

Strategy and Performance Division

Overview

Strategy and Performance Division is the focal point for the Department's implementation of its commitments under the Programme for Government as well as the broader public service reform agenda, including through membership of the Civil Service Renewal Task Force.

The Division reviews the Department's operations and systems at Headquarters as well as missions overseas and makes recommendations for improving their effectiveness and efficiency. It is responsible for supporting Business Planning and Risk Management across the Department as well as the Knowledge Management Taskforce which aims to ensure that DFAT is recognised in the public service as a leading learning and knowledge based organisation. The Division also participates, on the Department's behalf, in public service reform networks and cross-governmental process like the Department of Taoiseach led National Risk Assessment.

Key Issues

During the second half of 2014 the Division will lead in developing a draft of the Department's new Statement of Strategy (2014-2017) for approval by the Minister which will set renewed high level goals for the Department and set out how we plan to achieve them. This will be informed by the Review of Foreign Policy and External Relations (see separate note).

The Division supports and drives the work of the Knowledge Management Taskforce in reviewing and refining the business processes of the Department. Two completed project in this area which will be of direct relevance to the Minister are the electronic PQ management system and the mobile mail system.

Priority Knowledge Management projects for 2014 include one on the opening of the 8 new missions, development of a contact management system and a grant management system. Work is also continuing on an updated records management system for the Department which of relevance to the entire civil service. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform have indicated an interest in learning from our initial work on this.

Strategy and Performance Division contributes to, and often leads on, a range of reform process across the Department. The Division plays a major role on the ongoing work of the Department on Gender Equality and will be working to implement recent decisions by the MAC in this area in the months ahead including through the Department's new Human Resources Strategy.

The Division also has responsibility for the inspection of the network of Diplomatic Missions. These inspections aim to enhance the contribution made by Missions in pursuit of the Department's High Level Goals and to promote best practice in the management of resources. It is intended to inspect 12 missions during 2014.