

Management Board Meeting Minutes

(In person and by Webex)

Tuesday 01 November 2022 at 10.30am

Attendance: Secretary General (Kevin McCarthy); Laura McGarrigle; Sheenagh Rooney; Lara Hynes and Carol Baxter.

Apologies from Anne-Marie Brooks, Dermot Ryan, and Colm O'Conaill.

Stephen Burke reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 17 October 2022 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

LMcG updated on the status of the Senior Statistician secondment post from the CSO to lead the new Data Analytics Unit, start date has not yet been confirmed by HR.

3. Ukrainian Crisis and IP response

SR gave a brief update on the outcome of the Cabinet Committee meeting held last week and a number of measures subsequently agreed by Government at an incorporeal meeting for the Ukraine response -

- As serviced accommodation contracts expire, renewal will be on a bed only basis (not catered).
- It was noted that there is a risk of losing some accommodation as this is implemented.
- The recognition payment for pledged accommodation will be increased to €800, the legislation for this rests with DCEDIY. The Minister will be writing to Minister for Social Protection and Minister for PER to consult them on this change as part of the formal review of the rate that is required under the legislation
- Government to launch a new call for vacant homes through local authorities, overseen by Department of Housing
- A more stringent refusals policy to be implemented
- A single database and point of contact to be developed in respect of accommodation offers.

CB updated on Cabinet Committee discussion and Government decision on actions relating to IP -

- Action to be taken to address the issue of people with status remaining in IP accommodation, including entitlement to food cards and the decoupling of the medical card from IPAS accommodation. CB to meet Dept of Health this week to discuss medical card measure.
- D/Housing to work with us in developing pathways into housing for persons with status.

Work now beginning on implementing and communicating these changes, which will have implications for contractors and Dept staff.

MB also noted -

Overall accommodation pressures remain, with procurement of new IP accommodation proving especially difficult

The Minister has written to cabinet colleagues regarding the pressures on Citywest and seeking their support in identifying potential suitable vacant buildings for emergency use.

4. Internal Audit Update

Conor Kelly joined the meeting for this item and gave a presentation on the overall work of Internal Audit unit.

Key areas noted included –

- The Internal Audit Unit is also the Audit Authority (AA) for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- The unit name will be updated to 'Internal and EU Audit Unit' when the Internal Audit Charter is revised
- A number of new Audit Committee members have been appointed since the beginning of the year.
- There are a number of longstanding outstanding "high" and "medium" audit report recommendations which have not yet been formally closed out, some of these going back a number of years.
- The Audit Committee are seeking explanations as to why responses are being delayed and recommendations have not been closed off.
- IAU have introduced Data Analysis software for sampling, and risk software to automate the internal audit process.
- New external audit resource of Crowleys DFK will be in place from next week.
- IAU has some key staffing vacancies upcoming.

Following was agreed -

MB members to be notified of any outstanding audit recommendations in their areas with a view to seeking to close off outstanding recommendations where possible.

Heads of Business Units to be encouraged to provide management responses on audit findings in a timely manner.

IAU will be requesting Business Units to feed into the Audit Plan for 2023.

MB should be copied on any notifications re outstanding cases in their divisions.

CK agreed to provide update to MB in relation to outstanding recommendations in 3 months, and to consult directly with MB members in relation to audit plan suggestions and potential timings.

5. For noting

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

MB noted the October monthly Creeslough update and approved for submission to the Minister.

6. AOB

LH updated the MB on discussions with the AGO and Tusla in finalising their proposed approach to notifying data subjects impacted by the cyber-attack on the HSE last year. A similar notification process will be conducted by the HSE and it is intended that the two Ministers will jointly seek Government agreement on the approaches to be taken.

SG thanked MB and the staff of their divisions for support before and at the PAC meeting last week, and noted the success of the Town Hall meeting. It was agreed that Town Hall meetings will be held quarterly in 2023.

7. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for 14th November.