

**Management Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Held via Skype)**  
**14 April 2020**

**Attendance:** Secretary General (Fergal Lynch); Bernie McNally; Dermot Ryan; Laura McGarrigle and Conor Rowley.  
Miriam Kenna reporting.

POs attending: Ger Hughes and Vera McGrath.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of meeting of 6 April 2020 were agreed subject to minor amendments.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Covid-19: review and update of overall situation**

Each MB member gave an update from their areas.

Dermot Ryan included the following in his update:

- DPER has provided updates around issues including health and safety, flexi time and allowances.
- SOG on Covid met on 9 April. DCYA expressed interest in a number of sub group topics including vulnerable groups and insurance
- ICT in conjunction with HR have carried out a survey of the IT capacity of the Department to work remotely. Just 70 staff are now without IT capacity and, following discussion, it was agreed that it would be prudent to proceed with the purchase of the necessary additional laptops for this group.
- Covid related PQ type queries are now being answered through a dedicated system, separate from ePQs.

Bernie McNally included the following in her update:

- New contracts to childcare providers are almost ready to be issued, subject to finalisation of amendments to the temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme by the Minister for Finance. A meeting between An Taoiseach, Minister Zappone, Minister Donohoe and senior officials was held on 10 April which resolved a number of matters so that the WSS can be applied appropriately to the childcare sector.
- A paper has issued to NPHET outlining options to provide childcare for frontline workers. The arrangements for paying childcare workers are likely to be very complex unless Revenue can identify a means of not reducing the incomes of those on WSS.

Laura McGarrigle included the following in her update:

- Management at Oberstown Children Detention Campus continue to monitor capacity, staff rosters and the overall environment.

- The State Claims Agency has confirmed that the youth workers assisting in other areas will be covered by the General Indemnity Scheme for the period of the deployment where they will act under the supervision of Tusla.
- Communications to children and young people are being prepared and an initiative to promote the importance of play for children is being developed. The “May is for Play” will link to the proposed wellbeing campaign being developed on a whole of Government basis by DoT and D/Health
- Work continues on the legal requirements for children in the adoption process who are about to turn 18 during the year. Legal advice and sign off by the Attorney General’s office will be required.

Conor Rowley included the following in his update:

- Regular, ongoing communications with Tusla on key issues. DCYA continues to work closely with the CEO and SMT of Tusla, particularly in relation to child protection and welfare, out of hours services and Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV).
- It is proposed to pause the GAL project for the duration of the Covid emergency. This would be formalised at a meeting of the GEO Programme Board on 15 April.

#### **4. Business planning, Identifying Business Critical Issues and PMO Report on DCYA Workforce position**

The PMO’s initial analysis of the Department’s Business Plans for 2020 and Covid-19 implications was discussed. The following action points were agreed:

1. Completion of Phase 1 of the reviews (I.e. any outstanding Divisional returns to be sent on to the PMO asap)
2. The PMO to conduct an quality analysis on all returns (Phase 2)
3. The PMO to complete its overall analysis and report back to the MB at its scheduled meeting on Monday, 27 April 2020.

#### **5. AOB**

It was confirmed that an SMT meeting would be held on Friday 17 April 2020 at 10.30 via Skype.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Monday 20 April at 10.30.