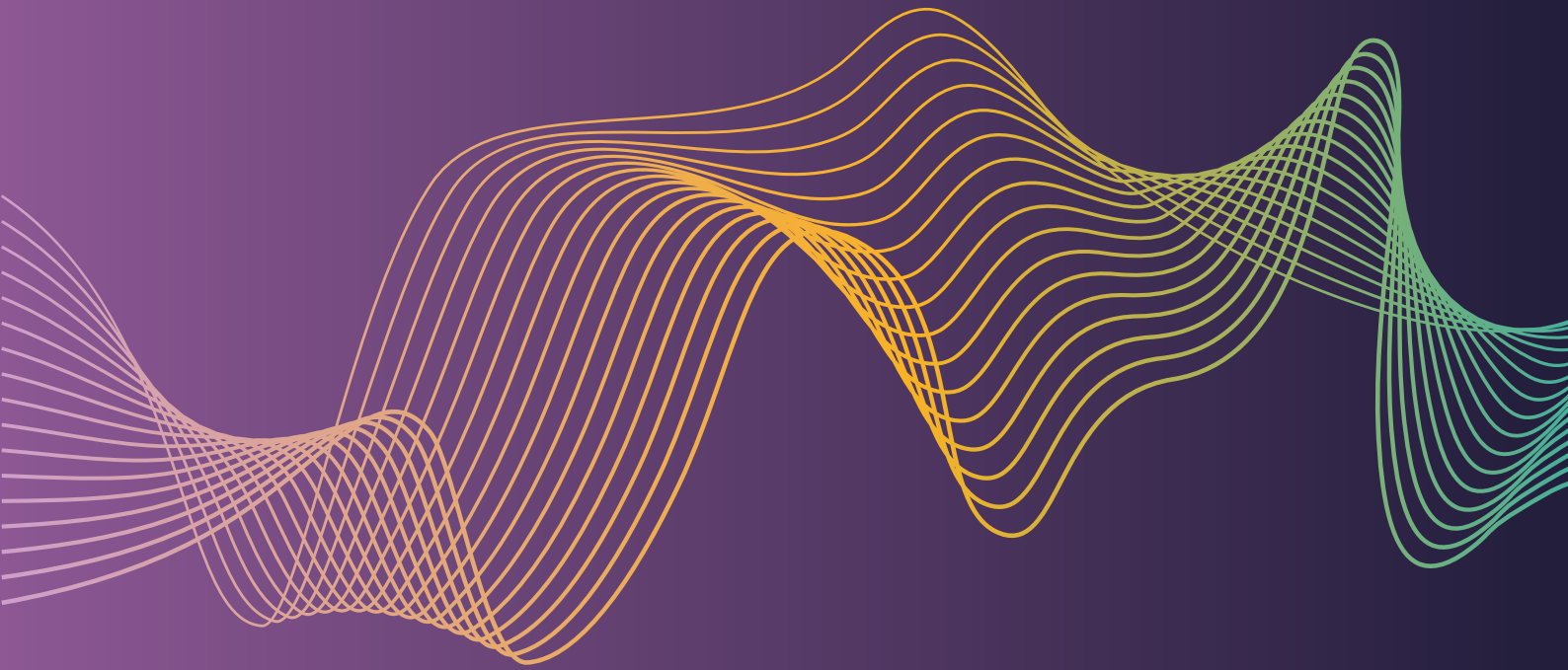




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IRELAND



# **A vote for a stronger future**

**General Election Manifesto**

# Foreword

When it comes to attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), competitiveness is key. Ireland has a strong track record of winning investment - its positive impact on our economy and society cannot be overstated.

However, the factors that have positioned Ireland as a destination of choice for FDI may not be sufficient to sustain future success. As global dynamics shift, Ireland must leverage its robust foundations to ensure it remains a key destination for FDI into the future. Looking to the future of US FDI, Ireland must be agile and adaptable in what it can offer. Competitor jurisdictions are consistently enhancing their offerings for investors.

