



Oifig an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna
Office of the Minister for Education and Skills

Mr Bob Savage
Chairperson
Cork Institute of Technology

Mr Lionel Alexander
Chairperson
Institute of Technology, Tralee

22 July 2019

Munster Technological University Consortium Application

Dear Chairpersons,

I am writing to you in relation to the application made to me on 12 February 2019 on behalf of the Munster Technological University consortium, comprising Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Institute of Technology, Tralee (ITT) to become a Technological University (TU).

Following my consideration of the application, the report of the Review Panel, the views of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the relevant provisions of the Technological Universities Act, 2018 I am now required to inform you of my proposed decision on the MTU application and the reasons for my decision.

On that basis I wish, therefore, to inform you of my proposed decision to postpone the granting of the application by making of an Order under the TU Act establishing the MTU until Q1 2020. Consistent with the HEA's recommendation to me, I am proposing that the establishment of the Munster Technological University will be subject to compliance with conditions to address the important issues set out in the Review Panel's report.

Please note that under section 34(3) of the Technological Universities Act, 2018 you may make representations to me in relation to my proposed decision not later than 30 days after the date of issue of this letter.

As you are aware, the Government is strongly committed to the establishment of MTU as a key priority underlying the delivery of the regional development objectives set out in Project Ireland 2040 and the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027. In that context, I welcome the substantial progress made by the MTU consortium evidenced by the Review Panel's report in meeting the detailed quantitative criteria for eligibility to become a Technological University.

In order to underpin the delivery of the establishment of the MTU, I have asked my departmental officials and the HEA to engage intensively with both your Institutes to determine what actions and steps should be undertaken to support and enable the consortium in responding successfully to the specific issues identified by the Review Panel in its report.

In addition to the constructive and positive proposals contained in the assessment of the Review Panel and the views of the HEA, the process leading to the successful establishment of TU Dublin and the work of the Technological Universities Research Network provide the basis for the development of a detailed roadmap and the determination of specific conditions which will lead to the successful establishment of the MTU.

The Review Panel's report and the views of the HEA are attached for your information. I intend to publish these documents when announcing my proposed decision in this matter.

I look forward to the continued commitment of your institutions to the achievement of the establishment of MTU. The submission of an application for designation as a TU and the evaluation by the Review Panel are key milestones in that journey. I know that both Institutes are committed to ensuring that the full potential of the establishment of a Technological University for Munster is realised. The Panel's report has made a major contribution in highlighting where significant work is required to ensure that MTU is founded on a clear vision and strategy for a single, cohesive and unified Technological University.

I am confident that your Institutes will rise to the challenge of making this a reality in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe McHugh".

Joe McHugh T.D.

Minister for Education and Skills

cc

Dr. Barry O'Connor, President, Cork Institute of Technology

Dr. Brendan O'Donnell, Acting President, Institute of Technology Tralee

Dr. Don Thornhill, Independent Chair of the MTU Consortium