

## Board of the National Museum of Ireland

Minutes of Meeting of the Board on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, at  
10am via video-conference  
(Approved on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

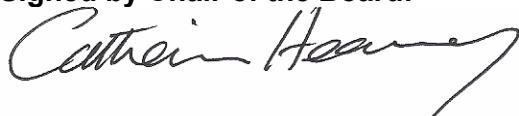
<b>Present:</b>	Ms Catherine Heaney (Chair) Mr Ambrose Loughlin (Deputy Chair) Dr Linda King Mr Paolo Viscardi Dr Susan Rogers Dr Barra O'Donnabhain Mr John Bowen	Ms Helen Shenton Mr Declan Nelson Dr Andrew Power Prof Geraldine Sheridan Prof Cathal O'Donoghue Dr Claudia Kinmonth
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ms Lynn Scarff (Director, NMI) Dr Audrey Whitty (Deputy Director and Head of Collections & Learning, NMI)	Ms Aoife Hurley (Head of Operations, NMI) Ms Jade Dillon (Secretary to the Board, NMI)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Opening of meeting, apologies if any and adoption of the agenda</b>
1.1	<u>Deputy Chair</u> The Chair opened the meeting. No apologies were conveyed however it was noted that Dr Power would need to leave the meeting at 11am. The Chair also conveyed her apologies as she would need to leave at 10:30am and proposed that Mr Loughlin would chair the meeting in her absence. The Board formally approved Mr Loughlin as Deputy Chair for the meeting.
1.2	<u>Agenda</u> The agenda was formally adopted with the exception of a minor change to the arrangement of the Committee report agenda items.
1.3	<u>Declan Nelson</u> The Chair announced that Mr Nelson's last Board meeting will be on 28 <sup>th</sup> April and on behalf of the Board and previous Board, thanked him sincerely for his significant contributions to the NMI and his comradery over his six-year term.
1.4	<u>Formal thanks to Peter Osborne</u> A formal note of thanks was recorded for Mr Peter Osborne of McCann FitzGerald who provided bespoke governance training to the NMI Board in January.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Conflicts of interest</b>
2.1	No conflicts of interest were recorded.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>The minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 and matters arising</b>
3.1	The minutes of 2nd December 2021 were proposed by Dr Power and seconded by Mr Loughlin.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Executive Report</b>
4.1	<u>Covid-19</u> The removal of Covid-19 restrictions was remarked on and the Chair acknowledged a steady shift away from Covid-19 being the dominant agenda

	item for Ireland and welcomed the Board's return to considering other more pressing matters.
4.2	<u>Board recruitment</u> The Chair provided a status update on Board recruitment.
4.3	<u>Collections Resource Centre</u> The Chair provided a status update on discussions relating to the Collections Resource Centre.
4.4	<u>Succession planning</u> The Chair highlighted that both her term as Chair of the Board and the Board term for Dr Power will be coming to a close in July 2023. The Chair advised that succession planning for the role of the Chair will need to be finalised by Q4 2022.
4.5	<u>Recent on-boarding</u> The Chair left the meeting and Mr Loughlin deputised in her place. The Director informed the Board that a number of positions have been filled at the NMI, including the position of Head of Facilities & Security and Curator of Geology. The two-year fixed contract position of Traveller Culture Development Officer has also been filled and was awarded to Oein DeBhairduin.
4.6	<u>Board External Evaluation report</u> The Board noted the report in PowerPoint format. There was consensus that it was a very positive and useful reference point for improving Board operations and it was agreed that the report would be forwarded to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Secretary General of the Department for their attention.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Special Discussion topic: Business Plans: Business Plan 2022 with reference to the upcoming Strategic Plan</b>
5.1	<u>Business Plan 2022</u> The Board reviewed the Business Plan for 2022 and the Director presented on key items. The Director highlighted that the biggest risk to the business planning is delays on capital projects of the NMI, including the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century History of Ireland Galleries. <b>The Business Plan for 2022 was formally approved by the Board.</b>
5.2	<u>Strategic Plan 2023-2028</u> The Director explained that the purpose of the PowerPoint presentation was to 1) inform the future strategic planning process with reference to external factors, and 2) to outline broadly any key potential themes for the next Strategic Plan. The Director referenced a number of current and predicted trends that could form a basis for the pillars of the new Strategic Plan, and presented these trends under the following categories: Creativity, society, technology, economy, environment and politics. The Board noted the PowerPoint presentation.
5.3	<u>Break</u> The Deputy Chair thanked the Director for her presentation and the meeting was adjourned for ten minutes.
5.4	<u>Feedback</u> Each member of the Board provided feedback on the Director's presentation. A number of open questions and observations were put forward and considered by the Board as a whole. Identity, inclusivity, sustainability and a desire to adapt a more outward, forward-thinking approach were some key areas discussed by the Board.
<b>6a</b>	<b>GPAC report</b>
6a1	The Board noted the report. Dr O'Donnabhain offered an overview of key discussions that took place at the last GPAC meeting, which included a presentation from Ms Maeve Sikora, Keeper of Irish Antiquities Division on the division's roles and responsibilities and the revised National Monuments Bill.
6a2	<u>Low staffing for breadth of statutory roles and responsibilities</u> Dr O'Donnabhain raised concerns on low staffing levels within the division and explained that although the scale of acquisitions is increasing, the staffing

	resources remain the same. Discussions followed on the staffing shortage in IAD with specific reference to the statutory obligations of the NMI.
<b>6b.</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee report</b>
6b1	The Board noted the report and papers. The Deputy Chair thanked Mr Mark Sherry, Head of Finance & Procurement for his presentation on finance and funding streams before the Board meeting this morning.
6b2	The Budget for 2022 and the Budget Allocation letter from DTCAGSM was noted by the Board.
6b3	The Board noted the Shared Financial Service Level Agreement.
6b4	The Risk Register, which was approved by the ARC for the attention of the Board, was uploaded for Board review and an update was provided to the Board. <b>The Risk Register was formally approved by the Board.</b>
<b>6c</b>	<b>Strategy and Engagement Committee report</b>
6c1	The Board noted the Strategy & Engagement Committee report. The Secretary agreed to amend minor typos in the report.
6c2	<u>Strategic Plan</u> Dr King explained that discussions took place at Subcommittee level on the development of the current strategic plan and the opportunities and challenges for the next. Dr King informed the Board that a Strategic Plan Working Group is due to be established that will meet on a regular basis to sign off on reports and drafts. <b>Dr King encouraged Board members to contact her directly over the next week, should they wish to become a member of the Strategic Plan Working Group.</b>
6c3	<u>Strategy &amp; Engagement Terms of Reference and Work Programme</u> <b>The Board noted and approved both documents.</b>
<b>6d</b>	<b>Capital &amp; Estates Committee</b>
6d1	The Board noted the Capital & Estates Committee report.
6d2	<u>Collections Resource Centre</u> Mr Bowen provided an update on progress in relation to the NMI's Collections Resource Centre. On behalf of the Committee, Mr Bowen recommended that reference to the time need for the collection decant should be included in any reporting with DTCAGSM and OPW going forward, and that any delays in the construction of a new storage facility will result in delays in this estimated decant timeline.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>A.O.B</b>
7.1	There were no items under A.O.B
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> The next Board meeting will take place in person on 28 <sup>th</sup> April at the Collections Resource Centre.  <u>End of meeting.</u>

Signed by Chair of the Board:



Catherine Heaney