:
- Difficulties accessing the DPC
- Conflicting information
- Age of consent is 13

Actions:

- Put on as an Agenda item again for further discussion, ask Data Protection Commission to attend and engage with the group

Pre-Budget Submission

Three Principle items agreed upon:

- High income tax on low income
- Entrepreneurial relief of Capital Gains Tax
- Pay harmonisation between employees and self-employed

OECD – Country Review of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies and Issues in Ireland

Minister briefly reminded the group about the current review, noting that the Secretary General, **Mr José Ángel Gurría** had visited Dublin as recently as March. Ireland is funding the OECD to carry out this review in conjunction with DBEI.

Eoghan briefly outlined the setting of the upcoming OCED mission week in Dublin:

- The event will take place in DBEI, Davitt House, Dublin from Monday 18th June until Friday 22nd June.
- The AGSB are invited to participate in a group setting with the OECD secretariat and their four expert guests.
- The session may last approximately 2-3 hours and all input is welcome to assist the OECD

Actions

- Request for as many members to attend as possible

AOB – Actions/Requests

Future Agenda Requests

- PAYE Modernisation
- GDPR
- Health & Safety and Wellbeing in the workplace
- Hospitality Sector
- Insurance Costs
- E-commerce online vouchers
- National Digital Strategy

Next AGSB Meeting

Minister Breen proposed the next meeting to be held in September, outside of Dublin, mindful of a proposed Agenda discussion request focusing on the Hospitality Sector.

August 2018

Laura Byrne (Secretariat)
Entrepreneurship and Small Business Policy Unit