



Minutes of Board Meeting

02 July 2024 held via Zoom at 9:00

Re: Matters relating to Charities Regulator raised in RTE's Primetime

Authority Members Present:

Name	Detail	Initials
Gerry Kearney	Chairperson	GK
Lorraine Lally	Member of the Authority	LL
John O'Donnell	Member of the Authority	JOD
Marie Daly	Member of the Authority	MD
Máire McMahon	Member of the Authority	MMCM
Geraldine Smith	Member of the Authority	GS
Stephen Keogh	Member of the Authority	SK
Tony Ward	Member of the Authority	TW
Nicola Keogh	Member of the Authority	NK
Ercus Stewart	Member of the Authority	ES
Michael O'Sullivan	Member of the Authority	MOS
Darren Lehane	Member of the Authority	DL

Apologies: Cathy Holahan

1.0 Quorum.

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

2.0 Apologies.

The apology from Cathy Holahan was noted.

3.0 Conflict of Interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4.0 Matters Relating to Charities Regulator Raised in Prime Time

The Chairperson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to agree a Board's response to the Executive's Report in relation to the matters arising from the Prime Time programme. For this purpose, a draft response for consideration by the Board had been circulated. This had been prepared by the ad hoc subcommittee, comprising the Chair and the subcommittees' chairs.

The Chairperson also advised that he had met with the Authority's external communications advisors DHR yesterday, as they were unable to attend the board meeting. He briefed members on the advice received from DHR.

Members discussed the draft Board response and the external communications advice.

Following discussion, the draft was broadly agreed and the following confirmed:

- The Board concluded that the PT programme did not properly or fairly reflect the facts in relation to the Regulator's engagement with each of the three charities.
- The Board noted shortcomings, outlined in the Executive Report, in particular in relation to records management and various aspects of communications. As noted in the Executive Report, with the passage of time, significant progress in stakeholder engagement has been made, while in other areas further work remains to be undertaken.

The Board resolved that:

- The record be corrected in relation to the facts of the Charities Regulator's engagement with the charities referred to
- Independent expertise be secured to advise the Board on measures to address the organisational matters arising
- The Minister/Department be apprised of the Board conclusions and provided with relevant supporting papers
- High level learnings from these recent developments be brought into board deliberations when preparing a new Strategy Statement for 2025 – 2027.

Members discussed making a complaint to RTE in relation to the PT programme. Following such discussion, it was decided on balance that the Board's efforts would be better spent on focusing ahead and addressing the organisational issues arising.

Members noted, more generally, that Communications would come before the board for discussion in the autumn.

It was also noted that the opportunity would be taken in autumn to look afresh at the structure of the Board agenda as well as the range of matters presenting for decision and information.

5. Next Steps

Members agreed the following actions:

1. The ad hoc subcommittee of Chairs will prepare a draft the Terms of Reference for the appointment of independent external expert in relation to the organisational issues raised for consideration.
2. A letter to the Minister to will be prepared by the Chair/ad hoc subcommittee.
3. Board members will continue to be apprised in relation to relevant developments

The Chairperson thanked all for their contribution and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.30am.

Actions arising from Board Meeting, 2 July 2024

No.	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	Letter to the Minister	Chairperson/ad hoc group	w/c 8 July 2024
2	Draft the Terms of Reference for the appointment of independent external expertise	Ad hoc group	w/c 8 July 2024
3	Review Structure/content of board agenda	Chairperson/PRPAC	Q4 - 2024
4.	Communications policy	Chairperson/CEO	Q4 – 2024

Actions arising from Board Meeting, 20 June 2024

No.	Action	Lead Person Responsible	Timeframe
4	Letter to the Minister including the Executive's report and the Board's response	Chairperson	w/c 8 July 2024

Actions completed

No.	Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Completed
(Meeting 11/6/2024)				
1	Provide Executive report to the Board	MD	20 June 2024	20 June 2024
(Meeting 20/6/2024)				
1	Ad hoc subcommittee of chairs to draft board response to Exec report	Ad hoc group	w/ending 5 July 2024	2 July 2024
2	Board to meet to discuss the response.	Chairperson	w/commencing 8 July 2024	2 July 2024
3	Briefing for the Board on the communications strategy relating to this matter.	Head of Communications	w/commencing 8 July 2024	2 July 2024
5	Report by the Executive to be provided to the Department.	CEO	Directly	20 June 2024

ENDS