

**Management Board Meeting Minutes
(in person and by skype)
Monday 03 April 2023 at 10.30 am**

Attendance: Secretary General (Kevin McCarthy); Laura McGarrigle; Colm O'Conaill; Anne-Marie Brooks and Carol Baxter.

Apologies from Sheenagh Rooney, Lara Hynes and Dermot Ryan

Miriam Kenna reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 20 March 2023 were agreed subject to a minor amendment.

2. Matters Arising

Work Force Planning: HR to have further meetings with heads of Divisions to further identify critical priorities for each area. Update will be given at MB facilitated session on 17th April.

RFT for direct recruitment is being progressed and is expected to be completed in the coming days.



3. Ukrainian Crisis and International Protection updates

CB gave brief update on the Ukraine BOTP situation at present including:

- BOTP accommodation availability is becoming increasingly tight, with arrivals now running ahead of forecast. The situation continues to be closely monitored as there may be a shortage of accommodation over the Easter period.
- There is no backlog of accommodation offers, as the review of offers received through the offers portal is largely up to date.
- POD type accommodation is moving forward, with work beginning on the Mullingar site this week.

CB gave brief updates on International protection including:

- IP accommodation remains extremely problematic as a significant volume of contracted beds have expired, leading to extreme pressure on accommodation.
- Tensions in Citywest remain seriously high, with significant unrest leading to a critical incident on Saturday night/Sunday morning.
- There are concerns for the safety and welfare of staff, both Departmental and contracted, in Citywest

- Priority is now being given to reducing the numbers in Citywest.
- Numbers not offered not offered accommodation now stand at well over 400 with a number of legal cases in train.

4. For noting

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

LMcG noted that issues had arisen in respect of failure to issue a response to an FOI request from Deputy Catherine Connolly and to follow up on reminder requests received. It was agreed to review the process followed. Arrangements for the urgent finalisation of response would now be made and it was agreed that LMcG would speak to the Deputy on behalf of the Department to acknowledge the delay in issuing the FOI.

5. AOB

CO'C gave a brief update on recent SOG discussion in relation to the post transfer of functions financial verification activity being undertaken in respect of Disability services. He said that engagement with the HSE was particularly important and noted that the SG would meet the CEO of HSE this week followed by a meeting of Minister Rabbitte and CEO HSE next week.

The Secretary General has signed off on the Appropriation Accounts for year ended 31 December 2022 for Vote 40 Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and this has now been sent to the C&AG. It was noted that the Department's 40/02 report is being finalised.

MB congratulated the Ukraine Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team who won the excellence award in the '**Leading Reform in a Crisis**' category at the 8th Annual Civil Service Excellence Awards in Dublin Castle Thursday evening (30/03/2023). Congratulations were also extended to the Early Years team who were nominated in the "Strategic Policy Development" category for their work on the new funding model for Early Learning and Childcare: Together for Better.

MB noted plans for 17th April MB facilitated session on organisation development.

Assistant Secretary posts – 1. Head of International Protection and Integration post was advertised by PAS on 31 March, 2. Child Policy and Tusla Governance Division with TLAC for interview on the 5th May 2023.

The SG will attend the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase in Croke Park on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

Newly appointed Head of Communications, Sinead Whooley, has commenced her role in the department today, Monday 3rd April, and will arrange to meet with MB members.

MB expressed their condolences to the family of our late colleague Henry Fottrell who passed away last week.

6. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting will be the facilitated session on the 17th April 2023.

Tuesday 2nd May will be next regular MB meeting.