

Higher Education Authority

Report of Meeting of the Board of the HEA held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 in the Dublin office.

- Present:
- Mr Tony Donohoe (agenda items 1-13)
 - Dr Judith Eaton (agenda items 1-13)
 - Professor Orla Feely, Deputy Chair (agenda items 1-13)
 - Mr Michael Horgan, Chairperson (agenda items 1-13)
 - Ms Darina Kneafsey (agenda items 1-13)
 - Dr Sinéad O’Flanagan (agenda items 1-13)
 - Mr Pól Ó Móráin (agenda items 1-13)
 - Dr John Wall (agenda items 1-13)
 - Dr Sharon Feeney (agenda items 1-13)
 - Beth O Reilly (agenda items 1-13)
- In attendance:
- Professor Daniel Carey, IRC Chair (agenda items 1-13)
 - Professor Maria Clarke, SETL Committee Chair (agenda items 1-13)
 - Dr Alan Wall (agenda items 1-13.1)
 - Ms Orla Nugent (agenda items 1-12)
 - Mr Padraic Mellett (agenda items 1-12)
 - Mr Tim Conlon (agenda items 1-12)
 - Ms Caitriona Ryan (agenda items 1-12)
 - Dr Vivienne Patterson (agenda items 1-12)
 - Dr Louise Callinan (agenda items 1-12)
 - Ms. Pearl Cunningham (agenda items 1-12)
 - Ms Sheena Duffy (agenda items 1-12)
 - Ms Eilis Noonan (agenda items 1-12)
 - Dr Deirdre Quinn (agenda items 5, 9, 11)
 - Dr Richard Brophy (item 5)
 - Ms Orla Christle (agenda item 7)
 - Dr Deirdre Lillis, DFHERIS (agenda item 11)
 - Mr Joe Moore, DFHERIS (agenda item 11)

Conflicts of Interest

The Chair reminded all Board members of potential conflicts of interest and asked members to highlight any items that may require attention. None were raised.

Quorum

The quorum for HEA Board meetings, six members, was met.

Opening Remarks

The Chair noted that this was Professor Orla Feely's final meeting as a HEA Board member, following her appointment as President of UCD. The Chair, Board, and Executive thanked Professor Feely for her very impactful contributions to the Board and wished her every success in her new role. Professor Feely noted that it was a pleasure to serve as a Member of the HEA Board, remarked on the collegial and informed nature of the Board, and thanked her fellow Members for their support, as well as the Executive for their work.

Members congratulated Dr Feeney on her recent appointment to the Board of QQI.

There was a change to the agenda as circulated, item 12 which concerned the Governance Ireland Board Evaluation Report that was moved to the June meeting of the Board.

1. Report of previous meeting

1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th March were agreed.

2. Matters arising

2.1 An update was sought on the actions arising from the Sustainability Plan for DKIT. The Executive confirmed that regular meetings are held with DKIT which provide updates on progress of action set out in the Sustainability Plan. In addition, a Budget and Accountability meeting was held in April with the leadership team in DKIT, where they each presented on the actions they are undertaking. An independent facilitator has been appointed to assist with the implementation. However, a key element of the Sustainability Plan is a reduction in staff costs which will require a redundancy/early retirement package. DFHERIS have commenced engaging directly with DKIT on this.

3. Report of the Audit & Risk Committee

3.0.1. Ms Kneafsey presented this report.

3.0.2 2022 Financial Statements

The Committee recommended the 2022 Financial Statements be approved by the Board.

Decision: Members approved the 2022 Financial Statements.

3.0.3 Audit and Risk Committee Governance Document

The Committee recommended the Board approve the revised Governance Document for the Audit and Risk Committee; with two proposed changes:

1. The quorum should be three members rather than 50% of the membership plus one.
2. The Committee should meet a minimum of four times per annum, not five. This is in line with paragraph 1.13 of the Code of Practice Audit and Risk Committee guidance.

Decision: Members approved the updated ARC Governance Document.

3.0.4 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2022

The Committee reviewed the draft Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report and recommended a number of changes including details of the Committee members, meetings attended and reference to the new legislation. These changes will be incorporated and brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

3.0.5 Other items considered by the ARC:

- The Data Protection Officer provided an update regarding ongoing actions on the Springboard system, including enhanced security monitoring.
- The Committee accepted the proposed Internal Audit Workplan for 2023.

