

Management Board Meeting Minutes
(in person and by skype)
Monday 20 March 2023 at 10.30 am

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

Apologies from Colm O’Conaill and Lara Hynes

Miriam Kenna reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 06 March 2023 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Organisational structure review: Facilitated sessions with “Think People” for MB and SMT have been scheduled.

3. Ukrainian Crisis and International Protection updates

SR gave brief updates on the situation at present including:

- BOTP accommodation is available at the moment, the situation continues to be closely monitored
- Accommodation working group chaired by Con Murray and attended by DPER, D/Housing, CSSO and others discussion included refurbished buildings, legal review of contracts and POD accommodation.
- SOG Policy sub group have asked DCEDIY to prepare a further paper on the comparative offerings across EU Member States and the need to align Ireland’s offering
- Invoicing processing backlog continues to be worked on, extra resources are now in place
- DR noted that Auxillion business processing and optimisation review is continuing and that a proposal has now been received which will be circulated for discussion
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CB gave brief updates on International protection including:

- IP accommodation remains extremely problematic as numbers of new applicants remain high and a significant volume of contracted beds expire at the end of the month
- Detailed contingency planning and efforts underway involving the relevant teams in the division to seek to manage the situation, including exploring all available immediate and medium term accommodation options
- A request for urgent support in identifying and providing emergency facilities has been made to the CCMA
- A review and change to the policy for people with status in IP accommodation is being worked on
- Officials are engaging with CCMA and D/Housing to establish solutions for people with status moving out of Direct Provision accommodation
- Other accommodation options being worked on are Cruise ships and student accommodation (for the summer period)

- Increase in legal actions continue

It was also noted:

- Tension in Citywest led to a serious disturbance on Monday 13th March.
- Preparations are being put in place for managing issues related to Ramadan

4. Work Force planning

Noreen Leahy and Carol O Dowda joined the meeting for this item. A paper had been circulated to MB prior to the meeting.

DR introduced the item and NL outlined the present staffing situation, existing vacancies and the overall requirements for the year ahead.

Each MB member then outlined their division's requirements, the priority areas and where there may be cutbacks.

The scale of recruitment needed to meet WFP requirements and the associated challenges of this were discussed. It was agreed that all available means, including direct recruitment, contracting and sectoral secondments should be explored. It was agreed that HR would seek to map these potential avenues with overall WFP targets

KMcC asked that an updated paper based on today's discussion be prepared for further discussion at the facilitated session on the 17th April.

He thanked NL and CO'D and their team for the work done on this.

5. For noting

The papers circulated under this heading were noted by MB members.

The paper on the Climate Action Roadmap, which must be in place by the end of **Q1 2023** was noted and agreed.

The Department's preparatory work on the Gender Equality Referendum will be led by Laura McGarrigle and Jane-Anne Duffy, with additional resources to be identified and arrangements for back-filling Jane-Anne's post for the period.

Niamh Allen, Special Adviser to Minister Eamon Ryan, has been assigned to work with the Minister and his team on the areas of Equality, Disability and the Referendum.

The St John's Ambulance report has been published and officials in the department are liaising with Tusla on concerns raised.

6. AOB

LMcG reminded the MB that an email issued on Friday 10 March to all POs with a request for each unit to assess relevant files held as The National Archives are undertaking an audit of records held by the Department in the context of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance. The deadline for responses is 24 March.

AMB will meet with Minister O Gorman to discuss estimates 2024.

7. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for 03rd April 2023.