

**Reference No:** E109/20/38.; **Date:** 14/04/2000

**Circular 11/1938:- Urgency of matters to be submitted to the Government for consideration or decision**

A Dhuine Uasail,

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to state that when the Government had under consideration the amendments of the instructions relating to Cabinet procedure recently circulated it was deemed necessary to take steps to have the consideration of problems, which are destined to come up for consideration by the Government, expedited.

2. It is of the utmost importance that matters coming before the Government for consideration or for decision should be fully examined beforehand by every Department concerned. While this clearly imposes upon the promoting Department the duty of giving the other Departments concerned adequate opportunity for careful consideration of proposals, it places upon each of those Departments the obligation of examining the proposals expeditiously. Otherwise the promoting Department may feel itself forced, by reason of delay in some other Department or Departments, to lay before the Government a matter which has not been fully examined by all interests concerned and needless difficulties may be caused.

3. The Government, therefore, desire that matters requiring submission to them, which have reached the stage at which they are nearly ripe for submission, should be dealt with by all concerned as requiring urgency. Examples of such matters are Heads of Bills and draft Bills or Orders. Other instances of urgent proposals will generally be readily identified by their nature.

4. If, however, the desired speeding-up of procedure is to be fully attained, it is obvious that proposals should not be circulated until they have received full and close examination by the promoting Department. The more rigorous such examination is, the less likelihood there is of delays being caused during the examination by other Departments.

5. The Minister for Finance desires that the instructions conveyed above be brought to the notice of all officers concerned and that steps be taken to see that they are complied with in future.

Mise, le meas,  
Sean O ???