

I would like to comment on one area of the review on Government advertising - namely the expenditure on classified advertising regarding tenders.

In this day and age, there is no excuse for wasting public money on newspaper advertising for a range of tenders and funding opportunities for organisations on a daily basis in newspapers. The Government needs to establish a website dedicated to posting tenders for all projects involving public monies - whether directly through Government Departments, or through NGPBs, or through Local Councils, or through grant aided organisations obliged by funders to advertise tenders.

The issue of access to the internet becomes redundant since any company with the potential to tender, or apply for funding will have internet access.

The Government administered website can make an administration charge for all postings to cover costs and even, potentially, making a surplus for Government.

The Website can be divided into geographic area and into area of business/ interest to ensure potential tenderers will have easy access to relevant information.

Such a system will ensure that Government Departments, funded organisations, NGPBs, funders and local councils can greatly reduce costs associated with classified advertising.

In a recent edition of one of the regional dailies, there were nine separate advertisements asking for tenders for small wind turbines. The advertisements were identical in every respect with the exception of the location of the turbines. This is but one example of a situation where many thousands of pounds of public money was 'wasted' due to current legislation relating to the advertising of tenders relating to public money.

It is completely unacceptable in an era when public funds are severely stretched, that massive amounts of money are spent on classified advertising at a time when it is easily possible to use alternative media can be used to achieve the same effect at a fraction of the cost.