

Lead topic: Public Expenditure & Sectoral Policy	Sub-topic ESRI	Contact: Larry Dunne Ext:6379
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FAST FACTS

- **Grant in 2014 €2.6m. (Approximately 25% of the Institute's income.)**
- **Total income in 2014 was €10.3 million.**
- **2015 Grant is €2.575m.**
- **ESRI is an independent research institute, a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee with no share capital.**
- **Employed some 100 staff**
- **The Institute enjoys full academic independence and is answerable ultimately to its subscribing members, currently over 300 companies and individuals.**
- **It is governed by a Council (the effective board of directors) of 14 members including the Director of the Institute, who is an ex-officio member.**
- **Apart from the Director, ESRI Council members are not remunerated.**
- **DPER is represented on the Council, by invitation. (Currently A/SEC from public expenditure side)**
- **The State is liable for ESRI staff pensions.**

Q&A'S

Q Why does your Department give funding to the ERSI?

A: The Institute receives an annual grant to support the scientific and public interest elements of the Institute's activities, such as:

- **Publication of the Quarterly Economic Commentary and the Medium Term Review and the maintenance and development of a macro-economic model;**
- **Bringing commissioned work to scientific and academic publication standard**
- **Methodological research;**
- **Publicising the ESRI's work in conferences, seminars etc.;**
- **Interacting with public and professional bodies, national committees, visiting delegations (IMF, OECD etc.);**
- **Participation in major EU supported projects and networks;**
- **Dissemination of publications at an affordable cost and free-to-download via the website.**

Q: Where does the ERSI get the majority of its income?

A: The 2014 grant of €2.6m represents approximately 25% of the Institute's income. The remainder comes from:

- major research programme agreements with government departments and state agencies;
- specific research projects commissioned by government departments, state agencies and international bodies such as the European Commission;
- membership subscriptions;
- sale of publications;
- sponsorship by Irish business.

Q Is the ERSI an independent body?

A: Independence is fundamental to the ESRI's role. It is guaranteed by a commitment to publish all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of which bodies or groups it might favour and the source of funding for its research. The Institute's constitution is also designed to ensure its independence.

Q: Is the ESRI a State body?

A: While the Institute was not established under statute and as such was not established as a state body, it has, in more recent years, been defined as a 'public body' for the purpose of specific legislation, including: *Ethics in Public Office Act 1995*; *The Official Languages Act 2003* and the *Prompt Payments Act 1997*. The Institute's accounts are audited by the C&AG the *Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993* and is under the remit of the *Ombudsman (Amendment) Act 2012*. In addition, under the *Finance Act 1994 and Taxes Consolidation Act 1997*, the ESRI has the exemption provided to non-commercial state bodies from certain tax provisions. In summary, the Institute is not a state body, but is treated as such for some aspects of its activities.

Q Is the Exchequer responsible for staff pension?

A: In 2009, ESRI employees were determined as liable for the pension levy under FEMPI legislation and became public servants with respect to pensions, with the assets of their pension funds transferred to the National Pension Reserve Fund (*Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009*) and the State accepting liability for the associated pension scheme. New employees enter the single public service pension scheme.

