

Expert Group on the Role of Ventilation in Reducing Transmission of COVID-19

Meeting 6

10am Thursday 25th February 2021

(By Videoconference)

Present

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| Prof John Wenger (Chair) | UCC |
| Dr Marie Coggins | NUIG |
| Dr Laura Heavey | HSE |
| Asst Prof Orla Hegarty | UCD |
| Mr Simon Jones | IEA and Aereco Ltd. |
| Ms Edel Murray | DHLGH |
| Prof Mike Prentice | UCC |
| Mr Brendan Redington | HSE Estates |
| Dr Kim Roberts | TCD |
| Dr Thomas Roux | HPSC |

Apologies

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| Dr Ina Kelly | HSE |
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MINUTES

1. Minutes from last meeting, matters arising and conflicts of interest

Minutes from Meeting 5 were edited during the meeting and approved. Members have submitted their “Declaration of Interests” forms. No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Communications and correspondence

The HSA confirmed that they can provide support and advice on an ongoing basis if the Group has any specific queries.

3. Government document: COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead

<https://assets.gov.ie/124440/a3fa7c2b-9ee4-492a-b0c0-ed3374fb1729.pdf>

The Expert Group is mentioned in this document. The Group also noted the following statement in the document: “additional advice in respect of ventilation to support other measures will be finalised by end of March”. The Chair confirmed that he was not involved in any discussions related to this statement and was only made aware of it after the document was published.

4. Second report to NPHET

The Group had a detailed discussion on the planned second report titled: "Ventilation and related measures to reduce airborne transmission of COVID-19". General agreement was reached on the content: Introduction (context, modes of transmission, precautionary principle, mitigation measures, hierarchy controls); Ventilation (general definition, natural and mechanical, refer to existing guidance and include extra aspects that could be emphasized); Temperature and Humidity; Use of CO2 monitors in assessing ventilation; Air cleaning devices; Conclusions (this general information on ventilation and related measures can be used across all sectors in society). Group members will work on this document over the next few days with the goal of submitting the report by 2 March. It was decided that a supplement specifically addressed to schools could also be prepared if there is sufficient time.

5. Any Other Business

None

28 February 2021