Through the development of a programme for government, business will rely on government to deliver key priorities. These include infrastructure, securing reliable and affordable energy, talent attraction and skills development, enhancing the research and innovation ecosystem, promoting sustainability and protecting Ireland's position as a digital regulatory hub within the EU. Further, a new government must prioritise Ireland as a leader in AI, immersive technology, cybersecurity, digital manufacturing and digital public services.

Huge opportunities lie ahead. Realising Ireland's potential will require strategic choices backed by smart policy decisions. Capitalising on our strengths and offering an adaptable, future-focused environment, Ireland can remain at the forefront in the global race for talent and investment.

In addition, strengthening Ireland's enterprise ecosystem will boost indigenous innovation. Ireland is the seventh-largest source of FDI into the US. Our role as a key international partner of the US can be solidified and strengthened with a continued focus on the two-way transatlantic relationship.

With a renewed contender attitude, there will be a bright future for US investment into Ireland and for Irish enterprises expanding in the US. The next government must be ambitious in its approach to enhancing Ireland's competitiveness on the global stage. This will be essential to securing a prosperous future for all.



**Paul Sweetman**  
**AmCham CEO**



# Economic impact of US investments in Ireland

**970**

US operations in Ireland

**210,000**

people directly employed by US companies in Ireland

**168,000**

jobs indirectly supported in the wider economy

In 2022, US companies spent:

**€16bn**

on payroll

**€10.8bn**

on goods and services

**€14.2bn**

on capital expenditure

# Key Priorities:



## **Infrastructural development to provide capacity for future growth.**

- Ireland must address its infrastructural deficit to remain attractive for inward investment, including in housing, energy, water and wastewater, transport, and regional development.



## **Talent attraction and skills development to meet the needs of industry.**

- Supporting our education system and apprenticeship pathways will be crucial to skills development, while strategic policy decisions are needed to enhance research skills, ensure Ireland's visa and permit system is efficient, and the personal taxation system is attractive.



## **A competitive taxation system that caters for the requirements of 21st century business.**

- To ensure Ireland remains an attractive location for investment, enhancing supports such as the R&D tax credit will be essential, alongside the modernisation of Ireland's tax code to reduce the administrative and compliance burden placed on business.



## **Investment and resourcing in digital and cyber to support Ireland as a global leader.**

- With smart investments, Ireland can support the development of digital skills and literacy. Further, Ireland can leverage its position as a digital regulatory hub within the EU to lead on the delivery of digital public services, and harness the opportunities which exist in A.I., cybersecurity, data, digital, emerging technologies, including generative A.I., and immersive technologies.



# Building Ireland's sustainable future

Infrastructure delivery will be pivotal in supporting a secure and prosperous future for Ireland and in enhancing Ireland's competitiveness on the global stage. It is vital that a future government is steadfast in its commitment to addressing Ireland's infrastructure deficit to bring Ireland in line with competitor jurisdictions. This will be key in supporting business growth, attracting FDI into the future, and ensuring Ireland is a location where people and families want to live.

While Ireland is ranked 4th in the IMD World Competitive Rankings for 2024, it is in 17th position for infrastructure, and in terms of basic infrastructure, Ireland ranks 38th out of the 67 countries considered.<sup>[1]</sup> Tackling capacity constraints and infrastructural challenges represents a necessity in delivering economic growth for Ireland in the decades to come.

Ireland's infrastructure needs are predominantly related to housing, the planning system, water and wastewater, energy, and transport and these issues have a further impact on other key opportunities for Ireland, including talent attraction and skills capacity.

## Housing

Housing remains the foremost challenge, as identified by AmCham members, for Ireland to overcome to support future growth and investment.

Housing represents a crucial economic enabler for Ireland. Given that the future of economic investment will be as much about where people want to live, as where businesses wish to locate, ensuring adequate housing availability will be fundamental in attracting and retaining talent, and subsequently FDI, in Ireland. Housing was identified by AmCham members, in a recent survey, as the area of infrastructure development which requires the most urgent investment from government.

Delivering the necessary capacity for housing will be crucial in advancing Ireland's attractiveness as a destination for FDI and for talent. As such measures to address housing supply in both the private and rental markets must be reflected in any future programme for government.

