

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

24 June 2025, 4pm – 5pm
MS Teams

Present:

Name	Details	Initials
Pat O'Mahony	Chairperson	POM
Bernadette Costello	Board Member	BC
Caroline Spillane	Board Member	CS
Clíodhna Foley-Nolan	Board Member	CFN
James Kiely	Board Member	JK
Leonie Clarke	Board Member	LC
Marion Meany	Board Member	MM
Martin Higgins	Board Member	MH
Martin O'Halloran	Board Member	MOH
Paula Kilbane	Board Member	PK
Daniel McConnell	Board Member	DMC
Lynsey Perdisatt	Board Member	LP

In Attendance:

Name	Details	Initials
Angela Fitzgerald	Chief Executive Officer	AF
Sean Angland*	Acting Chief Operations Officer	SA
Eleanor Noonan*	Finance Manager	EN
Karen Egan	Board Secretary	KE
Rachel O'Connor	Board & Committee Support Executive	ROC

*Joined for part of the meeting

1.0 Quorum

The Chairperson welcomed Board members to the meeting. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly convened.

2.0 Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3.0 Emerging Issues and Risks

No emerging issues or risks were brought to the Board for discussion.

4.0 Approval of Annual Accounts post C&AG audit

The Board noted the papers previously circulated.

BC introduced the Annual Accounts post C&AG audit.

SA advised the following:

- In February, the Board approved the draft Accounts for submission to the C&AG for audit.
- The Accounts have remained unchanged since February with the exception of a technical adjustment relating to the notes on fixed assets concerning fully depreciated assets.
- The change had no impact on the Income and Expenditure Statement or the Statement of Financial Position.
- The Finance and ICT teams would review the processes for management of the fixed asset register.
- The C&AG had approved the Accounts and, following approval by the Board they would be submitted to the Minister and then laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

BC advised the following:

- The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (ARGC) had proposed no further changes to the Accounts, except for some minor typographical errors.
- The management letter has not yet been received from the C&AG.
- A representative from the C&AG would be in attendance at the September meeting to present the C&AG audit completion memorandum.
- Following a review of the Accounts, the ARGC recommended them to the Board for approval.

The Board noted the following:

- There are varying approaches to the capitalisation and treatment of software.
- That assurance had been provided that there was no change of accounting policy and no prior year adjustments necessary.
- The C&AG would issue a management letter to HIQA and the Executive will provide responses which will be incorporated into the letter.

MOH proposed the approval of the Annual Accounts and BC seconded the proposal; **accordingly, it was unanimously resolved that the Annual Accounts be approved by the Board.**

5.0 Update on Older Persons Services

POM advised that a substantive discussion on Older Persons Services was included on the agenda for the next Board meeting on 1 July. He noted that it had been a demanding number of weeks for the organisation, the Executive and the Older Persons team following the recent RTÉ Investigates programme about nursing homes which contained some distressing scenes.

POM provided an overview of HIQA's response to the RTÉ Investigates programme, including the additional inspections carried out and the approach taken to communications during this challenging period. He noted the need to explain to external stakeholders the scope of HIQA's regulatory role and that the primary responsibility resides with the providers of services. He advised that HIQA met recently with the Minister for Health who had expressed support for the work of HIQA.

AF provided detail on the immediate response to the RTÉ Investigates programme and highlighted the following:

- An overview of the steps taken to ensure that the residents in the two nursing homes were safe and being cared for appropriately.
- HIQA stood up a series of unannounced inspections out of hours and during the day which allowed inspectors to look at management, care and support arrangements at all times.
- Restrictions had been extended to all nursing homes within the Emeis for a period of time.
- HIQA had written to all families and residents in the two nursing homes through the Providers and had invited them to come forward.
- A number of meetings had been held with Kieran O'Donnell TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People and an interim report for the Minister had been provided.
- HIQA has no legal role regarding nursing home parent companies so the arrangements regarding restriction of admissions in all of the Emeis nursing homes was agreed administratively with the Company.
- An overview of the engagements with RTE regarding accessing all footage including the unseen footage filmed for the RTÉ Investigates programme.
- An overview of the HIQA response to recent social media commentary on the matter was outlined.
- HIQA's outsourced Internal Audit provider, Forvis Mazars, will undertake a Review of the Inspection Process.
- As part of the communication strategy, the Executive will look at ways to keep Board members briefed on the matter, including on relevant public discourse.

The Board acknowledged the quality, speed and depth of the response to a very challenging situation.

The Board noted the following:

- The primary responsibility for the safety and welfare continues to rest with the nursing home providers and the owners.

- HIQA's continued engagement in escalatory action with the Providers was essential to ensure resident safety and wellbeing.
- The immediate response to the issue had been appropriate, but there remained a reputational risk for the organisation.
- The media treatment of the matter had been extensive.
- Consideration needed to be given to how the privacy of the nursing home residents had been respected in the documentary.
- Other matters that need further consideration include a fit for purpose framework for staffing, regulatory reform within the nursing sector, and establishment of a clinical advisory panel and
- HIQA's policy on the potential for conflicts of interest that may arise for inspection staff and the importance of continued review of such policies.
- In relation to the Forvis Mazars review, the people appointed to carry out the review should have the appropriate expertise and consideration could be given to inviting an external person with an appropriate background to join the review team.

MOH advised that there had been a good and detailed discussion at the recent Regulation Committee meeting and a report will be brought to the Board at its next meeting.

The Board acknowledged the challenges for the organisation, the Executive team and the inspection staff, and noted the professionalism of the HIQA attendees at the Oireachtas Health Committee on 18 June 2025.

The Board agreed that there was now a need to deal with the issue of reputational damage and a detailed planned programme for how to rebuild public confidence and trust would be required.

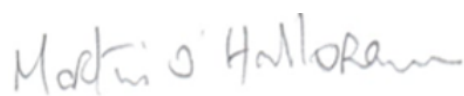
POM advised that AF had cancelled her leave that had been scheduled for the previous two weeks and may take it later in the year.

CS and BC left meeting.

6.0 Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

Signed



Martin O'Halloran
Board Member



Karen Egan
Board Secretary