

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

24 June, 4pm
Video conference

Present:

Name	Details	Initials
Pat O'Mahony	Chairperson	POM
Paula Kilbane	Board Member	PK
Stephen O'Flaherty	Board Member	SOF
Lynsey Perdisatt	Board Member	LP
Michael Rigby	Board Member	MJR
Tony McNamara	Board Member	TMcN
Jim Kiely	Board Member	JK
Molly Buckley	Board Member	MB
Martin Sisk	Board Member	MS
Bernadette Costello	Board Member	BC

In Attendance:

Phelim Quinn	CEO	PQ
Kathleen Lombard	Board Secretary and Chief Risk Officer	KL
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector and Director of regulation	MD
Susan Cliffe	Deputy Chief Inspector Social Services	SC
Aoife McCann	Head of Legal Services	AMcC
Carol Grogan	Head of Regulatory Practice Development	FC

Apologies:

Enda Connolly	Board Member	EC
Caroline Spillane	Board Member	CS

1. Welcome and 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 at short notice, which he explained was for the purpose of considering a paper for submission to the Minister with proposed amendments to the Health Act and relevant regulations.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Paper on interim amendments to the Health Act 2007, as amended

The Chairperson explained that it was clear that aspects of the legislation and associated regulations are not adequate in addressing current or future challenges posed by pandemics such as COVID-19. This position was communicated to the Department of Health (DOH) following which he, as Chairperson, and the CEO met with the Minister on June 12th.

PQ advised the Board that a number of issues were discussed with the Minister including the need for a multi-agency approach to the challenges faced by the nursing home sector, the work of the nursing home expert group established by the Minister and the limitations of the current legislative and regulatory provisions in enabling enforcement in the context of COVID-19. PQ also advised the Board that the outcome of the meeting was that HIQA was to set out the changes needed to primary and secondary legislation for submission to the Minister. The Minister also expressed his support for a multi-agency approach so that issues could be addressed by the relevant agencies as part of a collaborate response.

Since the meeting with the Minister, the Chief Inspector and her team have developed the draft submission on proposed primary and secondary legislative changes, which is before the Board for consideration and approval, if satisfied.

MD, Chief Inspector advised the Board that some aspects of the legislation and the regulations as currently written, posed challenges to responding in a timely manner to the evolving COVID-19 situation. MD highlighted that while there is a requirement for more radical reform of the regulatory framework, the paper before the Board focusses on the immediate required changes to the Health Act and regulations for designated centres for older people and centres for adults and children with a disability in the context of responding to COVID-19.

CG presented the proposed changes.

The Board considered the document in detail and a number of key points were made in respect of;

- staffing models for nursing homes including numbers, skills and expertise
- impact of the proposed changes on the sector
- expansion of enforcement levels available to HIQA and
- addressing palliative care needs.

The Board agreed that;

- the issue of the absence of an evidence based staffing model for nursing homes should be raised with the Minister
- the proposed changes to enforcement options is in line with those of other regulators

- the proposed changes to regulation 15 would support improved provision of palliative care.

The Board agreed that the paper's primary focus meets the Minister's request to outline, from the regulator's perspective, the changes necessary to improve the safety of residents living in designated centres in the event of future public health emergencies.

The Executive confirmed that the points raised and the feedback provided would be considered in the final draft. The cover letter from the Chairperson and the final submission to the Minister will be circulated to the Board.

The Chairperson thanked the CEO, the Chief Inspector and their teams for developing a quality document in a short period of time. The Board echoed his appreciation.

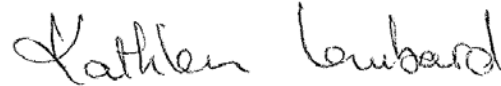
4. Any other Business

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting.

Signed



Pat O'Mahony
Chairperson



Kathleen Lombard
Board Secretary

Actions arising from the Board meeting on 24 June 2020

No	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	Consideration to be given to the Board's suggestions and feedback in the final submission to the Minister	PQ	immediate