



Appointment to the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council:

Persons with experience and competence in domestic or international macroeconomic or fiscal matters

Closing Date: Midnight on 3rd September 2015

StateBoards.ie, as part of the Public Appointments Service, is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

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State Boards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Location: Meetings will be in Dublin.

Number of Vacancies: 2

The term of office of one vacancy will be effective immediately and will expire on 31 December 2015. Subject to approval by the Minister for Finance, the person appointed to fill this vacancy will be automatically reappointed for a further term of four years with effect from 1 January 2016.

A further position on the Fiscal Council will be vacated at the end of 2015, and the successful candidate for this vacancy will be appointed for a four-year term with effect from 1 January 2016.

Remuneration: €11,970, where applicable (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are provided for under statute, e.g., the appointment of Worker Directors).

Time Requirements: Monthly Board meetings with additional commitments (see Section 2 - below)

1. Background

The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in being appointed to fill two vacancies for Members of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. The Fiscal Council is independent in the performance of its functions.

The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council is an independent statutory body with a range of functions specified under the [Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012](#) . These include:

- Endorsement of, as it considers appropriate, the macroeconomic forecast prepared by the Department of Finance on which the Budget and Stability Programme Update are based.
- Assessment of the official forecasts produced by the Department of Finance. These are the macroeconomic and budgetary forecasts published by the Department twice a year.
- Assessment of whether the fiscal stance of the Government is conducive to prudent economic and budgetary management, with reference to the EU Stability and Growth Pact.
- Monitoring and assessing compliance with the budgetary rule as set out in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The budgetary rule requires that the Government's budget is in surplus or in balance, or is moving at a satisfactory pace towards that position.
- In relation to the budgetary rule, assessment of whether any non-compliance is a result of 'exceptional circumstances'. This could mean a severe economic downturn and/or an unusual event outside the control of Government which may have a major impact on the budgetary position.

The Fiscal Council comprises five Council Members and a Secretariat of five. Further information about the Council, its work and its publications may be found on its website – www.fiscalcouncil.ie.

2. Time commitment

Council Members are expected to participate at monthly full-day Council meetings, as well as some additional meetings relating to the endorsement of the Budget and Stability Programme Update forecasts and to appear before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform. Council Members have responsibilities both as Members of the Council and to input into and review the Council's substantive work.

3. Person Specification

Expressions of interest in serving as a Member are being sought from persons with relevant skills, knowledge and experience in domestic or international macroeconomic or fiscal matters.

In particular, skills, knowledge and experience in areas relevant to the Council's statutory mandate are being sought. These include:

- significant experience with macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasting;
- familiarity with domestic and/or European fiscal frameworks; and
- significant experience with macroeconomic and/or fiscal policy analysis

In respect of the position to be filled with immediate effect:

- This also involves chairing the Audit Committee. As such, experience with the governance requirements for a statutory body and willingness to serve on the Council's audit committee would be a significant advantage.

Applications from both Ireland- and international-based candidates are welcome.

In accordance with the [Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012](#), the term of office for the appointed Board Member is four years from date of appointment.

Members may be re-appointed by the Minister for another term.

4. Submitting your expression of interest

If you are interested in this position, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found on www.stateboards.ie. Please note that the questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an expression of interest - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in Section 3 - Person Specification in this booklet.

If you decide that you wish to be considered for appointment, we welcome you submitting your expression of interest via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your detailed Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

- 1. Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Board position(s) specified in this booklet, and*
- 2. That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board.

5. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the "Panel") will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the expressions of interest received by the PAS via www.stateboards.ie. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role;
- assess potential appointees further, once they meet the specified appointment criteria, by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - Meeting/conference call; and/or
 - Referee checks;
 - Any other selection method deemed appropriate.
- compile a list of people deemed suitable for appointment which will then be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

6. Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

For further information on Data Protection please follow the [link](#)

The Public Appointments Service thanks you for your interest in State Board appointments

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your expression of interest

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

- i. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
- ii. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
- iii. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
- iv. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page
- v. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to create one.
- vi. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
- vii. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
- viii. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
- ix. You will receive an email confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.