Members noted the Committee's report.

4. Report of the Irish Research Council

4.0.1 Professor Carey presented this report.

4.0.2 Formation of new Research Agency

The Council had an open discussion on the recent developments regarding the formation of the new research agency. The lack of a wider public consultation was noted as a concern. There was also a specific concern noted about the Heads of the Research and Innovation Bill in relation to the alignment of provisions across the Heads. Members are to consider international exemplars which could serve as useful models for the new funding agency.

4.0.2 Other items considered by the IRC:

- Members were advised that Mazars has completed the independent audit of the HERANet Public Spaces Joint Research Programme, the outcome of which was positive.
- Members noted that the IRC was invited to provide commentary on the Research and Innovation Bill 2023 to the Joint Committee for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science as they begin the pre-legislative scrutiny of the Research & Innovation Bill.

Members noted the Council's report.

5. Memorandum B22/23 – HEA Strategic Planning Process 2023

5.1 Mr Conlon presented this report. Members were requested to consider the proposed approach to developing the Corporate Strategic Plan 2023-2026 for the HEA.

As required under section 20 of the Higher Education Authority Act (2022), the HEA is required to develop a "Corporate Plan" for the ensuing 3-year period. It is proposed that the final Corporate Strategic Plan will present a vision of how the HEA will work over the medium to long term to support, develop, fund, and regulate Higher Education and Research in Ireland towards successful outcomes for students, staff, our higher education institutions, the economy, and society.

An external consultant will be appointed to work with Executive members through a multi-stage development process, to include an environmental scan, internal and external stakeholder engagement, and development of metrics and timelines, following which the draft Plan will be brought to the HEA Board for further consideration and discussion and ultimately, approval.

5.2 Members raised the following queries:

- Re: timeframes, are the activities mentioned including targeted/structured stakeholder engagement sessions planned for completion by September? The Executive confirmed it is intended to achieve as much as possible by September in advance of new Board Members beginning their terms in Q4 2023.
- It was noted that the HEA Act 2022 should be the "guiding star", and the Plan should set out how the HEA will be able to deliver on the functions and objectives set out in the Act. This will shape the vision and mission of the organisation going forward.
- Activity areas that should be given specific mention include enterprise engagement and upskilling/lifelong learning, given their importance in the legislation and in the sector as a whole. The Executive confirmed these can be emphasised.
- It was confirmed by the Executive that the appointment of external advisors to assist with the development of the Plan will go through an appropriate procurement process, within guidelines. It is expected that an update will be brought to the Board in June.

Decision: Members approved the proposed approach as set out in the Memo.

6. Memorandum B23/23 HEA Appeals (HEA Act 2022 (Appeals) Regulations 2022)

6.1 The CEO provided an update on this process. The HEA Executive are in the process of engaging with DFHERIS on several queries in relation to the drafting of these regulations, and a further update will be provided to the Board when clarity has been obtained.

Members noted this update.

7. Memorandum B24/23 State Code of Governance

7.0 Ms Nugent and Ms. Christle presented this report. The Board was requested to approve the proposed approach which is underpinning the updated HEA Governance Oversight Framework with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

All State Bodies are governed by legislation, the majority of whom adopt and confirm compliance with the requirements of the State Code, while also recognising that their establishing legislative requirements take precedence. It is proposed that the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, (the State Code), underpins the HEA Governance Oversight Framework through which Institutions provide assurance to the HEA. The Executive will engage with the sector outlining the coherent approach and requirements for institutions in providing assurance of compliance to the HEA, as provided for under the HEA Act 2022.

7.1 Members raised the following issues:

- Has consultation with other stakeholders been undertaken? The Executive advised that the Board is being consulted in the first instance, but that stakeholder consultation is planned for the next stage of the process.
- The approach was welcomed in that Members recognised that differing codes currently in place across the sector is leading to confusion, whereas a single consistent code will provide clarity.
- The Executive confirmed that the Annual Governance Statements process has also moved towards a “comply or explain” model.

Decision: Members approved the approach set out in this Memorandum.

8. Memorandum B25/23- Delegation of Funding Decisions

8.1 Mr Mellett presented this Memorandum. The Board was requested to approve the delegation of funding allocations up to €3m per programme to the Chief Executive Officer. This is supported by Section 15 (5-7) and 26 (6) of the HEA Act 2022.

