

Meeting of Pandemic Ethics Advisory Group Minutes

- **Attendees (via Microsoft Teams):**
 - Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan (Chair);
 - Dr Simon Mills SC;
 - Prof. David Smith;
 - Dr Barry Lyons;
 - Mr Stephen McMahon;
 - Dr Joan McCarthy;
 - Dr Andrea Mulligan BL;
 - Mr Mervyn Taylor.
- **Also in Attendance:**
 - Emily de Grae (secretariat)

1. Introductions

- The Pandemic Ethics Advisory Group (PEAG) members introduced themselves and their area of expertise and were thanked by the Chair for agreeing to participate in this expert subgroup of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE).

2. Rule of Procedure

- The Chair outlined the overarching Covid-19 preparedness approach of the Department of Health and across government.
- The Chair stated that the purpose of the PEAG is to answer ethical questions posed to it by the NPHE and to report directly to it via the Chair. Given the evolving nature of the crisis, it was emphasised that responses to questions would require the group to work in an accelerated manner.
- The Chair also set out the terms of reference, rules of procedure and modus operandi for the group.

3. Review of Ethical Framework for Decision-Making in a Pandemic

- The Chair provided a brief overview of the goals and purpose of this high-level document and set out the intended timeline for submission to the NPHE and publication, given the need for ethical advice at the frontline.
- She informed the group that the draft was also being reviewed by a small group of senior clinical experts.
- It was highlighted that a separate paper focussing on managing critical care resources during the pandemic was already being drafted and would be circulated to the PEAG in advance of its next meeting.
- There followed an in-depth discussion of the draft Framework where a number of textual amendments were agreed.

- It was agreed that once the amendments were made the draft would be presented to the NPHE for approval.

4. AOB

- It was agreed that the PEAG would meet again on Friday 27th March to review the draft paper on the ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the context of COVID-19