Recovery Oversight Group

Minutes of Meeting	Video Conference	7th April, 2021 10.00am

Attendees:	
Nóirín Hegarty - Chair	
Ruth Andrews	
Maria Melia	
Niall Gibbons	
Paul Gallagher	
Aisling Reynolds-Feighan	
Rob Rankin	
Helena Healy	
Apologies: Paul Kelly	
Secretariat:	
Colm O'Connor	Lisa Herlihy
Kenneth McMahon	

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Latest Developments, including;
   - Ongoing Supports
   - Domestic Re-opening
   - International Re-opening
   - Vaccination
4. Next Steps
5. AOB

Item	Details	Action
1.	Nóirín Hegarty, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed the group. The high rate of vaccine inoculations in the USA and UK has meant that those two markets are exuberant about international travel, with Americans in particular currently actively planning and booking trips. The Chair reminded the group that its focus needs to remain on how to assist the Minister in overseeing the Tourism Recovery Plan.	Record
2.	Minutes of the last meeting approved.	Noted
3.	A discussion ensued around the latest developments, general consensus that there is lots of opportunity when it is safe to travel again.	

	During a tour the table the following topics were discussed; • Feedback from international visitors and industry around the mandatory hotel quarantine is very negative. • With regards to connectivity, this is still a worrying piece, Ireland and the EU are lagging three months behind the USA. Concerns raised around grounding of fleets and how assets will be mobilized during recovery. • As we move to mass vaccination what are the possibilities to enable inbound tourists during summer months. • Second report on Antigen testing delivered by the HSE in recent days. NPHET advising greater freedoms should be afforded to vaccinated people, need to consider how to manage intervening period and the transition for the cohort that are already fully vaccinated. • Industry very strongly advocating for a targeted re-opening date that can be highlighted along with milestones/additional recommendations subject to public health conditions. • Concern that there is no timeline for a national opening up. • What is the recommended strategy, where does antigen testing, vaccination, vaccine certs and the digital green certificate fit in as possible alternatives to mandatory hotel quarantine. • Need to look at changing the narrative to a strategic message of hope. Ongoing industry supports are in line with the group's report to the Minister. Summary paper of feedback from the Hospitality and Tourism Forum very aligned with this group's views. Need to establish how this group feeds into the NERP, and ensure that any recommendations from the group are timely. Once NERP published this group will review in context of the recommendations in the recovery plan.	Record Aisling Reynolds Feighan to share Connectivity presentation with group Secretariat to circulate report Fáilte Ireland to give update on ongoing supports including any sectors unable to access supports. Secretariat to find out NERP date.

	Need to have a strategic view on the impact of a vaccination certificate from a Global, EU and domestic/operational point of view Lot of data available from Israel, UK, Iceland and the US to inform our risk. Need to review where data is collected from. Look at practicalities of how it can be managed.	
4.	Workshop meeting proposed for two weeks' time on Thursday 22nd April at 10am Strategic roadmap required on how to position Ireland as preparing to "open" with the EU as our guiding framework. Workshop will seek to develop a report for the Minister to advise on reopening inbound international tourism.	Secretariat to issue invites. Tourism Ireland strategy team to put together a brief paper for discussion on what graduated strategy for re-opening might look like.
5.	AOB: Sustainable Tourism Working Group currently finalising list of sustainable actions. Development of new national tourism policy to be initiated later this year. Will keep the group informed. CSO letter: it was agreed that the TSA issue would be progressed at official level.	Secretariat to keep group informed of any developments. D/TCAGSM to pursue