The proposed process is that the relevant Section Head shall submit to the CEO a proposed allocation to include the following;

- Name of programme
- Proposed allocation to institution/consortium
- The process followed for the proposed allocation
- Any conditions attaching to this funding and any reporting requirements

Where the CEO approves a funding programme allocation up to €3m, the Board or the Finance Committee, whichever meets sooner, shall be informed.

8.2 Members raised the following issues;

- What is the current procedure? At present all funding allocations are brought to the Board regardless of amount.
- What is the rationale for the €3m proposed figure? The Executive provided the example of the newly established National Tertiary Office as a typical example, of an experimental project with a short timeframe, in which the ability to move quickly would be very beneficial.
- What is the process in other state agencies? The thresholds for delegated funding allocations tend to vary across agencies and are dependent on their budget.
- It was noted that this approach would not be intended for the HEA's own administration budget where amounts over €150,000 will continue to require board approval.
- Members suggested that a register be kept of delegated amounts to have an idea of the trend and that the delegation be reviewed in 12 months time.
- The Minister will also be informed as to this delegation in accordance with the HEA Act.

Decision: Subject to the provision of an annual review and the introduction of a register, the Board approved the delegation to the CEO of funding allocation of up to €3m. The Chairperson will notify the Minister of this delegation.

9. Memorandum B26/23 – North-South Research Programme Call 2 2023

9.1 Mr Conlon presented this Memorandum. Board members were requested to:

- note the analysis of the first cycle of project reporting completed in January 2023
- note the balance of funding available for Call 2 of the programme
- consider the proposed structure and process of Call 2 of the NSRP and the accompanying draft Call Document for approval.

This programme is being delivered on behalf of DFHERIS with funding provided by the Shared Island Unit (SIU) in the Department of An Taoiseach. Following the 2021 allocation of €40 million, the addition of €5.6 million in HEA funding and a further €10 million announced by the Shared Island Unit in December 2022, the total value of the programme is now €55.6 million. Of the original €40 million being provided by the SIU, 5% has been earmarked for

HEA administrative costs. To date, 62 projects to the value of €37.28M across three strands and all disciplines (54% in STEM, 46% in AHSS) have been funded through the programme.

The Report, accompanying the Memo, provided an analysis of the Year 1 reports by projects awarded funding under the NSRP 2021. A total of 59 projects submitted reports in January 2023. A further three projects, which received delayed start dates, will report in late 2023 and early 2024.

Members noted the following in the Report:

- The analysis of Year 1 reporting by projects awarded funding under the North-South Research Programme (NSRP) 2021
- Additional Shared Island Fund allocation of €10m to the NSRP
- The details of funding use to date as detailed in Table 1 of the report and the remaining NSRP and HEA co-funding (€7.02M including administration costs) to be used for a second iteration of the North-South Research Programme in 2023 and in programme administration as set out in Table 3 and 4 of the Report.

The following points were noted in the analysis of the submitted reports by the NSRP Team:

- 41 projects reported challenges, 39 of which identified these challenges as recruitment delays.
- 9 projects requested a No-Cost Extension (NCE) through their report submission. Based on team composition analysis and challenges raised, an additional 14 projects may potentially require an extension. The first 4 to 6 months of implementation were used by projects to set-up work-packages, commence activities and to recruit team members/research students. Where projects showed a particularly low spend in January 2023, the NSRP will be contacting the Lead Investigators over the course of the next 6 months to confirm progress on expenditure and on staffing before issuing further payments in Q3 2023.
- Almost all of the projects that requested a No Cost Extension through their report did so as a means to compensate for the recruitment delays being experienced. All such requests received were from projects funded under Strand I (1-2 years in duration). Longer contracts and/or higher FTE (full-time equivalent) contracts appear to be more attractive, therefore longer implementation times (Strand II & III) may be more valuable in terms of the sustainable development of collaborative relationships on the island.
- The details of funding used to date is provided in Table 1 of the report along with the remaining NSRP and HEA co-funding (€7.02M). After the 5% for admin is removed, €6.32million of the original allocation of €40million is available for the second iteration of the programme to be initiated in 2023.

