



## Board of the National Museum of Ireland

Minutes of Meeting of the Board on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am,  
National Museum of Ireland, Collections Resource Centre, Swords

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<b>Present:</b>	Ms. Catherine Heaney (Chair) Mr. John Bowen Professor Ingrid Hook Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty Mr. Ambrose Loughlin Ms. Judith McCarthy Ms. Denise Moroney	Mr. Declan Nelson Professor Mary O'Dowd Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh Ms. Lynn Scarff Dr. Andrew Power Ms. Virginia Teehan Mr. Aidan Walsh Ms. Karen Wilson
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ms. Mary Crotty	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr Ragnall Ó Floinn (Director, NMI) Ms Jennifer O'Mahony (Secretary to Board, NMI)	Mr Seamus Lynam (Head of Operations, NMI) Mr Rolly Read, (Head of Collections, NMI)

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1. **Opening of the meeting, apologies, if any, adoption of the agenda.**

The Chair opened the meeting and conveyed apologies from Ms Mary Crotty.

2. **Minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed.

**Matters Arising**

The Board noted with sadness the passing of former Director of the National Museum Breandán Ó Ríordáin. **It was agreed that a letter of sympathy should be sent to Mr Ó Ríordáin's family on behalf of the Board.**

**Cruinniú na Casca**

The Director reported that 392 people had visited the 'Proclaiming a Republic' exhibition at Collins Barracks on Easter Monday and the special tours that had been offered were all full.

**The Board expressed their appreciation to all of the staff involved.**

**Freedom of Information Requests**

The Board noted a significant increase in the number of Freedom of Information requests being submitted to the Museum in 2017.

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**3. Heather Humphreys, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs meets the Board**

The Chair conveyed apologies from Minister Heather Humphreys who was not in a position to meet the Board due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Chair reported that she had spoken with Feargal Ó Coigligh, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and requested a meeting with the Minister in the next week or two.

**The Board resolved that following the meeting, a letter should be sent to the Minister outlining the key issues for the Museum.**

The Board noted that the Director had written to Ms Katherine Licken, the new Secretary General at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, to invite her to visit the Museum.

**4. Executive Report by the Chair and the Director**

The Chair reported that she and the Director had represented the Museum at a sitting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to discuss HR issues at the Museum on 11 April 2017. The Oireachtas Committee also discussed the Museum's involvement with the Lusitania wreck.

The Chair reported that following the address to the Oireachtas committee, she had written to the committee Chair to invite the Oireachtas committee to visit the Museum. The Oireachtas Committee Secretary wrote to the Museum on 17 May to accept this invitation. **The Executive will liaise with the Oireachtas Committee Secretary to arrange the visit.**

The Chair reported that she had received a request by phone from Peadar Tóibín TD to meet to discuss the Masterplan. **The Board agreed that as the Masterplan is still in draft form and as Mr Tóibín has fed into the Masterplan as a key stakeholder, it may be more productive for this meeting to take place once the Masterplan has been finalised.**

The Chair reported that she attended a meeting, along with the Director, between National Museum, National Library, National Gallery, the Ceann Comhairle and Oireachtas officials on Wednesday 10 May 2017. As a result of the engagement around the Ceramics Room, the Ceann Comhairle has decided to establish the forum as a subcommittee of the Oireachtas Commission. The first meeting of this forum will take place on 26 June 2017. **The Board agreed that the Museum will be represented at the forum by the Chair of the Board and the Director, with Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty and Mr Seamus Lynam as alternates for the Chair and the Director respectively.**

**The Board expressed their gratitude to the Chair for the time dedicated to the Museum.**

The Chair invited the Director to update the Board on executive matters.

**a) Update on finance, budgets and the Business Plan for 2017**

The Director reported that the Business Plan for 2017 is on schedule.

