

Public Consultation Summary

As part of the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure (CRE) process, the public and interested parties were invited to submit comments and suggestions in relation to public expenditure and reform in the context of the review. Information on expenditure, including itemised programme level details and public service reform strands were provided to inform the debate. Over 60 submissions were received from a mixture of individuals and organisations which were considered by the relevant Government Departments as part of their CRE analysis. The submissions provided comments and suggestions in the following areas:

- Fiscal Policy
- Education
- Health
- Justice
- Defence
- Social Protection

A sample of the submission topics are provided below:

- Introduction of national medical prescription similar to the UK
- A full merger of the Naval Service and Air Corps to form a new integrated coast guard service
- Use of surplus tax money to help people repay mortgage debt
- Provide computer programming type teaching for all children from age 6
- Provide more money for home care with means testing of carers allowance
- Try to lessen comfort in jail to decrease offending, with standard punishments for each crime.
- More control on the way money is spent even at local level
- To put in place a student loan system similar to that of the United Kingdom
- Decrease social benefit for single and unmarried mothers
- Tackle Social Welfare tax fraud
- Ministerial travel expenses should be based on details of actual journeys.
- Abolish Income and Corporation tax
- Extend Overseas service to the Civil Defence for helping on civilian missions.

- Reform of Higher Education system including decreasing duplication of arts courses
- Contribute toward the €2 million required to build our new school.
- There needs to be more recruitment for the full time Gardaí and this process should be done at first internally from the ranks of the Garda Reserve (as they do in police forces in the UK),and after to the public
- Solve the problem of part jobs in the teaching profession by providing full hours to teachers who will have a living wage above the national minimum wage
- The abolishment of Severance pay to elected councillors as this payment is an unfair burden on the tax payers of the state
- Take control of Irish Water before costs spiral out of control
- Eliminate the requirement to erect signs every time we upgrade a road, water treatment and wastewater plant would save the EU/Ireland <500K every year.
- Confine the household benefit package e.g. free TV licence ,etc. to those pensioners who are exclusively dependent on state pension
- All County Town should have a Museum
- Lift the embargo on recruitment in the public sector.