

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **PRESS RELEASE: NCPC Bulletin: Promoting Competitiveness in Ireland - 25 Years On**

Today (14<sup>th</sup> July), Dr Frances Ruane, the Chair of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC), issued the Council's bulletin Promoting Competitiveness in Ireland - 25 Years On ([here](#)).

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Competitiveness Council. Over the past two and a half decades, the Council has reported to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, on key competitiveness and productivity issues facing the Irish economy.

Each year the Council's Annual Report – *Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge* – identifies key priority areas requiring reform and offers recommendations on policy actions designed to enhance Ireland's competitive position and productivity performance. The areas prioritised over the decades reflect the different stages of the economic cycle as well as emerging structural challenges, such as education and skills; infrastructure; research, development, and innovation; and business costs.

The Council, recently renamed the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council to reflect its European role as Ireland's National Productivity Board, will continue to ensure a strategic focus on the competitiveness of the economy in the face of increased global and technological changes. It will draw on research evidence and expertise from the business, policy and academic communities and the social partners. The Council welcomes the Government's decision to prepare a White Paper on Ireland's enterprise policy and looks forward to contributing to the policy process currently underway.

*Dr Ruane said "Over the past 25 years the Irish economy has faced many challenges. The Council has played an important role in identifying the key priority areas where urgent reforms were required in order to ensure competitiveness and enhance productivity growth. Looking ahead the twin climate and digital transitions will fundamentally alter the world economy. The Council believes that Ireland must remain responsive and adaptable in order to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth and secure a higher quality of life for all of society."*

*Dr Ruane also said "We cannot be complacent and, in the face of global inflationary pressures, Government and enterprises alike must retain their focus on staying competitive. The past 25 years have shown us that there will always be challenges, from cost pressures to trade disruptions, from skills gaps to infrastructural deficits. We must continue to focus on the key foundations of Ireland's competitiveness performance and address areas where improvements are possible by our own actions. Doing this will help ensure that Irish businesses can compete successfully in international markets and protect the resilience of the Irish economy throughout the economic cycle"*.