<sup>[1]</sup> [Ireland - IMD business school for management and leadership courses](#)



## Planning

Infrastructural challenges in Ireland are underpinned by obstacles in the planning system. The Planning and Development Act 2023 represents positive progress in addressing planning issues, however further progress must be provided to support inward investment and the delivery of vital national infrastructure. Business requires certainty of process and timeframe, not certainty of outcome, when it comes to the planning process. In this context, the provision of resources to planning bodies, the revision of timelines on decisions to provide a more streamlined process, and greater triaging of critical infrastructure will be important in supporting Ireland's growth into the future.

## Energy

The cost and supply of energy security is essential to supporting Ireland as a base for enterprise. The delivery of affordable, renewable and secure energy will be integral to the continued attraction of FDI, the expansion of businesses currently located in Ireland, to Ireland's decarbonisation plans and to advancing the digital transition.

Ireland has huge potential when it comes to renewable energy, and the core challenge is now realising that potential. Concerted action is required to harness renewable energy sources, which will send a clear message to potential investors that Ireland will provide the supply necessary to meet their energy needs. It is fundamental that energy pressures, although not unique to Ireland, do not negatively impact on Ireland's reputation as a place from which to do business. In a recent AmCham member survey, 59% of respondents said that investing in renewable energy sources should be the top priority for Ireland regarding climate action. In that context, a future programme for government must clearly articulate Ireland's road of travel in relation to energy supply, and also the key performance indicators against which potential investors can measure Ireland's progress.

## Water and wastewater

In terms of infrastructure delivery, ensuring the necessary capacity exists in water and wastewater to provide for future growth of both housing and FDI investment in Ireland. Advancing the provision of water and wastewater will require both the necessary resources and the requisite capital investment to deliver critical projects.

Completing these essential capital projects to increase water supply and enhance wastewater capacity will be a significant element in sustaining Ireland's competitiveness. A resilient infrastructure system will provide investors with confidence in terms of supply and capacity for new projects and expansions. Therefore, it is important that commitments to essential infrastructure are reflected in a future government programme.





## Transport

Delivering transport infrastructure and essential connectivity will be crucial for Ireland to capitalise on future opportunities and to prepare for a growing population and new investments.

Transport infrastructure is key in supporting people as they travel to and from work, school, and university, and it plays a vital role in supporting businesses in moving goods efficiently. As an island nation on the periphery of Europe, Ireland depends on air and sea connectivity to connect with other markets. Air connections support the enterprise ecosystem and expand opportunities for Irish companies seeking international growth. Strong transport links are integral for resilient supply-chains, and amid an ever-changing geopolitical landscape, Ireland must invest in transport infrastructure to remain a key destination for FDI and business into the future.

## Air connectivity

As an island nation, air connectivity is vital to sustaining Ireland's links with international partners, both for the movement of people and goods. Ensuring the capacity of Dublin Airport is developed to provide for future growth is necessary for Ireland to retain its place as an investment location. Additionally, ensuring balanced air connectivity by supporting Ireland's regional airports, including Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Knock and Shannon is vital for providing Ireland's regions with significant access to global markets.

In aviation, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) has "the greatest potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from International Aviation", according to the International Civil Aviation Organisation. However, there are concerns exist around SAF production capacity within the EU, making it likely that Ireland will have to import SAF to meet industry demand. Ireland should therefore position itself as a competitive location for SAF imports. In terms of infrastructure, storage and blending facilities will be required for both imports and domestic industry.

## Regional development

Regional development is a key driver of Ireland's growth potential. With Ireland's regions already proving to be hugely attractive for inward investment, there is an opportunity to build on this success through strategic investment decisions. The natural development of clusters across regional locations has fostered innovation and enhanced Ireland's indigenous ecosystem. Given the success achieved to date, it is pivotal that the next government prioritises the delivery of critical regional infrastructure to further enhance the attractiveness of Ireland's regions for both talent and business.



