

Board Meeting
Friday 27 May 2022 at 8:45am
L4.03 Brunel Building, HSQ, Dublin 8

Quarterly Ministerial Meeting 9am – 10:15am

Name	Title	Attendance
Roderic O’Gorman	Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Present
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
In Attendance:		
Bernard Gloster	Chief Executive	Present
Kevin McCarthy	Secretary General, DCEDIY	Present
Lara Hynes	A/Assistant Secretary, DCEDIY	Present
David Byrne	Head Tusla Governance and Performance Unit, DCEDIY	Present
Board Office:		
Kay Keilthy	Board Secretary	Present
Emma Dodrill	Board Administrator	Present

Board Meeting 10:30am – 2pm

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:		
Niall Muldoon	Ombudsman for Children	In Part
Bernard Gloster	Chief Executive	In Part
Kate Duggan	National Director Services and Integration	In Part
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
Paul Hayden*	Estates Manager	In Part

* Attended via Video Link

Signed: 
Pat Rabbitte

Date: 29th July 2022

9.00am – 10.00am

Note on Ministerial Quarterly Meeting

The Chair welcomed Minister O’Gorman and DCEDIY colleagues to Tusla Brunel. The Minister thanked the Chair for his invitation to meet with the Board and the opportunity to express his thanks to the Board members for their commitment and dedication to work of the Agency. The Minister acknowledged the strong working relationship and good communications existing between the Department and the Agency at all levels.

As part of the standard quarterly meeting agenda the Chair of each of the Committees provided the Minister with a brief update on the work of the Committees and the CEO reported on key agenda items raised by the Minister and DCEDIY colleagues.

The Quarterly Meeting with the Minister and DCEDIY colleagues concluded at 10.00am.

10.00am

1. Opening Remarks

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

2. Apologies

2.1 No apologies were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (29/04/2022)

4.1 The Board approved the minutes of the Board meeting held on 29 April 2022. Proposed by Anne O’Gara, Seconded by C. Watchorn.

5. Action Log

5.1 The Board noted the Action Log as of 20 May 2022. The CEO confirmed that an update on the transfer of TESS will be provided at the July Board meeting.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 None

7. Presentation by Ombudsman for Children,

Dr. Niall Muldoon Ombudsman for Children joined the meeting.

7.1 The Chair welcomed Dr. Niall Muldoon to the Board meeting. The Ombudsman provided the Board with a brief presentation covering the OCO’s statutory obligations, interagency cooperation, children in care, child protection and family support. The Ombudsman welcomed the speed and flexibility shown by the Agency in relation to the Ukrainian crisis however, acknowledged as a concern the impact of this crisis on the Agency’s resources.

7.2 The Chair thanked Dr. Niall Muldoon for his presentation and his observations on co-

operation and the importance of family support in prevention and early intervention. The Board welcomed Dr. Muldoon's remarks on the positive working relationship between the Office of the Ombudsman and the Agency.

Dr. Niall Muldoon Ombudsman for Children left the meeting.

8. Board Private Session

8.1 The Chair asked Board members to reflect on the focus and format of the Board's scheduled Strategic Day scheduled for 14 October and revert with any proposals/suggestions. A focus on culture and culture change was suggested to the Board for consideration.

9. Risk Management

9.1 The Board considered risk as comprehended in the CEO Report, Executive Reports and the National Corporate Risk Register submitted for consideration later in the meeting.

10. ODC Chair Report on Committee Meeting of (05/05/2022)

10.1 The Chair of the ODC updated the Board on the ODC meeting held on 5 May 2022.

10.2 The following key areas were discussed at the meeting:

- The Committee received a briefing on the NCCIS2 Project by the Independent External Monitor. The Chair appraised the Board of the External Monitor's initial review and observations of the project which included assurance around the governance of the project and the identification of two risk areas. The Committee raised the two risk areas with the CIO and noted the scheduled planned actions to mitigate the risks identified.
- The CIO provided an update on the TuslaIRL project. The Board was advised of the timeline challenges associated with the project.
- The Committee considered the draft People Strategy and provided directional feedback to the Executive. The Committee was of the view that the People Strategy represented a very ambitious plan for the Agency. The People Strategy will be considered by the Board later in the meeting.

10.3 The Board noted the report by the Chair of the ODC.

11. ARC Chair Report on Committee meeting of (20/05/2022)

11.1 The Chair of the ARC reported on the ARC meeting held on 20 May 2022. No issues were raised by the C & AG in their private session with the ARC. Aside from new issues arising, it is expected that the audit will be cleared for certification by the C & AG in early June. The Chair thanked the National Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Finance Team for their work in ensuring a smooth audit process this year.

