

## Working for Change: How to Shape National Policies



Get the 'inside knowledge' you need to make your vision succeed with this workshop on how government works, how decisions are made and how policy is implemented.

### Course details

This half-day workshop will equip you with the knowledge and skills to identify how policy is made and how policy solutions can be progressed effectively. You will learn how government really works and how to identify who has the power to bring about changes you seek.

You will also learn how open government 'tools,' like Freedom of Information requests, can help increase the effectiveness of research, analysis and advocacy efforts. You will leave with the necessary knowledge and skills to devise and apply strategies for influencing public representatives and public bodies.

Participants will be introduced to:

- The institutions, stakeholders and decision-makers involved in making and shaping policies at national level.
- The Freedom of Information Act and how it can support analysis and strengthen advocacy.
- Case studies and practical exercises.

### Learning outcomes

Following this half-day workshop participants should be able to:

- Understand the 'big picture' of how policy gets made and who has the power to make change happen.
- Recognise opportunities to engage with decision-makers in developing solid cases for change.
- Identify key documents/records to support information, research or advocacy work.

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### Facilitator: Nuala Haughey



**Nuala Haughey** leads TASC's Open Government project. She has worked extensively with the European Commission and a range of international NGOs, delivering technical assistance and training as well as observing elections overseas.

Nuala was head of advocacy and research with Transparency International Ireland for two years until 2013, leading research on political party financing reforms, and measures to regulate lobbying and protect whistleblowers.

Nuala is a former news reporter and Social Affairs Correspondent with The Irish Times. She has a law degree (LLB) from the Queen's University Belfast and a Masters in Journalism from Dublin City University.

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## Following the Money: How to Understand and Influence Public Spending



**Understand public spending, get to grips with the Budget and learn how to influence decision-makers with this workshop designed for non-specialists.**

### Course details

This half-day workshop will show you that you don't need an economics background to understand public income and spending data, as you learn how to identify the parts of the annual Budget most relevant to your particular area of interest.

And most interesting of all, you'll also discover how you can influence key finance officials and policy makers who make decisions about how public spending is allocated.

### Participants will be introduced to:

- Basic concepts (and jargon) of public finance and public spending.
- A comprehensive overview of how public expenditure is raised and spending determined.
- Fundamentals of the annual budgetary process and the 'big picture' of public expenditure.
- Case studies and practical exercises.

### Learning outcomes

Following this half-day workshop, participants should be able to:

- Understand public income and spending data.
- Identify and analyse the parts of the Budget relevant to their area of interest.
- Frame their arguments in the language of money that finance officials and policy-makers understand.

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### Facilitator: Cormac Staunton



**Cormac Staunton** is a policy analyst at TASC. He spent ten years working for the international development and humanitarian NGO Concern Worldwide in a variety of roles in Dublin, New York and Africa.

Since joining TASC in January 2014, his work has focused on analysing economic inequality in Ireland, with a particular focus on the tax system.

Cormac has extensive experience in analysing public spending statistics and as part of TASC's budget and tax analysis he has made presentations and submissions to Oireachtas committees and official bodies. Cormac holds an MSc in Economic Policy, a post-graduate diploma in Statistics and a BA in Economic and Social Studies, all from Trinity College Dublin.