## AmCham recommends commitments to the following in a Programme for Government:

- Continuously reassessing housing targets; with a view to the target of delivering "*housing to accommodate approximately 50,000 additional households per annum to 2040*" from the National Planning Framework being regarded as a floor for delivery rather than a ceiling.
- Increasing housing supply and accommodation levels in both the purchase and rental markets.
- Examining new and innovative methods of housing delivery to support cutting-edge housing solutions and ensure the most efficient methods of delivery are utilised.
- Continued reform of Ireland's planning system, building on progress made in the Planning and Development Act 2023, to further support certainty of timeframe and process on planning applications.
- Further strengthening the planning process with the provision of greater resources to planning bodies, and the implementation more efficient timelines for decision-making, and for the appeals process.
- Reviewing Section 173 of the Planning and Development Act 2023 to allow for an application to lift the automatic suspension of planning permission where a judicial review process is being pursued.
- Accelerating the development of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind, wave, solar and green hydrogen.
- Assessing green finance and sustainable investment in Ireland in terms of its competitiveness.

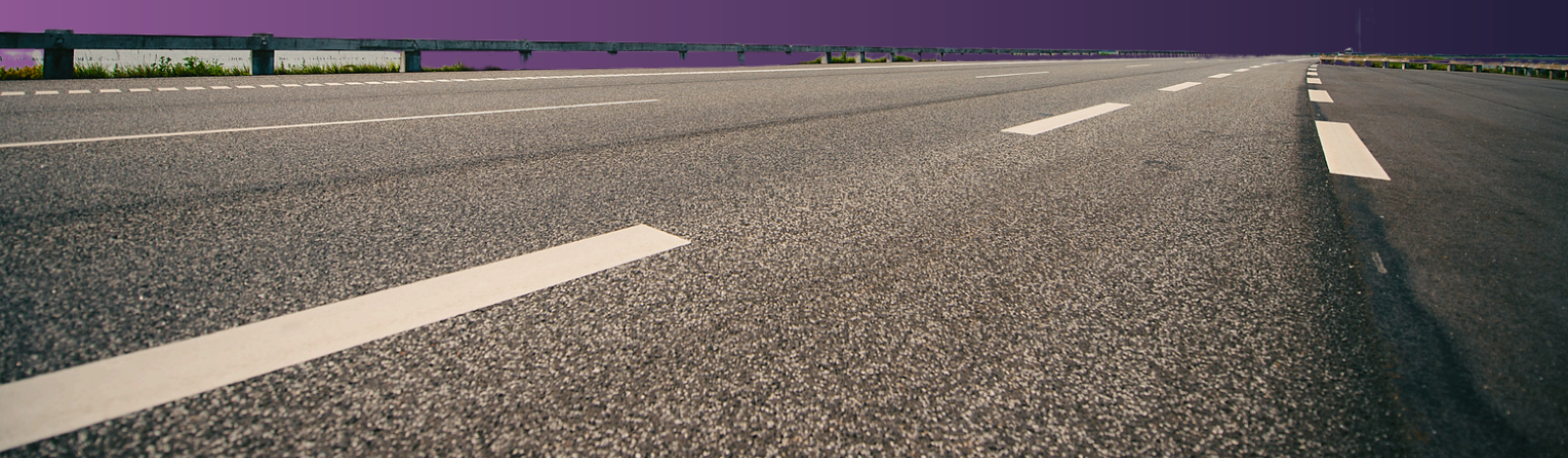


- Advancing a medium- to long-term strategy focused on energy self-sufficiency and exports.
- Providing strategic investments and loans to facilitate and support near-shoring of waste management infrastructure on the island, particularly for materials which are currently exported overseas and where a case can be made, with funding, to move that process closer to the point of collection.
- Accelerating and expanding investment in the energy grid to provide the capacity needed to cater for current and future power needs.
- Introducing increased electrical import capacities for large industrial users and the facilitation of those users with variable rather than fixed import capacities.
- Furthering the cross-border sharing of electricity and enhance interconnection.
- Introducing measures to allow multisite customers with onsite renewable generation, and demand side flexibility, to trade energy at no cost across the grid between sites.
- Facilitating off-grid private infrastructure development utilising private wires.
- Delivering increased investment in critical infrastructure projects to address existing capacity challenges and provide the necessary capacity to support future growth, with clear targets against which to measure progress.
- Delivering the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region and the Greater Dublin Drainage Project.





