**Press Release (Embargo, 08h00, Wed. 30-Sept-2015)**

**Harris awards the *Hederman-O’Brien* Prize for outstanding research in Fiscal Policy**

Minister Harris today (30-Sept) awarded the Miriam Hederman O’Brien Prize on behalf of the Foundation for Fiscal Studies to Diarmaid Smyth and Rónán Hickey for their policy paper - *‘The Financial Crisis in Ireland and Government Revenues’.*

Noting how Ireland’s resurgent economy has returned greater ‘policy choice’ in how the State invests in and funds public services, Minister Harris commented, *“our recovery presents us with the challenge of achieving a sustainable, growth-friendly balance between spending and taxation measures. Today’s winning paper is an excellent example of how evidence-based research must inform such policy choices and ensure that policy-makers learn from the mistakes of the past.”*

The Miriam Hederman O’Brien prize is awarded by the Foundation for Fiscal Studies to recognise outstanding contributors in the area of Irish fiscal policy. The aim of the prize is to promote the study and discussion of matters relating to fiscal, economic and social policy and to reward researchers who make a contribution to informing or understanding evidence-based policy decisions.

The prize, a gold medal and a cheque for €3,000, will be presented jointly by Minister Harris and Dr Miriam Hederman O’Brien at an event in the Glass Room Suite in the Mansion House at 1pm, where the authors will present a summary of their paper.

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Media Contact: Richard Troy, 087-0641625

**Note to Editor:**

**Background to the Foundation for Fiscal Studies (FFS)**

FFS is an independent non-profit making body to stimulate fiscal debate for the greater good. The goal is to promote the study and discussion of issues relating to fiscal policy. The Miriam Hederman O’Brien prize is awarded by FFS to recognise outstanding contributors in the area of Irish fiscal policy.

The aim of the prize is to promote the study and discussion of matters relating to fiscal, economic and social policy and to reward researchers who make a contribution to informing or understanding evidence-based policy decisions. The prize forms an important part of the Foundation’s overall objective of promoting more widely the study and discussion of matters relating to fiscal, economic and social policy.

The prize-winning paper is available [here](http://fiscal.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/The-Financial-Crisis-in-Ireland-and-Government-Revenues.pdf). The event is open to the public and a place can be reserved by contacting the organisers at info@fiscal.ie.