

Public Consultation - Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity

Amid increasing global economic uncertainty – driven by a dynamic geopolitical backdrop and a rapidly shifting trading landscape – small, open economies like Ireland face very clear challenges. In recognition of this the Programme for Government 'Securing Ireland's Future' sets out a commitment to develop a new whole of Government Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity.

The aim of the Action Plan will be to boost innovation, investment and productivity in key areas of the economy to increase Ireland's international competitiveness and resilience in light of the evolving geopolitical and international trade environment.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on 20 June 2025.

1. [Optional] Please provide an email address.

2. What is your primary role or affiliation?

- ☐ Sole Trader
- ☐ Company Owner
- ☐ Company Director
- ☐ Employee
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☒ Other

3. In which region are you based?

- ☒ Dublin
- ☐ Rest of Leinster
- ☐ Munster
- ☐ Connaught

☐ Ulster

4. How many staff are employed by your organisation?

- ☒ < 10 Employees
- ☐ < 50 Employees
- ☐ < 250 Employees
- ☐ > 250 Employees

5. How old is your organisation?

- ☒ < 10 Years Old
- ☐ < 25 Years Old
- ☐ < 50 Years Old
- ☐ > 50 Years Old

6. What sector do you work in or are most familiar with?

- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Public Administration
- ☐ Information and Communication
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Construction
- ☒ Financial Services
- ☐ Education & Training
- ☐ Health & Social Care
- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Retail

☐ Hospitality

☐ Security

Action Plan

7. Please state the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Ireland is a globally competitive economy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ireland's competitiveness has improved over the last 10 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government policy has generally supported Ireland's competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What are the most important factors influencing Ireland's competitiveness? (Please choose a maximum of 3)

- ☒ Business costs
- ☐ Innovation
- ☒ Regulatory burden
- ☒ Infrastructure
- ☐ Access to finance
- ☐ Decarbonisation
- ☐ Access to skills
- ☐ Digitalisation

- ☐ Productivity performance
- ☐ Macroeconomic Stability/Certainty
- ☐ Other

9. What other strengths or weaknesses do you wish to highlight regarding Ireland's competitiveness and productivity performance?

A lack of access to financing presents a significant barrier to early-stage innovation, particularly for regulated businesses, which often face substantial compliance and setup costs even before commencing operations. In addition, many of our members continue to experience challenges due to the limited availability of suitable B2B banking services

Cost of Doing Business

10. Please state the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Government policy has generally supported enterprise in managing rising costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State regulations have played a major role in driving business costs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government policy has generally supported enterprise in providing training supports to staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Government policy has generally supported enterprise in securing access to finance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. What are the primary cost drivers for Irish businesses? Please rank in order of importance, highest to lowest.

- 1 Insurance
- 2 Input Costs - Goods
- 3 Energy
- 4 Leasing & Renting Costs
- 5 Labour
- 6 Cost of Professional Services (i.e. Legal, Accounting, Regulatory Compliance)

12. What other strengths or weaknesses do you wish to highlight regarding the Irish Government's response to rising business costs?

The high cost and limited availability of housing have wide-ranging effects on society and the broader economy, including Ireland's competitiveness and ability to attract talent and investment.



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