- Prioritising the delivery of MetroLink and Dart+.
- Accelerating delivery of infrastructure to facilitate the import and use of sustainable aviation fuels, namely storage and blending facilities.
- Developing of Dublin Airport's capacity for growth, including the accommodation of increasing passenger numbers.
- Supporting Ireland's regional airports, including Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Knock, and Shannon, with a view to delivering balanced air connectivity.
- Delivering enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure in addition to micro-mobility solutions.
- Expanding of the electric vehicle charging network, and supporting the use of electric vehicles.
- Delivering key regional transport projects:
  - **South/MidWest:**
    - The Cork Northern Distributor Road
    - The Cork Commuter Rail Programme
    - Luas Cork
    - The M20 between Cork and Limerick
    - The implementation of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
    - The Limerick Northern Distributor Road
  - **West:**
    - The reconsideration of the development of the Galway ring-road
    - The establishment of a sustainable public transport solution for Galway with a particular focus on access to Parkmore Industrial Zone
  - **North-West:**
    - The development of the A5 route between Derry and Dublin





# Talent & Skills for Ireland's future

Ensuring that Ireland is an attractive location for talent and developing the skills needed for the future will be central to Ireland's future success. To ensure Ireland maintains this attractiveness in terms of skills, we must focus on providing supports for our education system, enhancing apprenticeships, advancing the digitalisation of our visa and permits system, and examining the appeal of Ireland's taxation and benefits system. These factors will be key in retaining and attracting talent.

Talent attraction and skills shortages consistently rank among the top challenges that Ireland must address to overcome to remain attractive for future business growth and investment, according to AmCham member surveys. Furthermore, the importance of talent attraction is highlighted by a recent AmCham survey in which 56% of respondents indicated that they expect the number of employees in their Irish operations to increase over the next 12 months, while 41% expect to maintain their current employee numbers.

## Education

Ensuring Ireland is best placed in terms of skills and education is integral to Ireland's continued success in supporting business growth and attracting inward investment. Ireland's talent base serves as a key attraction for FDI, and it is essential that there is a commitment on maintaining this competitive advantage. 52% of respondents to a recent AmCham member survey identified Ireland's highly educated and skilled talent pool as the main competitive advantage that attracted their companies to invest and expand here. This highlights the importance of ensuring that education and skills development are to the fore of a programme for government. In this context, the attraction of world-class researchers into our tertiary education sector, support for industry-academia collaboration, and the on-going mapping of skills needs will be core to Ireland's future success. Further, lifelong learning and micro-credentials must have an integral role as we look to the future of skills in Ireland.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can serve as a complementary pathway to tertiary education, enhancing the routes available for skills development. This approach can help address assist in addressing the skills needs of industry, while empowering individuals to realise their potential in an ever-evolving work environment.

In addition to empowering individuals, the apprenticeship model offers opportunities for those seeking to change careers. Greater diversity in educational options would support such individuals in embarking on a new career journey in technical and skills roles.

To best prepare Ireland to meet the skills needs of the future, apprenticeships must be further advanced and informed by the experiences of our international partners and aligned with the requirements of industry.



### **Ireland's research needs**

In order to enhance Ireland's impact in research, a core focus must be placed on increasing the number of PhD graduates and strengthening the pool of researchers in every sector in Ireland. In doing this, a focus must be placed on making the pursuit of PhDs more attractive, and bridging the gap between academia and the private sector in terms of adaptability from one to the other. In this context, it is important that academic settings are supported to reflect the research facilities found in industry, enabling a seamless transition for graduates into R&D roles within that sector. With commitments from government in this area, Ireland can ensure it is a preeminent destination for R&D investment, and for highly-skilled international talent.

### **Visas and permits**

As the country of 'a hundred-thousand welcomes', Ireland's visa and permits system often acts as that first impression to individuals and families moving to Ireland. As such, it is critical that the visa and permits system operates effectively and efficiently for both people and for business. Advancing, and streamlining, the digitalisation of the visa and permit system is important, along with providing greater certainty on decision-making timeframes, would be impactful in supporting Ireland's attractiveness into the future. As such, a commitment to providing a 'one-stop-shop' visa and permits model, informed by international best practice would be welcome.

