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Summary Note of Meeting with John Herlihy and Urs Holzle of Google

4 November 2014

Attendees:

Mr Michael Noonan, T.D., Minister for Finance

Mr John Herlihy, CEO, Google Ireland

Mr Urs Holzle, Google

Mr Paul Bolger, Special Advisor

Gary Tobin, PO Business Tax Team

Kate Levey, AP Business Tax Team

The meeting with Google was held at Mr Herlihy's request as Mr Holzle was in Dublin addressing the Web Summit in the RDS.

Mr Holzle is one of the founders of Google. He was the 8<sup>th</sup> employee to join the firm. He is currently the Executive Vice President in charge of Google's technical infrastructure. Among his responsibilities are Google's worldwide data centres.

Mr Holzle gave a very interesting and wide ranging presentation encompassing:

- the cloud and the future of data centres,
- data privacy and surveillance
- and energy policy

On data centres, Mr Holzle said that the trend is towards bigger and bigger data centres replacing individual companies' server rooms. As all the key Cloud providers are already in Ireland: Google, Amazon and Microsoft there is an opportunity for Ireland here to corner the market. The Irish climate is also potentially very cost effective for data centre cooling.

Data privacy and surveillance by Government is an important issue. Mr Holzle strongly emphasised Google's commitment to work with law enforcement agencies to combat criminal activity but he indicated the Governments' policies for requesting information from internet companies needs to be clear and transparent.

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He cited Iceland as a role model where explicit legislation exists to clarify the ability of Governments to access information.

He said that the strength of a country's competent authority for data privacy was now as important an issue for a country's competitive edge as their competent authority for taxation.

On energy policy, he indicated Google's desire to power their data centres worldwide on a carbon neutral basis. This is already the case with their data centre in Finland. Carbon neutral / renewable power also needs to be offered to customers like Google at a competitive price, preferably at no margin to the cost of regular power supplies.

Mr Holzle concluded by outlining a very positive outlook for Google's operations in Ireland.

5 November 2014