



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

Mr. Paul O'Toole,  
Interim CEO,  
The Higher Education Authority,  
3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue,  
Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4.

*19th*  
February 2019

**Re: Munster Technological University Consortium Application**

Dear Mr. O'Toole,

I have been requested by the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh, T.D, to attach a copy of an application received under Section 29 of the Technological Universities Act 2018 (No.3 of 2018).

The Minister, hereby, directs the Higher Education Authority, in accordance with Section 31(1) of the 2018 Act, to nominate at least 3 persons having a special interest or expertise in, or knowledge of, matters relating to higher education, at least two of whom shall have expertise at an international level in standards and practices in higher education for appointment by the Minister to an advisory panel under Section 31(3) of the 2018 Act.

A similar direction has been made to the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland.

The nominations should be furnished to the Minister at the Authority's earliest convenience but not later than within 60 days of this direction.

Subject to the receipt of nominations, further directions will issue in relation to the appointment of a panel by the Minister and the procedural requirements in relation to the application's assessment and related matters in accordance with Sections 31-33 of the 2018 Act.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Newcombe,  
Private Secretary