

# Ireland

## Public Spending Code



**TYPE OF TOOL:**  
*Methodology/  
guidelines*



**MAIN SECTOR:**  
*All sectors*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:**  
*Fiscal sustainability, affordability and  
value for money;  
Efficient and effective public procurement*

### In a nutshell:



**OBJECTIVE:** The Public Spending Code sets out the rules, procedures and guidance to ensure value for money in public investment across the Irish Public Service.



**Agency in charge**  
**DPER**



**Levels of government**  
**National and sub-national**



**Year of implementation:**  
**2012**



**Current status:**  
**Fully operational**

### Overview:

The Public Spending Code (PSC) is the "set of rules and procedures that ensure that these standards are upheld across the Irish public service." The PSC applies to both capital and current expenditure. It provides guidance on financial appraisal, economic appraisal, value for money reviews, use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and so on. It also provides supplementary guidelines for measuring and valuing changes in greenhouse gas emissions in economic appraisals. The guidance includes central parameters that should be used in economic appraisals and evaluations to ensure that there is consistency across the analysis being conducted. Such practices include Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA).

The PSC Guide to Evaluating, Planning and Managing Public Investment sets out the value for money requirements for public investment projects in Ireland. It recommends that government departments draw up their own sector-specific procedures for evaluating, planning and managing public investment so as to align with central guidance. The Common Appraisal Framework for Transport Projects and Programmes is one example of a sectoral framework that has been developed for appraising transport investments in accordance with the PSC.

In November 2021, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) introduced an External Assurance Process (EAP) for major public capital projects over €100m involving Independent Expert Reviews focused on issues such as cost, risk and ability to deliver at two key decision gates in the project lifecycle (Approval in Principle and Pre-Tender Approval).

#### REFERENCES:

- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, The Public Spending Code, <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/public-spending-code/>