

Tusla Board Meeting
10am Friday, 16 December 2022
L10 Brunel Building

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	Apologies received
Sean Quigley	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Susan Bowman	Ordinary Board Member	Apologies received
Teresa McDonnell	Ordinary Board Member	Present
Board Office:		
Kay Keilthy	Board Secretary	Present
Emma Dodrill	Board Administrator	Present
In Attendance:		
Bernard Gloster*	Chief Executive	In Part
Rosarii Mannion*	National Director of People & Change	In Part
Anthony O’Leary	National Director of Quality & Regulation	In Part
Pat Smyth	National Director Finance & Corporate Services	In Part
Niamh Doody*	Business Manager, OCEO	In Part
Pamela Benson*	Head of Legal Services	In Part
Anita Comerford*	Head of Strategy & Business Planning	In Part
Paul Hayden*	National Estates Manager	In Part

* Attended via Video Link

Signed: 
 Chairperson

Date 3 February 2023

1. Opening Remarks

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

2. Apologies

- 2.1 S. Bowman and S. Holland's apologies were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 No declarations of Interest were made in relation to any of the agenda items before the Board for consideration at the meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (25/11/2022)

- 4.1 The Board approved the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 25 November 2022. Proposed by P. White, Seconded by C. Watchorn and agreed by the Board.

5. Action Log

- 5.1 The Board noted the Action Log as of 13 December 2022.

6.0 Matters Arising

- 6.1 None.

7. Risk Management

- 7.1 The Board considered risk as comprehended by the Committee and Executive reports submitted for consideration at the meeting.

8. Delegation of Acting Chief Executive

- 8.1 In accordance with the Board's Terms of Reference and Standing Orders the meeting noted the Board's decision, made between Board meetings, approving the appointment of Kate Duggan, Director of Services and Integration as Acting Chief Executive in accordance with Section 29(3) Child Family Agency Act 2013 in the absence of the CEO on 7; 8 and 14 December.

9. Committee Chairs Annual Meeting

- 9.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Committee Chairs annual meeting held on 8 December.

10. SQC Chair Report on Committee Meeting of (08/12/2022)

- 10.1 AO'G updated the Board on behalf of the Chair of the SQC on the work undertaken by the Committee at its meeting held on 8 December. The SQC received a presentation by EPIC as part of their ongoing engagement with stakeholders. The Committee welcomed the comments by EPIC's CEO on its positive and constructive relationship with Tusla. A copy of EPIC's presentation was made available to the Board.

11. ARC Chair Report on Committee meeting of (09/12/2022)

- 11.1 The Chair of the ARC updated the Board on the work undertaken by the ARC at its meeting held on 9 December and updated the Committee on the Committee Chairs Annual Meeting.
- 11.2 The Chair thanked Board members for attending Tusla's first Excellence and Innovation Awards.

12. CEO Report

- 12.1 In advance of the CEO joining the meeting the Chair apprised the Board of the CEO's appointment as the HSE CEO. The Chair and members of the ODC Committee agreed to meet following the Board

meeting to discuss succession planning.

The Chief Executive and the Business Manager, Office of the CEO joined the meeting.

- 12.2 The CEO in private session updated the Board on a matter previously brought to the Board's attention.

The National Director of Finance & Corporate Services, National Director of Services and Integration and the National Director of Human Resources joined the meeting.

- 12.3 The CEO formally advised the meeting of his new appointment as the HSE CEO. The Board congratulated the CEO on his appointment and wished him every success in his new role.

- 12.4 The CEO reported on activity and significant items of note since the last Board meeting which included:

- HR
- Plan 2022
- Operation Shamrock
- Birth Information and Tracing Legislation

The National Director of Quality & Regulation joined the meeting.

- 12.5 The Board noted the content of the CEO report.

13. Special Care Business Case

Head of Legal Services joined the meeting for this item.

- 13.1 The Board approved the Special Care Business Case to transfer special care legal work from external law firms to Tusla's Office of Legal Services. Proposed by T. McDonnell, Seconded by A. McDermott and approved by the Board.

14. Performance Activity Report (Q3 2022)

- 14.1 The Board noted the content of the Performance Activity Report for Q3 2022

15. Business Plan (Draft 2023)

- 15.1 The Board reviewed the draft Business plan for 2023 and noted the Plan was guided by the priorities of Government set out in the Performance Statement of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; Minister for Education and Minister for Justice as reflected in Chapter two of the Plan. The Board approved in principle the direction of travel of the Business Plan 2023 and agreed that the Chair and the CEO would approve the final draft of the Business Plan for submission to the Minister. Proposed by P. White, Seconded by A. McDermott and approved by the Board.

16. Department of Education Performance Statement

- 16.1 The Deputy Chair provided the board with a review of the Department of Education Performance Statement 2023 and welcomed the DoE Performance Statement and the plan to review the SCP in 2023. A review of the Education Welfare Act was suggested to mitigate the risks associated with home education and independent schools.

- 16.2 The Board noted the Department of Education Performance Statement 2023

17. Private Emergency Respite Service Tender Contract

- 17.1 The Board approved the recommendation of the Evaluation Team to award a contract to the supplier resulting from tender, PSR 18554, for the provision of Residential Childcare Services for Emergency Respite Services as outlined in the proposal submitted by the National Director of Children's Residential Services. Proposed by L. Irwin, Seconded by A. O'Gara and approved by the Board.

18. Psychology Services 2022

- 18.1 The Board approved the payment of €7.045 million to the HSE in relation to psychology services for 2022. Proposed by L. Irwin, Seconded by A O’Gara and approved by the Board.

19. Estates

- 19.1 The Board approved the recommendation as proposed by the National Head of Estates to grant a license for office accommodation in Clare Technology Park to HSE Disability Services up until 30 September 2023. The HSE will assume the responsibility for all outgoings in relation to this property up until the expiry of the lease on 30 September 2023. Proposed by L. Irwin, Seconded by C. Watchorn and approved by the Board.

20. AOB

- 20.1 The Board noted correspondence issued by the Chair to Minister O’Donohoe.