

Declaration on Public Service Innovation in Ireland

In order to better serve our people, the Irish Public Service needs to be highly innovative. Innovation does more than simply drive economic growth. It has the potential to solve some of the most pressing challenges that Ireland faces now and in the future.

This organisation declares to take the following actions to build a culture of innovation in our Public Service. We will:

Further endorse innovation as the responsibility of every public servant;

Enable, support, inform and equip our public servants to innovate in their roles;

Cultivate new partnerships and involve diverse views in problem solving and designing and delivering our public services;

Generate multiple options for existing and potential problems through exploration, experimentation, iteration and testing;

Provide insights into our experiences, best practices and lessons learned with other public servants in Ireland and abroad;

Share knowledge and data with citizens in an open and transparent way.

Innovation, experimentation and openness require constant effort and a certain degree of risk. As public servants, we must be ambitious, agile and collaborative to achieve meaningful and durable results. In doing so we should be open to progressive thinking in order to create a new and better future for all inhabitants of the State.

To solve difficult problems, we must rely on the diversity, ingenuity and creativity of the public and our fellow public servants. We must also be open to blue sky thinking in order to create a new and better future for our people. In times of considerable change and uncertainty, our greatest risk is refusing to take chances and try new things. We need a culture of innovation.

Innovation is now the benchmark in most scientific, business and social sectors. Embracing and enabling innovation is equally important in delivering public services and building inclusive, sustainable communities.

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