

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

Meeting 7

10am Monday 1st March 2021

(By Videoconference)

Present

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

Dr Ina Kelly	HSE
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MINUTES

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

Minutes from Meeting 6 were discussed and approved.

Matters arising in relation to the Government document: *COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead* were briefly discussed and were further considered in AOB.

No additional conflicts of interest were declared among the Group.

2. Communications and correspondence

The Chair notified the Group about recent communications on ventilation in schools with a Department of Education representative.

Group details have been sent to the NPHET Secretariat, but it was noted that these are yet to be published online.

3. Second report to NPHET and supplement on Schools

The Group had a detailed discussion on the current draft of the second report titled:

“Ventilation and related measures to reduce airborne transmission of COVID-19”. Group members will work on finalising the report with the aim of submitting it by 2 March.

An initial draft of the supplementary document for schools has been prepared and could also be submitted if there is sufficient time.

4. Any Other Business

The Group discussed the current work plan in light of the Government document: *COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead*.

The group welcomes the Government's commitment: *"further strengthening of prevention and intervention measures will be undertaken in respect of public health capacity, public health response in terms of surveillance, track and trace, use of new testing technologies, ventilation and research and innovation"*.

However, there was concern over the statement that: *"Additional advice in respect of ventilation to support other measures will be finalised by end March"*.

It is noted that the Group has no resources and that members are currently giving up their own time to work on generating reports etc.

It is clear that the Group would not be able to deliver the current work plan by the end of March, but there was general agreement that we should continue working towards these goals.

4 March 2021