

Management Board Meeting Minutes

(Held in person)

Monday 21 February 2022 at 10.30pm

Attendance: Secretary General (Kevin McCarthy); Dermot Ryan; Carol Baxter; Laura McGarrigle; Lara Hynes and Anne-Marie Brooks.

Miriam Kenna reporting.

Lara Hynes was welcomed to the MB ahead of taking up her new role as acting Assistant Secretary and congratulated on her appointment.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 07 February 2022 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising at this time.

3. Brief Updates:

KMcC asked for an update on how the lifting of Covid restrictions would affect the Department.

AMBrooks said that from the EY area it would be a welcome development. It would allow for the removal of the pod system and easing the pressure on finances and recruitment/retention in EY settings. An announcement will be made to the sector after the Government announcement.

DR said that, with regard to staff returning to the office, an office notice had issued to all staff outlining the plan for returning to the office, including the process for allocating desks

CB said that the possible removal of the mandatory 5 day quarantine for newly arrived refugees could be a risk, but they would be guided by the HSE Covid advice.

4. For noting

The papers circulated under this heading were noted, including the brief updates supplied by MB members.

MB outlined some of the key issues:

LMcG said that:

- the Institutional Burials Legislation will go to Government on Tuesday 22nd Feb. The Minister intends publishing a draft of the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum on Tuesday. He will hold a webinar with stakeholders in advance of publication.

- The Birth Information and Tracing Bill was scheduled to go to Committee stage on 23 February but that is now deferred for a week on request of the Bills Office due to the 1,200 (approx.) amendments that were submitted. Prime Time on the 8th of March will do a follow up to last years "Who Am I" programme. The Special Rapporteur on Child Protection's report on next steps on illegal birth registrations may be published the same day.

- The Mother and Baby Home's payment scheme was covered in the media today (Feb 21). There would be an update discussion at MB shortly.

CB and her team had attended an informal session of the Joint Committee on Gender Equality on the recommendations for Constitutional change made by the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality and on 16 February 2022, a private member's motion on transport supports for people with disabilities was tabled and DCEDIY coordinated the response.

- The deadline for tender submissions for the provision of additional accommodation services for international protection applicants will close today 21 February 2022.

DR said that the Minister successfully attended at Select Committee one for on 8th February to discuss the REV for DCEDIY.

- Work continues on the DOH Transfer of Functions. It is hoped to be able to keep to the timeline of 30th April, with a Memo ready to go to Government then.

KMcC said that David Salter would be the new Chair of the Audit Committee of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth from 9th March 2022.

In light of Bernie McNally's move to Education to take up her new position as Secretary General, it was agreed that DR would take the Disability area in a caretaker capacity until a new A Sec was appointed. The Youth and Participation areas would report directly to the Secretary General.

5. AOB

No AOB at this time.

6. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Monday 07 March 2022.