

Rationalisation Measures

Progress to date

In the Public Service Reform Plan, launched in 2011, the Government set out 2 commitments in relation to rationalisation measures:

- (i) to implement 48 measures; and
- (ii) to critically review proposals for a further 46 measures.

The Department monitors the implementation of the rationalisation programme on a quarterly basis. Details of the latest progress on all of these measures can be found on the Department's website.

To summarise the situation at end Q4 2013:

Of the original 48 measures

All of these (involving over 100 bodies) have either been fully delivered or will be delivered this year, apart from the small number where the Government decided on reflection not to proceed (viz. the rationalisation concerning the National Cancer Registry and, in the Transport Sector, the merger of the Commission for Aviation Regulation and the Irish Aviation Authority).

Concerning the 46 critical reviews of further proposals for rationalisations:

- these reviews were completed;
- following detailed consideration of the reviews, in late 2012 the Government decided to implement 25 agency rationalisation measures (involving more than a further 100 State bodies).
- work on these measures is well underway and they are scheduled to be delivered during 2014;
- included among these are significant reform measures in the Local Government sector, which will result in the abolition of 80 town councils later this year.

Many of the measures involve changes to legislation. Much of this legislation has already been enacted. In instances where work on the legislation is still advancing, where possible the new administrative arrangements are being put in place ahead of the legislative changes. This facilitates the earlier delivery of the operational changes thus allowing the savings and other benefits to accrue.

The following are within the remit of the Minister for PER:

Merge Commission on Public Service Appointments with Ombudsman	Completed October 2012
Bring the Forensic Science Laboratory within the ambit of the State Laboratory	In train
Merge the Valuation Office, the Property Registration Authority and Ordnance Survey Ireland	In train