



Mr. John Moore
Chairperson of the Governing Body
IT Carlow

Mr. Jim Moore
Chairperson of the Governing Body
Waterford IT

2 December 2021

Dear Chairpersons,

I am writing to you further in relation to the application of 30 April 2021 made jointly on behalf of the Institute of Technology Carlow and Waterford Institute of Technology (known as the TUSEI consortium) under section 29 of the Technological Universities Act 2018, my proposed decision under section 34(1) of the Act as communicated to you on 2 November 2021 and representations made jointly by the applicant institutes to me dated 16 November 2021.

I have considered these representations together with the report of the advisory panel assessing the application and the views of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on the report of the advisory panel and as well as having regard to the matters set out in section 34(2) of the Act. As stated previously, I have agreed to designate pending the approval of the HEA board which I have discussed with you both.

To confirm, in accordance with section 34(4) (b) of the Act I am postponing the granting of the application pending assessment and reporting to me by the HEA that the Institutes have jointly provided sufficient convincing evidence of demonstrably meeting section 28(1)(k)(i) in relation to the capacity to perform the functions of a TU with specific reference to having integrated, coherent and effective governance structures in place concerning academic, administration and management matters. However, I am confident that the assessment which I am requesting the Higher Education Authority to undertake and report to me on will take only a relatively short period of time. It remains my intention to establish by May 1st.

In accordance with section 34(5)(a) of the Act this postponement is required in my view to ensure that the new TU would be established on the firmest foundation possible such as to allow it to function effectively and efficiently in the immediate post-designation period and up to the appointed date of establishment and beyond.



In accordance with section 34(5)(b) of the 2018 Act I am required to inform you that the applicant institutes may jointly appeal my decision, including any specified conditions under section 35, within 30 days of the date of this letter of notification and the grounds of any such appeal shall be specified in the notice of appeal. In such a circumstance my decision will be suspended until, as the case may be, the decision becomes final under section 34(6), or the disposal of an appeal under Part 3 of the 2018 Act.

In accordance with section 35(1) of the Act I am stipulating that the Institutes shall jointly demonstrate compliance with the conditions specified in the Appendix not later than the end of Quarter 1 of 2022 and that such demonstrated compliance shall be assessed and reported on to me by the Board of the HEA.

In addition, my Department is inviting expressions of interest for the roles of chairperson and two external members of what will become the first governing body of the new TU. These persons when appointed would, I anticipate, attend the current TUSEI Joint Governing Body Steering Group to participate in the making of relevant pre- and / or post-designation discussions ahead of TU establishment.

Yours sincerely,

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