



## Board of the National Museum of Ireland

Minutes of the Dial-In EGM of the Board on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 10am

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

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

The Chair opened the meeting. There was one item on the agenda: discussion and approval of the NMI estimates for 2018. It had been agreed at the Board meeting on 13 July that the 2018 estimates needed to be discussed and approved at a formal Board meeting. The agenda was approved (proposed by Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty and seconded by Ms Virginia Teehan). In the absence of the Secretary to the Board, Mr Ó Floinn agreed to record the minutes. Apologies were recorded from Mr. Ambrose Loughlin, Ms. Judith McCarthy, Professor Mary O'Dowd, Ms Lynn scarf and Ms Karen Wilson.

**Discussion and approval of the NMI Estimates for 2018**

The Chair noted that she had been briefed the previous week on the estimates in advance of the meeting with the Minister on 12 July where the draft estimates were presented. Mr Declan Nelson reported that the estimates document had been discussed by the Audit & Risk Committee on Monday, 17 July. The Committee were happy to recommend adoption of the estimates to the Board subject to the correction of an error in the figure for estimated pay 2018, as noted by Professor Hook.

The Chair opened the matter for discussion, pointing out that in advance of meeting the Minister, the estimates were amended and priorities categorised into urgent, necessary and desirable. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]\*  
*\*Redacted due to commercial sensitivity/data protection*

The matter was thrown open for discussion. The members present made a number of suggested changes and amendments as follows:

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The Board should take a firm view on the lack of proper provision for non-discretionary expense such as pension and lump sum provisions.

The case for extra personnel was better made for some posts rather than others.

It was queried as to whether the figure for training for staff was indicative or based on precise calculations.

It was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on placing the requirements in the context of current Government policy arts, culture and heritage, and *Creative Ireland* in particular and to try to align particular initiatives to the document's five key pillars.

It was also felt that the document should emphasise the Masterplan context and the need for support for an incoming Director in early 2018. The document should emphasise the need for additional staffing capacity, especially on the professional side, to deliver on existing policy and public expectation.

 \* The posts relating to the delivery of the Masterplan would not be required until mid-2018.

The immediate priority was the recruitment of staff for the new HR Unit.

Subject to the narrative being changed to reflect the points made, the Board was happy to agree the figures as outlined.

**It was agreed that the Director would amend the document and circulate to Board members for comment early next week with a view to presenting the final document to the Department on Friday 28 July.**

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