



**An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta**
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

SME and Entrepreneurship Taskforce

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
Kildare Street, Wednesday 21 February 2024, 1pm -
3pm

Attendees

DETE:

Minister Simon Coveney
Minister Dara Calleary
Minister Neale Richmond
Pauline Mulligan
Dermot Coates
Brian Walsh
Fiona Campbell

Taskforce Members:

Leo Clancy
DC Cahalane
John Cunningham
John Donoghue
Erik Jentetics
Veronica Murphy
Paula Fitzsimons
Sharon Higgins
Tommy Gill
Neil McDonnell
Alison Cowser
Leo Clancy
David Broderick
Brian Caulfield
Kevin Buckley
Ian Talbot
Carol Gibbons
Elaina Fitzgerald

Secretariat:

Ross Church
Patrick Sinnott
Ashley Long
Cecile Lhullier

Opening Remarks

Minister Coveney welcomed the Taskforce members and thanked them for sharing their priorities for the year. The Minister suggested that it might be worth focusing on areas it is envisioned that progress may be made on during the coming 6 months.

Minister Calleary spoke about areas under his remit, providing members with updates that have occurred since the November meeting.

Minister Richmond reminded Taskforce members of the upcoming Enterprise Week on 4th March and encouraged Taskforce members to actively engage during the week.

Under the first main agenda item, discussion on the proposed priorities was opened by the Minister who invited contributions from Taskforce members. Members noted their views on the proposed priorities, some of the main issues discussed focused around tax, red tape, insurance, supports, mentoring and labour costs. An agreed list of priority areas for 2024 is included as Annex I.

Under the second agenda item on the cost of business, Minister Coveney opened the discussion and outlined the steps that Government has taken to alleviate cost pressures on businesses. DETE official Dermot Coates provided technical details on the Department's research related to the Increased Cost of Doing Business. The presentation included some insight to the areas that had been considered when reviewing the cost of doing business. The report will shortly be published following its consideration by Government.

Taskforce members then had a discussion on the cost of doing business and provided examples in this regard.

Closing Remarks

Minister Coveney noted the priorities that are to be agreed as the focus of the Taskforce in 2024, pointing out the addition of Inclusive Entrepreneurship as a new priority. The Minister closed the meeting by thanking members for their positive and useful engagement.

Annex I

Taskforce Priorities for 2024	
1.	Access to Finance (including funding and insurance)
2.	Digital Transformation
3.	Increasing first time exporters & Enhanced assistance for high-potential businesses
4.	SME Management Skills
5.	Reducing the regulatory burden for SMEs & Cost of doing business
6.	Delivery of the National Enterprise Hub
7.	Ireland's climate ambitions
8.	Inclusive entrepreneurship
Priorities to keep a watching brief on	
	Clustering and Networks
	Ensuring comprehensive enterprise agency coverage for SMEs
	Promoting SME participation in public procurement