



INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY CARLOW
Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Cheatharlach



Waterford Institute of Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LAIRGE

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16th November 2021

Dr Alan Wall,
Chief Executive Officer,
Higher Education Authority,
3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue,
Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4,
D04 C2Y6.

RE: TUSEI Consortium, Technological University Application, April 2021

Dear Dr Wall,

We write in relation to the above following receipt on the 4th of November 2021 from the Minister of the advisory panel report and of the advisory note from An tÚdarás to the Minister. We note the contents and confirm our commitment to working with An tÚdarás to provide the Minister with the reassurances he requires to expedite designation of the South East Technological University.

There are many things to welcome in the report of the advisory panel:

- The panel's endorsement of the consortium's credentials when it comes to the substantive criteria for a university of international standing. We note that the panel unambiguously validate that our consortium meet, and in some cases exceed, the criteria relating to the profile of the student body, the qualifications of staff, the conduct of research, and the relationship of the organisation to the region.
- The panel's recognition of the recent institutional quality reviews that have taken place in both ITC and WIT and the confirmation by the QQI of the robust nature of our processes and practices (including as they relate to the protection of learners), aligned with international norms.
- The panel's acknowledgement that after the initial difficult period for the project, that they had observed the great enthusiasm for the proposed technological university across all constituencies, without exception.

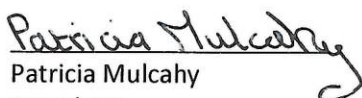
The reference by the panel to the "future oriented" nature of our application is seen by us as a positive, particularly when this is balanced with the appropriate detailed operational plans that set out the pathways towards our future ambitions. We are determined to deliver through the TU a "state change" in higher education provision in our region which by necessity compels us to be ambitious and future focussed. Our consortium has also long appreciated the work needed to create appropriate unified structures and operations for the technological university and has detailed operational plans in place to ensure this.

At the time of the visit of the advisory panel in July 2021, each of the eight cross-institutional thematic workstreams had detailed operational plans in place that were informed by extensive policy and business process mapping. These included, but were not confined to, specific designation day targets across corporate governance, academic governance, executive and management functions, and systems integration. The consortium acknowledges that consolidation of these eight plans into a single master plan may have been helpful to the panel at that time. In the intervening four-month period, this consolidated plan has been compiled and further developed and stress tested by Grant Thornton. The most recent review of readiness confirm that there are no critical tasks behind schedule or at risk of delivery.

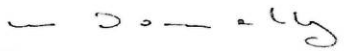
We look forward to further engagement with An tÚdarás in the coming period on these and other matters raised in the correspondence and report. Consistent with our own ongoing designation day planning process, we propose to involve our change management team, Grant Thornton, in that engagement. We have already shared a high-level synopsis of our comprehensive operational plan with you on the 21st October 2021 and we suggest a structured process over the coming weeks that will involve Grant Thornton in a reporting capacity to An tÚdarás. We would welcome the nomination of a designated representative from An tÚdarás as a point of contact for the consortium in this process and advice from An tÚdarás on its plans for validating our progress.

We remain fully committed, as indicated above, to working with An tÚdarás to give the additional reassurances to the Minister to allow him designate the South East Technological University at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia Mulcahy
President
Institute of Technology Carlow



Willie Donnelly
President
Waterford Institute of Technology

CC.

Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Mr Michael Horgan, Chair of the Higher Education Authority.

Mr John Moore, Chair, Governing Body, Institute of Technology Carlow

Mr Jim Moore, Chair, Governing Body, Waterford Institute of Technology

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technological
university for
the south east

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