### **Personal taxation and benefits**

Personal taxation plays a significant role in terms of Ireland's competitiveness on the global stage. Given the global battle for talent, and the fact that the future of inward investment will be influenced as much by where people want to live as by where businesses wish to locate, personal taxation will be integral in Ireland's future success. A commitment to address Ireland's high personal taxation burden within a programme for government would send a key message that Ireland is focused on ensuring it attracts and retains the talent needed to ensure it remains successful into the future.

Additionally, a commitment to examining benefit-in-kind measures to further support talent in availing of employer-paid health benefits would enhance the attractiveness of Ireland as a place to work, and support long-term health. For instance, it has been identified that thousands of workers who are eligible for benefits, such as dental benefits, and their dependents do not avail of these employer-paid benefits as a result of the benefit being treated as taxable income. A commitment in a programme for government to examine these measures would be beneficial in supporting Ireland as a talent base in the years and decades to come.



## Healthcare

Healthcare will remain essential as Ireland works to attract and retain talent, and as its population continues to grow. Therefore, transforming the healthcare system must be a priority for the next government, with a focus on preventative health and bringing care closer to patients. This approach would support greater efficiencies within our healthcare system and enhance patient outcomes. Ultimately, this has the potential to deliver significant long-term benefits, supporting a healthier population, and positively impacting individuals and families.

Significant opportunity exists for Ireland in the area of health. Ireland's population size, combined with the presence of many US MedTech leaders, makes it an ideal testbed for the rollout of new technologies and innovations in healthcare. Furthermore, Ireland has the potential to become a leader in healthcare as a digital service in the years ahead.





## **AmCham recommends commitments to the following in a Programme for Government:**

- Prioritising lifelong learning and micro-credentials to ensure Ireland has a dynamic workforce which can quickly pivot alongside rapid change in skills needs by businesses.
- Attracting and retaining world-class researchers and educators into Ireland's tertiary education system.
- Undertaking an on-going mapping of skills needs to ensure skills development in Ireland matches industry requirements.
- Expanding apprenticeships in line with industry skills gaps.
- Developing a digital work and learning portal to act as a resource for people in Ireland and globally, which would showcase career opportunities available in Ireland, and link to the applicable learning pathways available to enter a given career to support students in preparing for their career of choice, including apprenticeships.
- Engaging with European partners to inform the future development and enhancement of the apprenticeship model in Ireland.
- Increasing the focus on STEM subjects in primary and secondary education and to closing the gender gap in STEM.
- Appointing a National Champion for STEM to support talent development, build awareness of career opportunities, and support collaboration between industry and academia.
- Appointing a national champion for languages to support language development, ensuring talent in Ireland is best placed to support Ireland's ambitions within the EU and on the global stage.



- Introducing initiatives to attract and support more students pursuing doctoral studies.
- Expanding programmes that facilitate collaboration among, foster research partnerships and invest in university talent pipelines.
- Providing a 'one-stop-shop' visa and permits model, informed by international best practice.
- Reducing the personal tax burden on employees to support the attraction and retention of talent.
- Examining benefit-in-kind measures to enhance their impact on long-term health.
- Attracting and retaining world-class clinicians as a matter of priority.
- Increasing healthcare staff recruitment.
- Enhancing Ireland as a location for clinical research.
- Advancing a fully digitalised healthcare system.
- Supplying an annual dedicated budget for new medicines, to support innovation, to enable an uninterrupted supply of medicines and to provide for the approval and reimbursement of such medicines to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients.



# Taxation in Ireland's future

While the greater attractor of investment to Ireland is the highly educated and skilled talent pool, taxation can play an important role in attracting business to Ireland, rather than a competitor jurisdiction. The opportunity exists, with the modernisation of Ireland's tax code, and the enhancement of Ireland's offering to ensure taxation does not act as a competitive disadvantage for Ireland. Following the implementation of international tax changes, many other countries are working to enhance their offerings to increase inward investment, and Ireland must ensure it maintains, and enhances, its competitiveness in this regard.

