

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

**17 April 2018, VC Smithfield and Mahon
15.30 – 17.30**

Present:

Name	Details	Initials
Brian McEnery	Chairperson by phone	BMcE
Martin Sisk	Board Member	MS
Stephen O'Flaherty	Board Member	SOF
Jim Kiely	Board Member	JK
Deirdre Madden	Board Member by phone	DM
Caroline Spillane	Board Member by phone	CS
Mary Fennessy	Board Member	MF
Judith Foley	Board Member	JF
Paula Kilbane	Board Member	PK

In Attendance:

Phelim Quinn	CEO	PQ
Kathleen Lombard	Board Secretary and Chief Risk Officer	KL

Apologies:

Barbara O'Neill	Board Member	BON
Molly Buckley	Board Member	MB
Enda Connolly	Board Member	EC

1. Quorum

It was noted that a quorum was present and the Board meeting was duly convened. The Chairperson thanked the Board members for making themselves available for this additional meeting of the Board, the main purpose of which is to receive the draft report of the investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by Tusla and approve the report for issue for due process. He advised the Board that the draft report is the result of a significant

piece of work and that the Board should consider the governance and management of the process to ensure that the investigation has been carried out in a way that delivers on the terms of reference and in line with HIQA's investigative procedures.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Draft report of the Investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by Tusla

Mary Dunnion (MD) introduced this item and was joined by the members of the team who had been involved in the investigation including Gillian Hastings, Bronagh Gibson, Eva Boyle, Sharron Austin, Tina Cronin and Brid O'Connor. In addition, Aoife McCann, Senior Legal Advisor and Eddie Evans (EE) of Beauchamps solicitors were present.

MD advised the Board that the draft report of the investigation was being presented to the Board for approval prior to issuing the report to relevant stakeholders for due process. In addition the Board would be provided with assurances from the Executive that the investigation had been conducted appropriately in line with its terms of reference and in line with HIQA's internal investigative processes.

Gillian Hastings (GH) Project lead, presented on the investigation process and set out the background, the internal governance arrangements and the phases of the investigation including analysis of data and triangulation of evidence.

MD presented on the draft report and set out the lines of enquiry applied within the investigation process. She outlined to the Board the key findings arising from the investigation.

The Board made a number of observations on the report in the context of the report's terms of reference;

- adequacy of focus on staff development
- inconsistent application of processes being a significant factor in the quality of management of allegations
- the section on risk escalation requiring further detail to clarify escalation arrangements.

EE, HIQA's external legal advisor, advised the Board that he had sat on the investigation team's steering group as part of the investigation's governance arrangements and considered that the investigation process was robust.

Overall it was the view of the Board that the report met the terms of reference for the investigation and that the process was rigorous and thorough. MS proposed approval of the draft report of the investigation into the management of allegations

of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by Tusla and its issue for due process. PK seconded the proposal and **accordingly it was resolved that the draft report of the investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by Tusla be approved by the Board.**

MD outlined the next steps and timelines to the Board including;

- issuing relevant extracts of the report to relevant people
- review of feedback from the due process
- finalising the conclusions and recommendations
- review of final draft report by the Expert Advisory Group
- review and approval by the Board of the report in mid June 2018.

It was noted that the Executive will undertake a review of other organisations with a similar remit to Tusla in terms of response times for assessment of allegations. The Executive suggested that the approach to future standards setting in the child protection and welfare sector might benefit from a single set of standards with discrete guidance for specific care areas. It was also noted that enforcement powers should be considered in the context of future policy discussions.

The Board commended MD and her team on a good piece of work. MD and her team left the meeting.

4. Proposed membership of committees of the Board

KL advised that she and the Chairperson had reviewed the membership of the Board Committees in light of the new appointees to the HIQA Board. The proposed membership had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Board reviewed the new Committee memberships. JK proposed approval of the memberships of the Committees and SOF seconded the proposal; **accordingly it was resolved that revised Committee memberships be approved by the Board.**

5. DoH correspondence

The Chairperson advised that he had received a letter from the Department of Health (DoH) in respect of fees payable to Board members. PQ read the letter to the Board members. A discussion followed on the correspondence and Board members agreed to revert with their views.

6. Update on proceedings relating to the Minister's request for an investigation into the national Maternity Hospital (NMH)

PQ advised the Board that the Thawley family has sought to be enjoined as a notice party to the NMH's application to halt the investigation that was requested by the

Minister. In addition the Minister's response and affidavit has been rescheduled to 26th April. PQ will continue to keep the Board updated.

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 17 April 2018

No	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	the Executive - will undertake a review of other organisations with a similar remit to Tusla in terms of response times for assessment of allegations - consider a revised approach to future standards setting in the child protection and welfare area - consider HIQA's enforcement powers in the context of future policy discussions.	MD/PQ	Strategic discussions throughout 2018