

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF  
HEALTH INFORMATION AND QUALITY AUTHORITY**

**13 February 2018, Smithfield  
5pm – 7pm**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Brian McEnery	Chairperson	<b>BMcE</b>
Una Geary	Board Member	<b>UG</b>
Molly Buckley	Board Member	<b>MB</b>
Martin Sisk	Board Member	<b>MS</b>
Stephen O’Flaherty	Board Member (by phone)	<b>SOF</b>
Paula Kilbane	Board Member	<b>PK</b>
Barbara O’Neill	Board Member	<b>BON</b>
Mary Fennessy	Board Member	<b>MF</b>
Judith Foley	Board Member	<b>JF</b>
Anne Carrigy	Board Member	<b>AC</b>

**In Attendance:**

Phelim Quinn	CEO	<b>PQ</b>
Kathleen Lombard	Board Secretary & Chief Risk Officer	<b>KL</b>
Mary Dunnion	Director of Regulation	<b>MD</b>
Mairin Ryan	Director of HTA and Deputy CEO	<b>MR</b>
Rachel Flynn	Director of Health Information and Standards	<b>RF</b>
Marty Whelan	Head of Communications	<b>MW</b>
Sean England	Acting Chief Operating Officer	<b>SA</b>
Bala Krishna	Chief Information Officer	<b>BK</b>

**1. Quorum**

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

**2. Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **3. Draft financial statements for 2017**

SA introduced this item and explained that Board approval is being sought for the draft financial statements for 2017 and for their submission to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit.

SA explained that on this occasion, HIQA is endeavouring to include the annual financial statements with the annual report as is intended by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (the Code). The Code also sets out new and expanded requirements for state bodies such as disclosure of internal control issues, disputes with other state bodies and greater detail on legal costs. All the additional disclosures have been included in the draft statements before the Board.

SA advised that the Audit Risk and Governance Committee (ARGC) had met on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and had reviewed the annual statements in detail. A revised version reflecting the ARGC's observations had been circulated for the Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the annual financial statements and made a number of additional observations and sought clarifications relating to the aspects of the statements. The Executive agreed to check out the points made by the Board and reflect if appropriate in a final version which would be circulated for Board approval.

### **4. Evidence synthesis to support National Clinical Guideline for Type 1 Diabetes in Adults**

MR introduced Michelle O'Neill (MON) HRB-CICER Programme Manager and Paul Carty (PC) Health Economist who joined the meeting for this item. MR explained to the Board that this is the first output from the HRB-CICER initiative. MR reminded the Board that the HRB funds the Collaboration in Ireland for Clinical Effectiveness reviews (CICER) and HIQA was awarded funding from the HRB for 5 years to produce the evidence to support National Clinical Guidelines by carrying out clinical and cost effectiveness reviews and budget impact assessments of implementing the guidelines.

MON explained that the team uses a Quality Assurance Framework for the CICER projects which has a number of procedures for undertaking the work. MON presented the main findings arising from the reviews carried out to support the Clinical Guideline for Type 1 Diabetes in Adults highlighting that;

- the health economic evidence in the NICE guideline was considered transferrable to the Irish setting
- no conflicting evidence was identified in a targeted literature review
- no adjustments were considered necessary to the NICE recommendations
- three changes to service delivery were identified;
  - o 11 additional centres for patient education would be required at a cost of €2.9 million over 5 years
  - o short courses for staff delivering care to Type 1 diabetes people are required, costing €18,000 over 5 years and
  - o Standardisation of patient recall every 6 months in diabetes clinics, costing €3.2 million over 5 years.

The Board acknowledged that while guidelines are about standardising services, there is also a need for information systems to be able to yield data. Other challenges relating to the delivery of services in this regard were highlighted including the use by some service providers of more expensive insulin products and the expanding burden on front line staff in the context of meeting training demands.

The Board commended the HTA team on the standard of work delivered. MON and PC left the meeting at this point.

**5. Request by the Minister for a Section 9 Investigation into the safety, quality and standards for safe conduct of obstetric and gynaecological surgery outside of core hours and response to major emergencies at the National Maternity Hospital**

Aoife McCann (AMcC) legal advisor and Sean Egan (SE) Head of Healthcare joined the meeting for this item.

PQ drew the Board's attention to a letter from the DoH which conveyed the Minister's approval of members of HIQA staff to be authorised for the purpose of conducting the investigation into the NMH.

In addition, PQ briefed the Board on correspondence he had received from legal representatives of the NMH since the last Board meeting which outlined that the NMH had obtained leave of the High Court to bring judicial review proceedings to quash the decision of the Minister to commence a statutory investigation.

PQ sought legal advice following receipt of this communication. PQ advised that as the Minister has approved the authorisation of HIQA staff to undertake the investigation, the process of the investigation commences.

The Board discussed the unusual circumstances surrounding this matter and the following key considerations arose:

- the potential for the quality of HIQA's investigation to suffer given the current circumstances
- that the Chairperson was scheduled to meet with the Minister on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, where this matter might be discussed
- the next step for HIQA following the authorisation of people to undertake the investigation is to proceed with the publication of the terms of reference for the investigation.

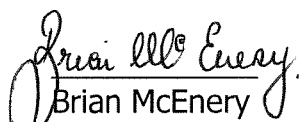
Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed by the Board that HIQA should write to the Minister seeking clarity and understanding of the implications arising from these developments. The letter should reference the likelihood that interim injunctive relief may be taken against HIQA.

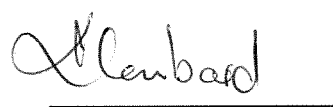
## 6. Any other Business

The Chairperson took the opportunity to mark the occasion of two Board members reaching the end of their tenure on the Board of HIQA; Una Geary and Anne Carrigy. He thanked them for their contribution while being on the Board and stated that the Board will miss their knowledge and experience. The Board members echoed the Chairperson's sentiments.

There was no other business and the meeting was concluded.

### Signed

  
Brian McEnery  
Chairperson

  
Kathleen Lombard  
Board Secretary

### Actions arising from the Board meeting on 13 February 2018

No	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	Draft financial statements to be amended in the basis of the Board's comments and circulated for approval	SA	immediate
2	Letter to issue to the Minister highlighting the potential challenges to HIQA in progressing the investigation	BMcE	immediate