

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;
 - Dr Louise Campbell;
 - Mr Mervyn Taylor.
- **Also in Attendance:**
 - Emily de Grae (secretariat)
 - Audrey Ní Chaoindealbháin (secretariat)

1. Update from NPHE

- The Chair provided an update on the current status of the group’s work. She thanked the members for their swift responses and for convening for the second time in the week.
- The Chair advised of other work ongoing by NPHE, including the establishment of a National Research Ethics Committee to expedite COVID-19 related work. She indicated that research calls for projects on the pandemic had gone out the previous evening.

2. Ethical Framework for Decision Making in a Pandemic

- The Chair thanked the group for their input into the Ethical Framework.
- She advised that the Framework had been due for publication the previous evening but would now be published that evening.
- The Chair informed the group that NPHE were clear on the importance of the Framework being released to support healthcare workers.

3. Ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the context of COVID-19

- 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 would be reviewed by the Acute Hospitals sub-group of NPHE on Monday 30th March.
- There followed an in-depth discussion of the draft paper where a number of textual amendments were agreed.

4. AOB

- It was agreed that the PEAG would meet again on Thursday 2nd April.