## **R&D tax credit**

The R&D tax credit has been key in supporting Ireland as a destination for investment and for innovation. The increase in the R&D tax credit from 25% to 30% in Budget 2024 was crucial in maintaining the value of the tax credit in a post Pillar 2 world. However, the opportunity exists for the next government to enhance the R&D tax credit to ensure Ireland's offering remains attractive on the global stage. Given that R&D investments have a significant positive impact on the broader research ecosystem, they can provide a substantial economic impact in Ireland. As such, it is essential that incentives, like the R&D tax credit are adaptable to ensure Ireland is seen as a location of choice in which to place such investments.

## **Tax code simplification**

As we strive to ensure that Ireland has a competitive advantage over competitor jurisdictions on the global stage, a key opportunity lies in simplifying the Irish tax code. Given the scale of international tax changes in recent years, the administrative and compliance burden placed upon businesses has significantly increased. As such, it is vital that Ireland has a tax code which meets the needs of the modern-day business environment. Therefore, the next government must advance the simplification of the Irish tax code to ensure Ireland remains a competitive location in which to invest and do business.





### **Branch exemption**

With the introduction of a participation regime for foreign dividends in Budget 2025, along with a commitment to examine the introduction of a branch exemption in 2025, it is important that the next government commits to the introduction of a branch exemption and provides a clear timeline for implementation.

### **Resourcing Ireland's Competent Authority**

As AmCham outlined in its Budget 2025 submission, members are anticipating an increase in tax audit activity and requests for Mutual Agreement Procedures and Advance Pricing Agreements, with the roll out of Pillar 2 implementation across OECD jurisdictions. Therefore, increasing the resourcing of Ireland's Competent Authority is important to ensure that taxpayers will be adequately supported in resolving cases where double taxation may arise in advance of the first GloBE Information Returns in 2026.

### **Green incentives**

In advancing the green transition and climate action, Ireland's tax system can have a key role to play. In a recent AmCham member survey, 36% of respondents indicated that tax incentives for businesses to implement more sustainable practices should be the top priority for government. The next government should commit to examining how best Ireland's tax system, and incentives, could be utilised for further climate action goals and deliver a greener future for all.



**AmCham recommends commitments to the following in a Programme for Government:**

- Providing consideration to allowing all, or a portion, of the affiliate spend in the qualifying expenditure for the R&D tax credit, where the Irish company is the principal intellectual property owner.
- Considering the expansion of the definition of 'qualifying spend' to take account of related party R&D expenditure where the Irish entity is the IP owner bearing the economic risk associated with such expenditure.
- Removing or increasing the limits of outsourcing contained within the R&D tax credit, with a view to enhancing collaboration between FDI and indigenous business in Ireland.
- Providing greater certainty and faster timelines in the R&D tax credit process to support business.
- Advancing simplification of the Irish tax code.
- Introducing a branch exemption, with the provision of a clear timeline.
- Ensuring the necessary levels of resourcing are in place in Ireland's Competent Authority.
- Examining the introduction of incentives to support climate action.



# Digital & Cyber in Ireland's future

Ireland has a key role as a digital regulatory hub within the European Union. As such, Ireland has the opportunity to leverage this position to enhance its competitiveness in terms of A.I., cyber, data and digital. Given the presence of many US MNCs in Ireland, and the every-digitising world in which we live, Ireland has the opportunity to lead by example and be a digital leader on the global stage.

Huge opportunity exists for Ireland to enhance its competitive edge in relation to data, digital, A.I., and cyber. Ireland now plays a key role as a crucial digital regulatory hub within the European Union, and the regulatory expertise developed within Ireland has been greatly enhanced by the presence of many US MNCs. In an ever-digitising world, the functions taking place in Ireland are becoming subject to increasingly complex regulation. This complexity arises from an evolving regulatory system that focuses on adapting to new and emerging technologies, solutions, products, and services. As such, providing consistent, balanced, and responsible regulation with certainty for business while fostering innovation is vital to showcase success as a regulatory hub.

