

PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENTS TO STATE BOARDS:

5 February 2015: Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform launches new guidelines for appointments to State Boards and launches StateBoards.ie website

At an event at the offices of the Public Appointments Service this morning, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, TD, launched new guidelines governing the making of appointments to State Boards and a new website to facilitate applications for positions on State Boards www.stateboards.ie. The guidelines follow the Government decision of 30 September last year that appointments to State Boards should be made following an open and transparent process managed by the Public Appointments Service.

Central to this process is that vacancies on State Boards are advertised publically, that the criteria for appointment are clear, and that all expressions of interest received are assessed by the independent Public Appointments Service (PAS).

In support of this important reform in Irish public administration, the Public Appointments Service is launching a dedicated website at www.stateboards.ie.

Full details of vacancies on State Boards are advertised on www.stateboards.ie and applications can be made via the website. Importantly, the website also allows members of the public to register to receive email alerts when vacancies are published. Over time, the website will be developed to become a portal for all matters relating to State Board vacancies and appointments.

Speaking at today's launch, Minister Howlin said "I am confident that the establishment of a transparent, credible and robust process operated by the independent Public Appointments Service has a clear potential to yield a wide and deep pool of suitable candidates for appointment to State Boards."

The Minister went on to say "I am certain that the well-established record of the Public Appointments Service in assessment through expert, impartial and transparent means will serve also to assure the public as to the values that underpin the new appointments process."

Responding to the Minister's remarks about deepening and widening the pool of candidates for appointment, Ms. Judith Eve, Chair of the Board of the Public Appointments Service said "we regard this as a very important element of the new Guidelines and we look forward to playing an active role in facilitating broader participation on State Boards by people from across civil society." Noting that this reform process is not without its challenges, Ms Eve went on to say "As chair of Public Appointments Service, I am confident that our CEO and staff will rise to these challenges and will work effectively with the broad public administration system to deliver an effective and well-respected service in relation to State Board appointments."

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The Public Appointments Service (PAS) is the statutory body (established under new legislation in 2004) which provides recruitment services to the civil service and across the broad public sector, including senior posts in the health and local authority sectors.
2. PAS carries on the independent appointments role previously performed, since the foundation of the State, by the Civil Service and Local Appointments Commission.
3. New Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards can be found at http://www.publicjobs.ie/publicjobs/publication/document/Guidelines_on_Appointments_to_State_Boards_Jan2015.pdf
4. For press queries contact Pdraig Love, Public Appointments Service Pdraig.love@publicjobs.ie or 01 8587402