The Board was asked to note that following the HEA's provision of data and other evidence demonstrating the success of Call 1, the SIU announced in December 2022 that a further €10 million is to be added to the programme for Call 2. With the approval of DFHERIS, the HEA moved unused 2022 administration funds (€0.70 million) into the main project funding stream bringing the total value of funding available for Call 2 to €17.02 million as set out in Table 3.

Table 1

<u>NSRP Call 1*</u>	
NSRP 2021 funds available (SIU allocation)	€40.00m
NSRP 2021 funds available (HEA co-funding)	€5.60m
Total funds available in 2021	€45.60m
Total funds approved for projects under Call 1	€37.28m
Less 5% admin cost	€2.00m
<i>Remaining funds at Q3 2022</i>	<i>€6.32m</i>
<i>Remaining funding for admin costs</i>	<i>€1.25m²</i>

Table 2

<u>NSRP Call 2 – Funds Available</u>	
Shared Island Unit additional allocation (2022)	€10.00m
Remaining Call 1 - unallocated funds	€6.32m
Unused 2022 admin cost moved to B4 (approved by DFHERIS)	€0.70m
<i>Total funds available for Call 2</i>	<i>€17.02m</i>

It is proposed that the second iteration of the programme will fund circa four (4) to five (5) Stand II 'Emerging hubs of excellence' proposals to the total value of €17.02m. Strand II projects significantly support the early to mid-career researchers and provide opportunities for established researchers to create longevity and build lasting relationships between partner institutions. This would therefore support investment in the development of a broader range of researchers, at different stages of their careers than running Strand I.

The duration of each project will be for 3.5 – 4 years to the maximum value of €4m. The call will be open to all eligible researchers (2 years post-PhD) with an emphasis placed in the draft Call Document upon encouraging institutions to endorse applications submitted by Lead Investigators at any career stage. Applications will be accepted from all disciplines and in the areas of both basic and strategic research. Proposals will be sought from across all disciplines.

9.2 Members raised the following issues;

- If the accommodation crisis had been referenced in the reporting process and if so if it had been confined to a certain geographical area. The Executive confirmed it was a challenge being experienced throughout the island. Delays in securing visas was also noted. The Executive confirmed that the impact is being seen most acutely on Strand I projects which have the shortest duration and across all disciplines. The experience of larger projects isn't as acute because contracts are more attractive in duration and offer greater stability. The same challenges are being seen on TUTF funding. The Executive is working with projects to facilitate No Cost Extensions that will accommodate recruitment delays.
- Has the feedback from the first iteration been taken into account? It was confirmed that this has been considered.
- Members noted that it made sense to retain Strand 2 given the outcomes of the previous call.
- Are there more options for research partners in the Republic of Ireland rather than Northern Ireland? The Executive has identified other organisations in NI and can include those, there is a technical complication in the Republic of Ireland in that the HEA can only transfer funding to designated institutions. This may lead to an imbalance in the spread of partnerships so the team is trying to extend the list of eligible partners where possible taking governance into account.. FE options will be explored in NI and Executive confirmed that NSRP team is working through a list of institutions to potentially expand the list of partners in NI.
- It was noted that the ultimate approval for these projects rests with the SIU, the HEA Board are welcome to provide feedback.
- Is there a component within the programme for corporate participation? The Executive confirmed that up to 10% of any award may go to enterprise partners.

Decision: Members noted the report and approved the proposed approach to Call 2 set out in the Memo. The Executive will come back to Board and provide update on progress in due course.

10. Memorandum B27/23 – HEANet CLG

10.1 Members were requested to approve the reappointment of Dr Billy Bennett, ATU to the Board of HEANet CLG.

Mr Mellett confirmed that it is still the intention that HEA will cease to be a corporate member of HEANet. HEANet have established a committee to oversee the necessary changes to its constitution to action this request. They are also looking at rebranding of the organisation as previously mentioned, and that the organisation is aiming for end of 2023 for this process to be completed.

Decision: Members approved the appointment to HEANet CLG.

11. Update on Research and Innovation Bill to create a new statutory funding agency- Presentation from Dr Deirdre Lillis

11.0 Members welcomed Dr Lillis and Mr Joe Moore, from DFHERIS. Mr Moore provided an update on Impact 2030, the national Research and Innovation Strategy. A Steering Group of key research funding departments and an Implementation Forum of research funding Government Departments and agencies are driving implementation of the strategy. A Research and Innovation Policy Advisory Forum to be chaired by the Minister for FHERIS is also under development. A new unit within the Department, the Evidence for Policy Unit, has been established to strengthen the connections between Departments and the public research system. The Minister has announced that a new Government Science Advisor and a National Science Advice Forum have been established which will embed R&I at the centre of public policy development.