## Digital regulation

The next government must commit to protecting and enhancing Ireland's role as a digital regulatory hub within the EU. In doing this, Ireland must utilise its voice at the European table to advocate for a consistent, balanced, and responsible regulatory approach which supports innovation, and provides certainty for business.

Further, an essential component of securing Ireland's position in this regard is ensuring regulatory bodies have are resourced to the necessary levels to support best-in-class regulation in digital and cyber. With the world, and each sector, becoming increasingly digitised, all regulatory bodies have a requirement for digital and cyber skills

## Ireland as a digital leader

Ireland must lead by example. As such, the digitalisation of public services, on a cross-government basis, will be important in ensuring individuals, families and businesses can connect with key services in an effective and efficient manner. For instance, huge opportunity exists in the provision of healthcare, bringing care closer to the patient and ensuring supporting positive health outcomes.

With many US MNCs in Ireland who are leaders in the provision of digital services and the development of digital technologies, the next government could work with industry to harness the knowledge present here to support the delivery of key services in a manner which has a significant, and beneficial societal impact.





## Cybersecurity

Given the digital transformation we have experienced to date, as well as the changes anticipated in the coming years, cybersecurity is a prerequisite to protect and empower both people and businesses in Ireland. Cybersecurity is also key in enabling individuals and industry to take advantage of the digital opportunities that currently exist and will emerge in the future.

Furthermore, in an ever-changing geopolitical landscape, security challenges are constantly evolving. It is vital that Ireland is well-prepared for future challenges to protect its reputation as a place to do business, as well as the interests of individuals, families, and communities, and our critical public services.

Additionally, cybersecurity challenges transcend borders. Therefore, it is vital that Ireland collaborates with international partners to ensure its cyber strategies are informed by international best practice. This collaboration will be integral in protecting the crucial supply chains of which Ireland is a key component.

A future programme for government should focus on positioning Ireland as a global leader in digital innovation and ensuring the necessary investments and resources are in place to achieve the highest possible levels of cybersecurity.



**AmCham recommends commitments to the following in a Programme for Government:**

- Advancing the digitalisation of public services, with clear KPIs against which to measure progress.
- Implementing a public-cloud-first policy that requires public sector bodies to consider public cloud solutions first, before exploring any other options, when upgrading or introducing new services.
- Providing multi-annual, ringfenced funding for the acceleration in delivery of the National Digital Strategy, with a focus on cybersecurity, digital literacy, and emerging technologies including generative A.I. and immersive technologies.
- Accelerating the rollout of the National Broadband Plan.
- Introducing measures to support the uptake of high-speed fibre broadband including treating internet access in the same manner as other essential services for VAT purposes.
- Protecting Ireland's position as a digital regulatory hub within the EU.
- Awareness-building amongst, and communicating with, EU partners on the strength of Ireland's regulatory system, as an EU regulatory hub, based upon robust decision-making and judicial systems.
- Undertaking a proactive approach to EU legislative files to enhance Ireland's input and influence.
- Increasing Ireland's influence on EU-level legislative files, informed by the industry knowledge based in Ireland, and Ireland's regulatory experience.



- Developing regulatory sandboxes to support A.I. innovation.
- Advancing digital literacy and digital skills.
- Enhancing digital literacy in primary and secondary education.
- Ensuring the necessary resourcing levels are in place in digital regulatory bodies, particularly where competency exists in relation to A.I. regulation.
- Ensuring the necessary investment and resourcing is provided to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), and the Commission for Communications Regulation, alongside other regulators where cybersecurity skills are required.
- Enhancing talent retention measures for the NCSC and other bodies where cybersecurity skills are critical.
- Benchmarking and measuring Ireland's progress in maintaining cybersecurity best practice against global standards.
- Working with international partners to leverage their experience on cybersecurity and ensure Ireland is prepared to manage any potential threats.
- Ensuring public services, including An Garda Síochána and the judicial service, have the training and skills necessary to manage cyber-threats and effectively detect and prosecute cybercrime.
- Supporting, and engaging with, companies and particularly SMEs in relation to regulations which may impact them in terms of cybersecurity protection, and opportunities which may result from A.I. adoption.







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