

Board Meeting
Friday, 29 April 2022 at 10am
L4.03/L4.04 Brunel Building, HSQ, Dublin 8

Name	Title	Attendance
Board Members		
Pat Rabbitte	Chairperson	Present
Anne O’Gara	Deputy Chairperson	Present
Paul White	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Patricia Doherty	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Charles Watchorn	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Liam Irwin	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Avril McDermott	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Sean Holland	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Sean Quigley	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Susan Bowman	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Teresa McDonnell*	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Board Office:		
Kay Keilthy	Board Secretary	Present
Emma Dodrill	Board Administrator	Present
In Attendance:		
Fergus Ó’Cuanacháin	Chief Information Officer	In Part
Anthony O’Leary	National Director of Quality & Regulation	In Part
Rosarii Mannion	National Director of People & Change	In Part
Pat Smyth	National Director of Finance & Corporate Services	In Part
Anita Comerford*	I/Head of Strategy and Business Planning	In Part
Paul Hayden*	Estates Manager	In Part
Tom Finn*	Internal Investigations Unit	In Part
Fionnuala McGee*	Internal Investigations Unit	In Part

* Attended via Video Link.

Chairperson:

Pat Rabbitte

Date: 27th May 2022

1. Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chair noted the presence of a quorum and duly convened the meeting.

2. Apologies

2.1 No apologies were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 None

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (25/03/2022)

4.1 The Board approved the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 25 March 2022. Proposed by C. Watchorn, Seconded by S. Holland.

5. Action Log

5.1 The Board noted the Action Log as of 29 April 2022.

6.0 Matters Arising

6.1 An error in the Board minutes of 24 September 2020 was brought to the attention of the Board. In the minutes, under the heading of Estates, agenda item 11.2, the address of the property which the Board resolved to enter into a lease agreement was incorrectly recorded in the minutes. The Board noted that an erratum will be attached to the minutes of 24 September 2020 showing the correct address.

7. Board Private Session

7.1 The Board discussed the proposed oversight agreement between Tusla and DCEDIY. The Chair agreed, with the permission of the Board, to sign the agreement. It was agreed that the oversight agreement should be reviewed by the ARC later in the year to take account of changes in relation to the provision of Internal Audit and to discuss proposed changes made by the Board.

7.2 The Board agreed to invite the Minister to meet with the Board.

8. Board Annual Report and Review of Effectiveness 2021

8.1 The Board noted the Board's annual report for 2021 and its review of effectiveness. The Board agreed, subject to public health guidance, to arrange to hold one of its scheduled 2022 meetings outside of Dublin and arrange for a presentation by service providers.

9. Risk Management

9.1 The Board considered risk as comprehended in the CEO Report and the Executive

Reports submitted for consideration later in the meeting.

10. CEO Report

The Acting Chief Executive joined the meeting.

- 10.1 The Acting Chief Executive reported on recent activity and significant items of note since the last Board meeting under the following headings:
- Structure Reform
 - Performance and Functions
 - Services
 - **CEO Business –A/CEO Update**
 - Ukraine Response Update
 - Performance Updates re Q4 2021 Report
- 10.2 The A/CEO updated the Board on the increased demand in Child Protection Services and Family Support in response to the Ukraine crisis. The Board noted that Operational services were under significant pressure due to the number of unaccompanied minors being referred into Tusla from Ukraine and from other countries. Mitigations within the control of the Agency are in place to minimise the financial, quality and sustainability risks.
- 10.3 The Board noted the increase in the referrals of retrospective abuse cases due to the changes in HSE operating procedures for child protection policy in the National Counselling Service. The Agency is currently engaging with the HSE in relation to this matter.
- 10.4 The A/CEO provided the Board with updates on issues previously brought to the Board's attention by the CEO.
- 10.5 The Board noted the CEO and A/CEO Report.

11. Health and Safety (Head of Function Presentation)

The National Director of Finance and Corporate Services, National Director of People and Change, The Chief information Officer and the National Director of Quality and Regulation joined the meeting.

The National Health and Safety Manager joined the meeting.

- 11.1 The Board, cognisant of its obligations under Section 8, 19 and 80 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, requested a presentation by the Agency's Health and Safety Department on the Safety Management System Implementation Programme.
- 11.2 The National Health and Safety Manager provided the Board with a presentation setting out the current status of occupational health and safety within the Agency and described the implementation programme for the Tusla's National Safety Management (2021 -23.). The presentation concluded with a description of the workstreams underway, complete with programme assumptions and dependencies.

- 11.3 The Board discussed the level of H & S incidents in 2021 recorded on the National Incident Management System and raised concern at the number of incidents that were VHA related. The Board requested additional information on VHA incidents, and a briefing on the output of the taskforce set up to review VHA incidents specifically in children's residential services.

The Board thanked the National Health and Safety Manager for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

12. Annual Report 2021

I/Head of Strategy and Business Planning joined the meeting.

- 12.1 The Board reviewed the proposed structure of the draft Annual Report 2021. The Board welcomed the shortened format, however, raised a concern about the overall reliance on corporate language, and requested where possible, use language and design to make the report more accessible. The Interim Head of Strategy and Business Planning thanked the Board for its feedback and agreed to incorporate the recommendations made by the Board. It was agreed that the primary role of the Agency and that of the Board should be prominently recorded.

I/Head of Strategy and Business Planning left the meeting.

13. Protected Disclosures Annual Report

T. Finn and F. McGee from the Internal Investigations Unit (IIU) joined the meeting.

- 13.1 The Board formally approved the Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2021 as recommended by the ARC. The report is prepared in order to comply with Tusla's legal obligation under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014.

T. Finn and F. McGee from IIU left the meeting.

14. Estates

The Estates Manager joined the meeting.

- 14.1 House Purchase Claregalway
The Board approved the freehold acquisition of Gortatlewa, Claregalway subject to the recommendation by the PRG. Proposed by A. O'Gara Seconded by P. White.
- 14.2 Sir Patrick's Duns License
The Board approved the recommendation to enter into a short-term license agreement for additional office accommodation in Sir Patrick's Duns Hospital, Dublin 2, for four months from 25th April 2022. Proposed by L. Irwin, Seconded by P. Doherty.
- 14.3 St. Joseph's Hospital Limerick
The Board approved the recommendation of the proposed final account and for the payment of the additional sum due in respect of the main contract for the

refurbishment and extension works at St. Joseph's Limerick. The Board noted the Project Quantity Surveyors Final Account Report. The Board also noted that funding provision had been made for this project in Tusla's capital programme for 2022. Proposed by L. Irwin Seconded by A. O'Gara.

The Estates Manager left the meeting.

15.0 Financial Performance Report (March)

15.1 The Board noted the Financial Performance Report as of March 2022.

16.0 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) and Statement of Internal Control (SIC) Update

16.1 The Board noted the AFS and SIC will be submitted to the Board for approval at the May Board Meeting.

17. AOB

17.1 None.

End.