In terms of the Review of National Supports for PhD Researchers, comprehensive consultation is approaching completion and the outcome of this review will inform any future decisions taken by the Minister on measures to support PhD researchers. Mr Moore also acknowledged the contributions made by the HEA and IRC to Impact 2030, including membership of the Implementation Forum, the update of the HEA Principles of Good Practice in Research within Irish HEIs, the successful running of the North South Research Programme and commitment to Open Research through the National Open Research Forum and Research Integrity.

Dr Lillis then provided an update on the Research & Innovation Bill. Consultations which informed the drafting of the Heads of Bill include the Impact 2030 stakeholder consultation,

contributions from the High Level Group on the Bill and the Impact 2030 Strategy Steering Group, and broad input from the HEA, SFI and Council of IRC. The High Level Group on the Research Bill was established in September 2022 to assist the Department with the development of the Bill, and includes nominations from senior teams of HEA, IRC and SFI. Dr Lillis gave thanks in particular to Mr Conlon, Dr Callinan and Dr Quinn for their work in this area.

The Government Decision approved the General Scheme and Heads of the Research and Innovation Bill 2023, which will result in the amalgamation of the the IRC and SFI into a single research agency. The name of the new agency is to be determined at a later date via a branding exercise, however the working title is “Research and Innovation Ireland”. The functions of this agency will include the current functions of SFI and IRC. The primary function of the new agency will be to disperse research funding awarded through competitive processes, and will include cooperation with other research funders and research performers. Dr Lillis noted specifically that there was substantial activity in this area by bodies such as Teagasc and the Health Research Board. It was also noted that HEA will retain a role in research policy, and this is reflected in the fact that there is explicit provision in the Bill for the new agency to consult the HEA in relation to their Corporate and Annual Plans. Broader consultation with Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Development Agency in relation to same is also required by the Bill.

In addition to approving the General Scheme and Heads of Bill, the Government noted the Minister’s intention to include an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Council within the new agency and approved the process for a CEO-Designate to be appointed as soon as possible.

In terms of timeframe, the target establishment date of the new agency is 1st January 2024. The Bill will be subject to Pre-Legislative Scrutiny via a Joint Oireachtas Committee. It is intended to facilitate public consultation around the operational aspects of the new agency at a later stage.

In terms of transitional arrangements, the need for parity of esteem between both agencies involved was recognised, as well as the concept of subsidiarity with issues being addressed at the lowest possible level. DFHERIS will work with the High Level Group on transfer plans of staff, functions and activities. It is recognised that there will be a large change management aspect and this will include an industrial relations plan. Dr Lillis also confirmed that a Public Appointments Service process will be followed for the agency’s Chair and Board. Dr Lillis asked the Authority for their continued support and input to help shape the strategic relationship between HEA and the new agency, to help shape the formation of the new agency, and to support the transitional and establishment arrangements.

11.2 Members raised the following issues:

- In the context of the Evidence for Policy Unit, is there an ambition to increase the direct contribution of institutional research to inform Government policy? Members were informed that this is the intention, one of the issues experienced historically is short timeframes for research input, this could be targeted by engaging more directly with institutions. It is intended to develop a research network to see what the needs are and work with HE sector on immediate evidence to support short term policy initiatives. The intention is to build bridges and ensure both components work more closely together.
- Members felt that further public consultation may be necessary to establish how well-informed the public feel as to the research landscape in Ireland.
- The ambitious timeline was remarked on, as well as the importance of the protection of staff and areas of research. Given this timeline, is there a danger of losing out on value of deeper consultation with moving too quickly? The Department officials noted that it made sense to have the new agency in place at the start of the new financial year, there may be provision to stagger various activities to a later stage if needed. Further public consultation, in addition to the Oireachtas committee consultation process, is planned on more operational aspects of the new agency once established.
- It was noted that the Government Science Advisor will be decoupled fully from this agency and will be fully distinct and independent.
- Members felt that protections for AHSS and role of the IRC should be enshrined in the Bill.
- It was recognised that the importance of research to Irish history, culture, language should be specifically recognised in the Bill, as well as the global role of Irish research. Academic freedom should also be specifically referenced.
- Clarification needs to be made around the ability of the Minister to give directions.
- Notion of balance between applied and fundamental should be examined further.
- A technical point was noted around the transfer of IRC and SFI staff- IRC staff may be overall on lower grades than SFI staff which could lead to an imbalance. This will be examined further and will be subject to an IR process.
- Joint Oireachtas Committee is expected to begin early to mid-May.
- Sections 8A and 8F- is there a tension inherent between these sections? It is intended that all previous activities of both SFI and IRC will be encompassed in the new agency.
- International models should be looked at further, particularly around the balance between AHSS and STEM and governance. DFHERIS confirmed they are engaging with colleagues in other member states as to how to amalgamate research agencies.
- HEA should continue to play a leading role in Research Infrastructure, similar to the work done in the context of Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions.

