

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF  
THE HEALTH INFORMATION AND QUALITY AUTHORITY (The Authority)  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Video Conference 5.30pm**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Brian McEnery	Chairperson	BMcE
Sam McConkey	Board Member	SMcC
Grainne Tuke	Board Member	GT
Sheila O'Malley	Board Member	SOM
David Molony	Board Member	DM
Cillian Twomey	Board Member	CT
Mary Fennessy	Board Member	MF
Philip Caffrey	Board Member	PC
Una Geary	Board Member	UG
Judith Foley	Board Member	JF
Barbara O'Neill	Board Member	BON

**In Attendance:**

Phelim Quinn	CEO	PQ
Kathleen Lombard	Board Secretary & Chief Risk Officer	KL
Mary Dunnion	Acting Director of Regulation	MD
Rachel Flynn	Acting Director of Health Information	RF
Marty Whelan	Head of Communications	MW
Mairin Ryan	Director of HTA	MR
Anne O'Connell	Member of investigation support team	AOC
Kelly Jones	Member of investigation support team	KJ
Susan O'Rahilly	Member of investigation support team	SOR
Susan Cliffe	Member of investigation support team	SC
Ann Ryan	Member of investigation support team	AR
Judy Gannon	Member of investigation support team	JG

**Apologies:**

Anne Carrigy	Board Member	AC
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**1. Quorum**

It was noted that a quorum was present and the Board meeting was duly convened.

## **2. Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts were declared.

## **3. Investigation report into MRH Portlaoise**

MD provided an overview to the Board of the process undertaken during the investigation, including the methodology, the governance and controls for managing the investigation, the type of engagement with relevant parties during the investigation and the process for gathering, assimilating and verifying the data.

The due process undertaken since the draft report was issued for factual accuracy was explained to the Board. It was clarified that relevant parties were issued with the report or extracts of the report for comments on factual accuracy. The chronology of events relating to this engagement was outlined and the challenges to the report which arose during this process were also explained.

The Authority's legal adviser outlined to the Board the nature of challenges and relevant legal advices in respect of the report.

The Board discussed the challenges in detail and asked a number of questions in this regard. There was also an examination of changes made to the report as a result of the due process. It was clarified that the findings had not changed in a substantive way but that more context was provided in some parts of the report.

Each of the recommendations was then discussed in turn with the Board clarifying the evidence underpinning their development. A number of comments were made in terms of the wording and ordering of the recommendations and it was agreed that the Investigation team would consider the observations and reflect in the final report if relevant and appropriate.

PC proposed approval of the Investigation report on the safety, quality and standards of services provided by the HSE to patients and BON seconded the proposal; accordingly **it was resolved that the investigation report on the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise be approved by the Board.**


It was agreed that the team would circulate the final set of recommendations to the Board prior to publication. It was agreed that the Minister should receive a full briefing on the report as soon as possible and that following this briefing; the report should be published without further delay. It was also agreed that briefing sessions would be provided to other relevant agencies and organisations in line with established procedures.


The Chairperson expressed his gratitude to the investigation team and acknowledged the hard work involved. The Board echoed the Chairperson's views and congratulated the team on producing such a robust and important report.

The Chairperson also acknowledged that this would be the final Board meeting for four members of the Board as they were approaching the end of their tenure. He

thanked them for their dedication to the Authority over the period of their membership and said that there was recognition amongst the Board members that they would leave a void in terms of their contribution at Board meetings.

**Signed:**

  
Brian McEnery  
Chairperson

  
Kathleen Lombard  
Board Secretary