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The Museum Council, set up to deal with IR issues in the Museum has been active since January and the Staff Forum held it's first meeting on 10 May 2017.

b) Performance Delivery Agreement 2017

The Director reported on the inordinate delays in receiving sanction for posts for the Museum. **The Board recommended that this matter be raised at the CNCI, as it is an issue that effects all of the cultural institutions and agreed that it should also be raised at the proposed meeting with the Minister.**

**It was agreed that a copy of the Performance Delivery Agreement would be circulated to the Board for their comments following the meeting and comments should be returned by 2 June.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Board extended congratulations to Mr Michael Kenny former Keeper of Art and Industry at the Museum on the publication by the Museum of his new book *Proclamation of the Irish Republic, 1916*.

5. Report from Board Committees

a) *Development and Strategy Committee*

The Board noted the written report from the Committee which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms Scarff reported that a final draft of the Masterplan report should be ready by the end of June and extended thanks to the Board and the Executive for their input.

**The Board agreed that the final draft of the plan should be signed off at the July meeting.**

**The Board proposed that the Minister should be invited to launch the plan at the end of July/beginning of August and that a date for this should be set as soon as possible.**

**The Board recommended that the new Statement of Strategy for 2018-2021 arising out of the Masterplan should be completed by the end of 2017.**

b) *Audit & Risk Committee update*

The Chair of the Audit and Risk committee briefed the Board.

1) **Internal Audit**

Mazars have been appointed as internal auditors for the Museum and are currently carrying out the audit of Internal Financial Controls and the HR audit.

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**2) Financial Statements for 2016**

Mr Loughlin reported that the draft Financial Statements for 2016 have been prepared. The C&AG will begin the external audit on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Issues around State Claims and Pensions remain to be resolved.

**The Audit and Risk Committee will write to the Department on the State Claims issue following the meeting.**

**3) Budget for 2017**

The Chair of the Audit and Risk committee reported that the forecast indicates that there may be an overall deficit for 2017. The Director reported that a Commercial Manager has been hired and should commence work shortly.

**4) Estimates for 2018**

**The Board agreed that the Estimates for 2018 should be circulated to the Chairs of the Committees for their feedback.**

**The Board agreed that as a rule the estimates should be signed off at an early date and that the Estimates for 2019 should be signed off at the Board meeting scheduled for March 2018.**

*c) Ceramics Room Committee*

The Board noted the report from the Committee. Mr Bowen reported that the period for submissions on planning permission for the works on the Ceramics Room had come to an end on the 27 April with a number of observations including one from An Táisce. The Committee is continuing to liaise with the Oireachtas, OPW and Executive on matters including plans to address vertical access to the Kildare Street building.

**Mr Bowen sought leave from the Board for the Committee to pursue the preferred option for vertical access and the Board agreed to this and thanked the Committee for its work.**

*d) GPAC*

The Board noted the report from the Committee. The GPAC committee will continue to work with the Executive on the Museum's submission to the Creative Ireland programme.

The Board agreed that the Museum's submission to Creative Ireland should be aligned with the Masterplan.

**The Board agreed that the GPAC committee should seek a meeting with Mr John Concannon, Head of the Creative Ireland programme as soon as possible.**

[Redacted] \*

[Redacted] \*

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*e) HR Committee*

The Chair of the committee provided a verbal report to the Board, as the Committee meeting had taken place on Monday 15 May to allow Mazars time to prepare an interim report for the committee.

[REDACTED]

**The HR Committee requested leave of the Board to accept recommendations from Mazars and to engage with the Department on a resolution. The Board agreed.**

The Executive then left the meeting.

*f) Director Review and Transition Committee*

[REDACTED]

**The Board agreed that the Chair of the Board and Dr Power would conduct the current Director's review and report back to the Board on this at the July meeting.**

**6. Date and venue of next meeting**

The Board agreed to conduct its annual review at the July meeting. **The Chair undertook to circulate a draft document on the matter in advance of the meeting.**

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 9.30am at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.**