

Administrative Burden	Possible Solution	Possible Agenda Item	Source	w/in TOR	Refer to
Quantity and Complexity of Regulation, especially for SMEs	A Business Regulation Portal, simplifying access to key information	Presentation of Draft Portal to Members for input	RBE Group	Y	
Public Procurement not SME-friendly	Identify key action areas to make PP more SME-friendly	Update from Patricia Callan / Vincent Campbell	HLG Meeting	Y	
Draft Chambers Ireland suggestions					
Simplify R&D Funding Drawdown process under the RTI fund	<p>Currently with each tranche of a grant, EI requires that a firm must have each claim audited prior to EI sending in another auditor to check once more. This is a significant cost for firms engaging in R&amp;D.</p> <p>We would suggest that the profile of how paperwork is completed could be simplified to reduce the audit requirement to one external audit at completion with no need for an 'internal' EI Audit beforehand.</p>				
Planning Process	Ensure that all Public Planning inquiries follow a standard template.				
	implement Enforceable Timeframes for				

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	<p>Decisions</p> <p>Use the Oral Hearing Process Sparingly and Standardise Procedures</p> <p>While we welcome recent improvements of the Strategic Planning Act, the Oral Hearing process could be made more cost effective as an information gathering opportunity if it was used sparingly and as a complement to a written submission process.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the current rules for the conduct of Oral Hearings are not standardised and their conduct is at the discretion of the Inspector. The process, in terms of issues which can be raised, level of detail required, process of cross examination, third party and objector involvement etc. needs further clarity.</p> <p>Reduce the Costs of Planning Applications for Business</p> <p>The €100,000 application fee for strategic infrastructure projects should be reduced.<sup>2</sup> Uncertainty and delays in</p>				

<sup>1</sup> We note that Section 43 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 which was enacted in July 2010 amends section 135 of the Principal Planning Act to restrict the agenda of issues which may be considered during oral hearings of all cases before the Board.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/download/7775/Public-Part-Planning-BH-Nov-2009.pdf>, see slide 11

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	<p>the process acts as a disincentive to business and coupled with a relatively large application cost, potential investment can be lost. Given that An Bord Pleanála has the right to apply a condition of approval seeking costs from an applicant in respect of making a decision, a lower upfront fee would enable ABP to recoup its costs upon approval.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Improve Coordination Between Government and Private Sector Infrastructure Providers in the Project Development and Scoping Stages</p> <p>A fresh approach is needed to the way government does business with the private sector to meet the State's infrastructure requirements. There must be greater emphasis on the removal of barriers to private sector investment and the proper structuring of projects to ensure best practice outcomes for the State. Processes should aim to minimise transaction costs for the private sector, consistent with the need</p>				

<sup>3</sup> Furthermore The Planning and Sustainable Development (Amendment) Act 2010 allows ABP to charge developers additional costs on top of the EUR100k

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	<p>for attention to be given to requirements for competition, regulation or service standards.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Review the Third Party Appeals System</p> <p>Greater priority should be placed on third parties who can demonstrate that they may be potentially directly affected by a proposed development. If a party raises an issue that does not directly affect them, then it should not be considered by An Bord Pleanála. This would greatly reduce the number of 'principle' objections. We recognise that this change may give rise to constitutional issues which will need to be clarified.</p> <p>The provision of a 'one stop shop' for permitting strategic infrastructure is required. Much of the current difficulty with the delivery of large strategic infrastructure projects relates to the multiplicity of state agencies involved and permits required. The permits often overlap in terms of items of responsibility, and confusion frequently arises over the role of An Bord Pleanála</p>				

<sup>4</sup> For a good example see [http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/strategic\\_infrastructure\\_plan/discussion\\_paper](http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/strategic_infrastructure_plan/discussion_paper)

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	<p>versus other agencies (commonly the EPA, DoEHLG, DCENR, Energy Regulator etc). The Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanála was established to provide the “one stop shop” service referred to for all land use planning. Under the SI Act it assumed responsibility for consents previously authorised by the various planning authorities, and the Ministers for Transport, Communications, Energy &amp; Natural Resources. Further rationalization of the development consent processes needs to take place in the context of the drafting of the new planned legislation that will seek to integrate the foreshore consent process within the wider planning system.</p> <p>Finally, strategic Infrastructure legislation is only one component of the decision making system. It should also reinforce that decision making also requires a coherent set of policies in the relevant areas of infrastructure, environment and economic planning to act as a platform upon which reasonable and far sighted decisions can be made.</p>				

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Simplify the Seed Capital Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarify the process by which this scheme can be used</li> <li>2. Simplify the means by which a startup company is deemed eligible</li> <li>3. Set down timelines for the processing of applications under the scheme</li> <li>4. Promote the scheme more widely<sup>5</sup></li> </ol>				
Enforce Department of Finance Circular 10-10	Specifically the Government must ensure that Department of Finance Circular <i>10-10 Guidance Doc on SME participation</i> issued by the Department of Finance in October 2010 regarding how public procurement contracts should be awarded should be fully enforced and policed—especially by Local Authorities.				
Simplify and Consolidate Labour market Regulations Using TCA 97 as a template.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete the reforms of the labour market, specifically the major reforms of JLCs REAs and EROs with a view to preserving employment in those sectors</li> </ol>				

<sup>5</sup> See: <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it15.html>

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	<p>affected by these regulations;</p> <p>2. Set a date for consolidation of all labour market legislation with a view to decreasing regulatory burdens (as per the Taxes Consolidation Act of 1997)</p>				
<p>implement EU law to allow SMEs to utilise a cash accounting system.<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>While the Revenue Commissioners have implemented a cash accounting scheme, allowing companies to account for VAT on sale on the basis of payments received, rather than tax invoices issued it requires that annual turnover of the business must not exceed €1 million. This threshold is low in international comparison being approximately two-thirds of the thresholds that apply under the cash accounting schemes in the UK and Australia. Where a VAT-registered trader has an annual turnover exceeding €1 million, it can only apply the cash accounting scheme where its supplies goods or services that are almost exclusively (at least 90%) made to</p>				

<sup>6</sup> Article 66(b) of Directive 2006/112/EC permits Member States to use cash accounting. Directive 2010/45/EU of 13 July 2010 states in the recitals that Member States should provide for cash accounting: “to help small and medium-sized enterprises that encounter difficulties in paying VAT to the competent authority before they have received payment from their customers...This should allow Member States to introduce an optional cash accounting scheme that does not have a negative effect on cash flow relating to their VAT receipts.

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	<p>unregistered persons. This limits its application in practice to retailers and others business that sell to consumers. It does not assist the large number of SMEs with a turnover of over €1 million that carry out mainly business-to-business sales.</p> <p>Extend the scheme to businesses with a turnover of less than €2.5 million.</p>				