- There is a need to ensure legislative protections for the future of the system, while achieving a balance that the legislation will not be over-engineered.
- It was also noted that DFHERIS will be speaking directly to IRC staff in the coming weeks as to the proposed transitional arrangements.
- It was remarked that the HEA Board had a separate session on 14th April around the Bill and a copy of this meeting note can be provided to the Department. Members of the HEA Board will continue to endeavour to support this process in any way possible.

Decision:

Members thanked Dr Lillis and Mr Moore for their presentation. HEA Executive will prepare a document for the Board noting the issues of concern to be highlighted to the Department on the Bill, particularly around the need to clearly define the HEA's future role in research.

12. Executive Report

Members raised the following issues:

- Members were provided with an update on the Expressions of Interest process. A report went to the Minister at end of March. The Executive will keep the Board updated as the process develops further.
- Following the development days held for HEA Assistant Principal Officers and Senior Executive Officers respectively, a development day for Executive and Clerical Officers will be held shortly.
- An update was sought on the Student Engagement and Teaching & Learning Committee. The Committee Chair and the Executive have identified a list of external members, which was shared with the Board. Are the existing members of the former National Forum Board/HEA T&L Committee being considered for reappointment? The HEA Executive indicated that having regard to new remit of the Committee and the competencies agreed by Board Members for the Committee membership, members are being drawn from across the sector to represent HEIs, as well as other relevant stakeholder groups.
- An update was sought on recruitment to the Capital Programmes Unit. A competition for an SEO for the Unit was conducted recently. It was anticipated that all sanctioned posts will be filled shortly. Further resources are being sought but this is subject to DFHERIS approval. The risk of lack of resources in this area was acknowledged by Members.
- How are decarbonisation programmes progressing in institutions? These should be progressed ahead of September; however, some challenges are being identified including uncertainty around future costs. This is being monitored by the Executive.

- What is the status of the National Review of State supports for doctoral researchers? The IRC Director and the HEA Head of Policy and Strategic Planning met with the co-Chairs of the review in March. This work will also be kept in mind as the Research Bill develops.
- The HEA has in the past flagged concerns to DHFERIS regarding the annual funding gap identified as €307m. The Rolling Governance Review of Pay, Pensions, Travel, Subsistence and Leave (2019) prepared by Deloitte also highlighted deficiencies in institutional support systems and processes and the need for investment in these. This will be raised again under the forthcoming estimates process.

13. Members only session

13.1 Reappointment of Chief Executive Office

At the previous meeting, the Board noted that the appointment of Dr Alan Wall as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) was for a period of five years from November 2019.

To progress this matter, the Board established a three-person task force, (comprising the Chairperson, Dr Judith Eaton and Ms Darina Kneafsey) to develop a process for the Board. The task force met on a number of occasions and put together a short questionnaire for presentation to the Board, seeking their views on the overall performance of Dr Wall as CEO and also seeking a recommendation on whether or not he should be reappointed.

The Board members considered the questions in the questionnaire and discussed the overall performance of Dr Wall, following which the unanimous decision was to recommend the reappointment of Dr Alan Wall as Chief Executive Officer of the Higher Education Authority for a further period of five years, following completion of his current term in 2024.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 27th June in University College Cork. This will be preceded by a visit to MTU on Monday 26th June.

Chairperson

Date