

Ethics Reform

In response to the findings and recommendations of the Final Report of the Mahon Tribunal a project is being progressed by the Department to develop an **integrated Ethics Bill** which will consolidate, modernise and simplify the existing legislative framework. The end result will be a much improved anti-corruption system in relation to ethics matters which will both control and regulate conflicts of interest in public life in Ireland.

Progress to date

Drafting of the general scheme of a Bill to overhaul the current ethics framework is at an advanced stage. The general scheme is a culmination of our review of the overall ethics framework, recommendations of the Mahon Tribunal and work done to consolidate, simplify and modernise the current framework. The new Bill aims to ensure the ethics regime positively supports and promotes ethical conduct, creates an environment in which ethical and conflict of interests are managed effectively and corrupt and unethical conduct are severely discouraged, and more likely to be detected and appropriately sanctioned.

Further work and consultation with the Standards in Public Office Commission, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Oireachtas are necessary on the proposed approach. We plan to bring a Memorandum to Government soon with the general scheme of the Bill. We will update the Government on progress made in relation to the new ethics framework including implementation of the Mahon Tribunal recommendations in that context.