

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

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 4.35pm – 5.15, Smithfield**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Brian McEnery	Chairperson	BMcE
Martin Sisk	Board Member	MS
Stephen O'Flaherty	Board Member	SOF
Jim Kiely	Board Member	JK
Caroline Spillane	Board Member	CS
Mary Fennessy	Board Member	MF
Paula Kilbane	Board Member	PK
Enda Connolly	Board Member	EC
Barbara O'Neill	Board Member	BON
Molly Buckley	Board Member	MB
Deirdre Madden	Board Member	DM

**In Attendance:**

Phelim Quinn	CEO	PQ
Kathleen Lombard	Board Secretary and Chief Risk Officer	KL
Mairin Ryan	Director of HTA	
Mary Dunnion	Chief inspector and Director of Regulation	
Rachel Flynn	Director of Health Information and Standards	

**Apologies:**

Judith Foley	Board Member	JF
Sean Angland	Acting Chief Operating Officer	SA

**1. Quorum**

It was noted that a quorum was present and the Board meeting was duly convened. The Chairperson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider

## **2. Brief Board only session**

A short board only session took place, following which the Chairperson advised the Board secretary for the record that the Board had a discussion on succession planning, prompted by one of the areas emphasised for Board attention at the recent governance training session. In that context the Chairperson alluded to the Resource Oversight Committee's role and terms of reference regarding succession planning for the CEO and senior management.

The Chairperson also advised that it was unclear what the arrangements are post 14<sup>th</sup> May, when his tenure as Chairperson expires, given that a new Chairperson has not yet been appointed. He will endeavour to clarify the position over the next day or so.

## **3. Conflict of Interest**

JK declared that he was the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in the Department of Health (DOH) 10 years ago but that he no longer has an involvement with the DOH or the programme that is the item for discussion at the meeting. He confirmed that should there be any occasion when discussion relates to matters dating back to his time as CMO he would absent himself. It was agreed that there is no conflict of interest.

## **4. National Cervical screening programme - Request from the Minister for a statutory investigation**

PQ advised the Board that he and Mary Dunnion met with senior DOH officials during the previous week who had indicated at the meeting that the Minister was minded to require HIQA to undertake a statutory investigation into widely reported failings at the national cervical screening programme. Following their discussion, the Minister wrote to the Chairperson, requesting HIQA to undertake a Section 9 investigation into the circumstances whereby women, who had been screened by Cervical Check, had developed cervical cancer and where an audit had discovered a different result to the original result that these women had been given.

Subsequent to the Ministerial request, a Cabinet decision had been taken that a scoping review will be carried out by Dr Gabriel Scally into the Cervical Check screening programme, with the potential of that scoping review leading to a Commission of Inquiry.

**The Board agreed** that the Chairperson should write to the Minister seeking clarity and direction in respect of his request given the establishment of the scoping inquiry.

It was noted that it was evident from media reports that there is some misunderstandings about HIQA's investigative powers and that this is something that needs attention in future communications.

## 5. Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

### Signed



Brian McEnery  
Chairperson



Kathleen Lombard  
Board Secretary

### Actions arising from the Board meeting on 9 May 2018

No	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	Chairperson to write to the Minister seeking clarity in the wake of the Cabinet's decision for a scoping inquiry	BMcE/PQ	immediate

