

Lead topic Reform & Delivery Office	Sub-topic Public Service Debt Management Project	Contact: Kevin Daly Ext: 5473
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FAST FACTS

- The Public Service Debt Management Project involves the implementation of the recommendations contained within the BearingPoint Debt Management Review, which was published in July 2014.
- The Review analysed collection efficiency and effectiveness in a number of Public Service Bodies (PSBs), using the following as a sample of the type of monies collected by PSBs:

Public Service Body	Payments Analysed	Uncollected (Per Annum)
The Courts Service	Criminal Fines	€3 million
Local Government	Commercial rates.	€186 million
	Social housing loans.	€7 million
	Social housing rents.	€8 million
Health Service Executive	The €100 Emergency Department charge in hospitals. & €75 per day in-patient charge in public hospitals.	€12 million
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Overpayments of the Single Farm Payments.	€1.35 million
	Overpayments of the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) payments.	€0.46 million
Department of Social Protection	Overpayments of welfare and recovery of fraudulent welfare claims	€39 million

- An Implementation Project Board was established in early 2015, to progress the Reviews' recommendations.
- A Programme Leader has been contracted, to drive the implementation of debt collection reforms.
- The Programme Leaders' contract is for a 12 month duration and is valued at €118,035 (exclusive of VAT).
- A key recommendation of the Review was the establishment of a Central Collection Agency, this option will be re-considered by the Implementation Project Board in June 2016.

Q&A'S

Who is represented on the Implementation Project Board?

- The Board is chaired by Mr. Lorcan O'Connor (Director, Insolvency Service of Ireland) and is comprised of senior officials from:
 - Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
 - Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
 - The Courts Service
 - The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.
 - Local Government.
 - Department of Social Protection
 - Health Service Executive
 - Office of the Revenue Commissioners

When will the Implementation Project Board make their final report?

- June 2016.

What have been some of the project's key achievements to date?

- The Department of Social Protection are expected to achieve an increase in their collection levels of €10 million for 2015.
- The Programme Leader has undertaken a number of pilot projects with Local Authorities, to improve their debt management and collection performance.
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have introduced a new Collection Management System, to improve their debt management processes and increase their collection levels.