

Management Board Meeting Minutes
(Held via Skype)
20 April 2020

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

PO attending: Vera McGrath. Apologies: Ger Hughes.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 14 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

As each MB member had given a detailed update at the SMT meeting on Friday 17 April, the areas covered at the MB meeting were confined to any significant developments since then, or items not discussed at the SMT meeting.

Dermot Ryan included the following in his update:

- Attendance at SOG meetings continue
- ICT continue to work on preparation of laptops and a further 20 are now ready to issue to staff.

Bernie McNally included the following in her update:

- Work continues on the Wage Subsidy Scheme for workers in the childcare sector.
- Providing childcare for frontline workers continues to be a priority and work is ongoing.

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 development of an initiative “May is for Play” is continuing as part of a series of initiatives relating to wellbeing of children and young people.
- Work continues on the legal requirements for children in the adoption process who are about to turn 18 during the year.

Conor Rowley included the following in his update:

- Regular, ongoing communications with Tusla on key issues is continuing.
- Clarification being sought on developments under the International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP).

4. DCYA expenditure 2020

Gordon Gaffney, Ruth Mulligan and Patricia Ballintine joined via Skype for this item to discuss a paper circulated prior to the meeting, which set out the current position regarding the

identification of savings from all areas of the Vote, in order to mitigate against the impact of additional costs or enforced savings as a result of the Covid-19 emergency.

DR opened the discussion emphasising the importance of identifying savings throughout the department. It was noted that at a minimum, the Department would be required to take the steps required to stay within its allocated budget for 2020. However, there was also a strong possibility that further savings would be sought centrally in light of the enormous financial pressures caused in the economy as a whole from Covid-19.

Following a discussion it was agreed that:

- Each A Sec would examine their respective areas in detail, by reference to both the existing 2020 allocation and the question of further savings
- FL would prepare a template to be followed by each Division in order to ensure comparability
- Each Division's paper would be returned by Wednesday 29 April.

5. AOB

It was confirmed that a meeting between the MB and APs would be held on Friday 24 April 2020 at 10.30 via Skype.

A meeting with the Minister and MB was confirmed for Wednesday 29 April. MB members were asked to prepare the usual briefing material in advance of the meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Monday 27 April at 10.30.