

Call for Expressions of Interest

Member of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment invites expressions of interest for consideration for appointment as a Member of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) – Business Sector Expertise

A. National Competitiveness and Productivity Council

Members of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) are drawn from civil society (e.g. union representatives, business representatives, businesses, and academia) and must have an interest in, and understanding of, the factors that affect the competitiveness of the Irish economy and the policies that can influence its productivity levels.

The forerunner to the NCPC, the National Competitiveness Council (NCC), was established by Government in 1997. Its re-designation as the NCPC in 2020 followed on from the Government decision to designate the NCC as Ireland's National Productivity Board (NPB) in line with the European Council recommendation in 2016 that all euro area countries should have an NPB with responsibility for analysing developments and policies in the field of productivity and competitiveness.

The NCPC reports to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, on key competitiveness issues facing the Irish economy. It offers recommendations on policy actions required to enhance Ireland's competitive position.

B. The Operation of the Council

Each year the Council publishes an annual report for Government on the key competitiveness and productivity challenges facing the Irish economy and suggests specific policy actions to address these challenges.

As part of its work, the NCPC also periodically publishes:

- Competitiveness Scorecard;
- The Costs of Doing Business report;
- Productivity Statement; and,
- Series of competitiveness bulletins and other papers on specific competitiveness and productivity issues.

Some examples of the topics that NCPC research and publications have addressed in recent years include:

- Economic Concentration;
- Housing Affordability;
- Harmonised Competitiveness Indicators;
- Exchange Rates and Competitiveness;
- Insurance Costs; and,
- Legal Costs.

The Council's major reports are submitted to Government for noting prior to publication.

All NCPC publications can be found on the NCPC website at:

<http://www.competitiveness.ie/Publications/>

C. Conditions for Members

Time Requirement

The NCPC meets in plenary session 3-4 times a year and meetings usually last 2-3 hours. Members are expected to read draft research documents that are circulated a week in advance and comment on them at the meeting.

Remuneration

There is no fee for attending NCPC meetings. Travel and subsistence expenses can be claimed through the Finance Unit, Corporate Services, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment for expenses incurred in travelling to meetings.

Secretariat

The Secretariat to the NCPC is provided by the Competitiveness and Productivity Unit, in the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

D. Expressions of Interest – Appointment as Member of the NCPC with Business Sector Expertise

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are now being sought from suitably qualified persons with business sector expertise for consideration for appointment as a Member of the NCPC to represent employers for a period not exceeding 6 years.

These persons should be at an appropriately senior level and would ideally be economists, or individuals who have a direct experience of competitiveness and productivity issues from a business perspective.

As evident from the work programme of the Council and its publications (see Section B above), this involves the Council and its members considering and commenting on a wide range of important national and sectoral policy issues.

The members of the NCPC are appointed by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

The Minister shall have regard to the particular skills, knowledge and abilities of applicants when making appointments to the Council. Along with the desirability for gender balance and regional and international perspective on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate.

Although the NCPC is not a State Board, applicants should be aware of the contents of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in order to ensure adherence to best practice. All members of the Council should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interests of the NCPC, subject to the objectives set by Government. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 provides a framework for the application of best practice.

Desirable attributes include but are not limited to:

- demonstrated understanding of the factors that affect the competitiveness of the Irish economy and the policies that can influence productivity levels in the economy;
- experience of effective leadership at a senior level in an applicant's area of expertise;
- demonstrated understanding of the policy development process;
- experience representing business interests in a public policy context;
- critical thinking skills with a proven ability to grasp the detail of a wide range of issues; and,
- experience of participation on similar committees or groups.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to recruitment@competitiveness.ie

An expression of interest should include:

- a cover letter expressing interest and outlining suitability and relevant experience for the role; and
- a detailed CV.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **15.00 Friday 30 April 2021**.

Selection Process

An Assessment Panel (the 'Panel') will be convened to consider and assess the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet.

The Panel will arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates (based on the information provided by the candidates) to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

Questions and Inquiries

If you have any questions or require any clarification related to this call for expressions of interest, please email recruitment@competitiveness.ie