11.2 The ARC was satisfied to recommend the Governance Statement, SIC and AFS 2021 to the Board for approval. This item will be considered by the Board later in the meeting.

11.3 The ARC agreed to recommend the application to the Charities Regulator for approval by the Board. This item will be considered by the Board later in the meeting.

11.4 The Chair of the ARC advised the Board that the post of Internal Auditor had been sanctioned

at the necessary seniority level following the submission of the business case to DCEDIY/DPER.

11.5 The Board noted the ARC report by the Chair of the ODC.

12. CEO Report

12.1 The CEO reported on recent activity and significant items of note since the last Board meeting under the following headings:

- Structure and Agency Overall Reform
- Performance & Functions
- CEO Business
- Ukraine
- Annual Report 2021 – Estimates 2022
- Operation Shamrock
- Procurement Challenge

12.2 The Board considered the procurement issue raised by the CEO and noted that an update had previously been brought to the attention of the ARC. The Board agreed that the CEO should conclude any further discussions on the matter with the input of the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the ARC. Proposed by P. White Seconded by C. Watchorn.

12.3 The Board noted the CEO's report.

13. National Corporate Risk Register (Q1 2022)

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

13.1 The Board noted the summary overview of the Q1 2022 National Corporate Risk Register and the inclusion of a new risk pertaining to the availability of adequate responses for Ukrainian nationals seeking international protection.

14. HR Quarterly Report (Q1 2022)

14.1 The Board noted the contents of the HR Quarterly Report Q1 2022 and the likely continued trend in relation to leavers for the remainder of the year, despite focused efforts.

S. Quigley and S. Bowman gave their apologies and left the meeting.

15. People Strategy

15.1 The Board welcomed the draft Tusla People Strategy 2022 - 2024 and complimented the National Director of Human Resources and the EMT on their work on the collective ownership of the strategy. The Board recognised the strategy as crucial to the delivery and implementation of the Tusla Reform Programme. The Board acknowledged the ambitiousness of the strategy and cautioned that expectations may need to be tempered considering the totality of change and the 'change ability' of the Agency.

15.2 The Board approved the Tusla People Strategy 2022 – 2024. Proposed by A. McDermott Seconded by P. White.

16. Business Plan (Q1 2022)

16.1 The Board noted the Q1 Business Plan Update and the Summary Overview Tusla Business

Plan 2022 Q1 Report. The Board agreed that future quarterly reporting on the Business Plan should be reported to the Board using the Summary Overview format

17. Annual Report 2021

17.1 The Board adopted the Annual Report in relation to the performance of the Agency's functions during 2021 in accordance with section 13 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. Proposed by S. Holland, Seconded by L. Irwin.

18. AFS/SIC/GS 2021

18.1 The Board approved the GS/SIC/AFS for 2021 as recommended by the ARC subject to any further changes requested by the C&AG to be agreed by the Chair of the ARC and the Chair of the Board. Proposed by C. Watchorn, Seconded by P. White.

19. Financial Performance Report

19.1 The National Director of Finance and Corporate Services reported on the financial performance for year-to-date April 2022. The Board noted the contents of the report.

20. Registration with Charities Regulator

20.1 The Board approved the application to the Charities Regulator as recommended by the ARC. Proposed by L. Irwin, Seconded C. Watchorn.

21. Estates

The National Head of Estates joined the meeting.

21.1 At its meeting on 30 June 2017 the Board approved the recommendation to enter into a leasehold acquisition of bespoke accommodation in the Primary Care Centre (PCC) in Athy. The Agency has now been made aware that there has been a transfer of ownership of the PCC The Board formally noted the change of Landlord in relation to Athy Primary Care Centre.

21.2 The Board approved the recommendation of the freehold acquisition of a house for residential care (subject to recommendation by the PRG). Details of the property were outlined in the property acquisition form submitted for consideration by the Board. Proposed by C. Watchorn Seconded by P. White.

21.3 The Board approved the recommendation to renew a short-term lease of office accommodation at the Kilkenny Education Centre, Seville Lodge, Co. Kilkenny as outlined in the property acquisition form submitted to the Board for consideration. Proposed by A. O'Gara Seconded by T. McDonnell.

The National Head of Estates left the meeting.

22.0 AOB

22.1 None

End.