

Board of the National Museum of Ireland

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 23rd March 2023, at 10am
(Via video conference)

(Approved on 25th May 2023)

Present:	Catherine Heaney (Chair) Ambrose Loughlin Linda King Paolo Viscardi Susan Rogers Barra O'Donnabhain Marianne Doyle John Bowen	Helen Shenton Claudia Kinmonth Andrew Power Geraldine Sheridan Cathal O'Donoghue Iseult Dunne Ciaran Byrne
Apologies:	Beatrice Kelly	
In attendance:	Lynn Scarff (Director, NMI) Aoife Hurley (Head of Operations, NMI)	Jade Dillon (Secretary to the Board, NMI) Maria Gannon (Mazars, agenda item 5.0 only)

1.0	Opening of meeting, apologies if any and adoption of the agenda
1.1	Apologies were conveyed for Beatrice Kelly. A. Loughlin conveyed their apologies in advance for needing to leave during the meeting.
1.4	<u>Agenda</u> The agenda was adopted.
2.0	Conflicts of interest
2.1	There were no conflicts of interests.
3.0	Minutes
3.1	The minutes were proposed by B. O'Donnabhain and seconded by J. Bowen, with the exception of a minor amendment.
3.2	<u>Matters arising</u> The Board will not be signing off on the Strategic Plan at this meeting, however a workshop has been scheduled on 4 th May and the Plan will be signed off on 25 th May.
3.3	<u>Terms of References</u> It was agreed that the Terms of References for Committees would be formally adopted at the May Board meeting.
4.0	Executive report from the Chair and the Director
4.1	The Chair and Director updated the Board on a number of areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A status update on the PAS recruitment process and the appointment of a new staff representative.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The oversight agreement has not yet been received by NMI, and an invitation has been extended to the Minister to attend a meeting in the near future, as is best practice. • The new Head of Learning & Public Programmes, Terre Duffy has commenced at NMI. • A strategic benchmarking review on the make up of senior management teams across international museums was undertaken by Mazars. • Director of Collections & Access position will be advertised on Friday week and will be advertised internationally. This position will also be the main driver of research at NMI. • Some discussions took place on staff retention, recruitment challenges due to cost of living and that these areas would be added to the Risk Register. • The Board discussed <i>Changing Ireland</i> (formally referred to as 20th Century History of Ireland Galleries), and the sample list of acquisitions set out in the Executive report.
4.2	<u>Feedback</u> It was agreed that a more comprehensive list of recent acquisitions would be included in the Executive reports for future GPAC meetings.
4.3	<u>Strategic Plan status update</u> The draft Strategic Plan is now at copyedit and design stage and comments from the Department have been integrated. An agenda will be circulated to Board members in advance of the Strategic Plan workshop. It is hoped that the Plan will be launched at Turlough Park during the first week of July.
5.0	Special discussion topic: risk management presentation (Maria Gannon, Mazars)
5.1	Maria Gannon, Director Mazars was welcomed to present to the Board on planned enhancements on NMI's risk management processes. M. Gannon provided an overview of the development of the risk register, opportunities for improvements and next steps.
5.2	<u>Feedback</u> Discussions followed on ownership of external risks, the monitoring of divisional risk and NMI's responsibilities to mitigate these external risks. M. Gannon left the meeting. It was agreed that the establishment of divisional risks should be updated in line with the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
5.3	<u>Subcommittee reports</u> The Board noted the subcommittee reports. The Chairs of the Subcommittees briefly updated the Board on key matters discussed at February and March meetings and welcomed any queries. Some discussions followed on energy costs, and retrofit options available to make NMI buildings more sustainable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that online sales figures would be separated from onsite sales in financial reports going forward. • The Board formally approved the financial pack. • The reports were formally adopted by the Board. • The Director clarified that donations strategy would be brought back into the Governance Audit & Risk Committee for review and discussion.
6.0	NCI Legislation Committee observations report
6.1	The Board noted the draft observations report. The Board formally adopted the report with exception to the inclusion of a small number of comments.
7.0	A.O.B

7.1	<u>Board meetings</u> The Board briefly discussed advantages and disadvantages of having meetings online. There was consensus that onsite with the option to remote on/call in if necessary was preferable.
7.2	<u>Standing Orders</u> The Board Standing Orders were formally adopted with the exception two minor amendments.
8.0	Date of next meeting 4th May 2023 at 10am, Palatine Room, Collins Barracks.

Approved