**Implementation Body Publishes Third Annual Progress Report**

The Implementation Body for the *Public Service Agreement* (‘Croke Park’ Agreement) published its third annual report today. The report includes the Body’s assessment of progress following its review of the Agreement and covers the 9 month period from end Q1 2012 – Q4 2012.

The report found that €161m in Exchequer pay bill savings were achieved in the reporting period, while non-pay or administrative efficiency savings totalling €169m were also reported to the Body. This brings the total pay and non-pay savings achieved under the Agreement to approximately €1.8 billion since 2010.

Speaking following the publication of the Report, the Chair of the Implementation Body, Mr PJ Fitzpatrick said:

*“Our latest report affirms the considerable progress that has been achieved across the sectors of the public service under the Croke Park framework in terms of leveraging savings, reforming work practices and reconfiguring services to the public”.*

The Chair acknowledged the continued co-operation of unions and staff across the public service in supporting implementation of the Agreement and the maintenance of industrial peace.

The Chair concluded by saying:

*“This has been, and continues to be, a particularly challenging time for the Irish public service. It is clear to the Body that the Agreement has been very effective at facilitating the delivery of very necessary cost reductions, while, at the same time, enabling the introduction of much needed reform. The progress that has been made over the last three years provides a very solid foundation for the new Haddington Road Agreement.”*

Date: 03 July 2013

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

The Public Service or ‘Croke Park’ Agreement provides for an annual review focusing on the sustainable savings generated from the implementation of the Agreement and of the agreements in each sector of the public service. This is the third and final such Review and was undertaken by the Implementation Body which is charged with driving the delivery of the commitments under the Agreement. A report from Grant Thornton on independent verification of reported savings from three sample projects is being published in tandem with the Body’s report.

The review covers the 9-month period from April to December 2012.

**Implementation Body**

The Implementation Body was established in July 2010 and Mr. P.J. Fitzpatrick was

appointed as non-executive chairman. Membership of the Body comprises of

representatives of public service management and the Public Service Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The secretariat is located in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The Implementation Body has now completed its work. The *Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2016* came in to force from 1 July 2013 and new oversight arrangements for that Agreement have being developed.

**Key Findings of the Report**

* The Implementation Body reports that exchequer paybill savings of €161m were achieved during the 9 month review period to end December 2012 (or €214m on an annual basis).
* Non-pay or efficiency savings of €169m have been reported to the Body (or €236m on an annual basis).
* Total pay and non-pay savings since the commencement of the Agreement in 2010 and noted in the Implementation Body’s three annual reports amounts to approximately €1.8 billion.

**Implementation Body’s Overall Assessment**

* The Agreement continued to be an effective enabler for the implementation of reform and change across the public service and that considerable progress has been made on the consolidation of the State’s fiscal position since the commencement of the Agreement. The Body considers that the Agreement has been a significant contributor to the progress made by facilitating a sustained reduction in public service costs, both in terms of pay and non-pay, in a climate of industrial peace.
* The Agreement continued to support the delivery of reform and the implementation of changed work practices across the public service.
* Given that the majority of commitments under the original sectoral action plans prepared under the Agreement have now being delivered, the Body recognises that the Agreement is in the final stage of its implementation lifecycle.
* The Body acknowledges the co-operation shown by the parties involved and highlighted the further changes and reform that have been achieved with the in such areas as redeployment, changed work practices and revised roster arrangements, the development of shared services, the reconfiguration of services and the restructuring/ rationalisation of organisations and offices.

The full report is available on www.implementationbody.gov.ie