

Regulation Committee Meeting 27 Minutes February 28th, 2019.



Date	28 th February, 2019
Venue	Housing Agency, Mount Street Upper
Time	11.00am – 1.00pm
Chaired by	Mary Lee Rhodes (M.L.R.)
Committee Members Present	Eddie Lewis (E.L.), Donal McManus (DmcM), Oonagh Breen (O.B.), Ronan Heavey (R.H.), David Smith (D.S.)
In attendance	Susanna Lyons (S.L.) (Head of Regulation, RO, Housing Agency), Jenny Murphy (J.M.) (Secretary to the Committee, RO, Housing Agency), Grainne Johnston (G.J.) (Performance Manager, RO, Housing Agency), Ken Jackson (K.J.) (RO, Housing Agency), Catherine Rawson (C.R.) (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

Agenda Items

1. Apologies

- Michael Cameron sent apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest

- No declarations of interest made.

Part 1 – Consent Agenda Items

3.

- Minutes
- Assessment Update
- Engagement Update
- Head of Regulation Report
- Next Steps: Post Strategy Day

Item 3e: Next Steps: Post Strategy Day removed from consent agenda to discuss.

Outcome

Consent Agenda items, with the exception of 3e, agreed by Committee.

3e: Next Steps: Post Strategy Day (removed from Consent Agenda)

A key outcome from the iRC Strategy Day, held in January 2019, was the agreement by the iRC to seek professional advice relating to the iRC terms of reference, protocols, and scheme of delegations. S.L. presented to the Board of the Housing Agency following the Strategy Day and the Board has agreed with the approach.

The Committee were provided with a draft Scope of Service for inclusion in the tender documentation for review and comment. Committee members asked for clarification regarding the procurement process that will be followed. The Regulation Office confirmed that the specification will be sent to three suppliers seeking written quotes. It is a specialist role and will require a quick turnaround.

Regulation Committee Meeting 27 Minutes February 28th, 2019.



In addition, the Chair highlighted the significant developments regarding resources for the Regulation Office that have occurred since discussions at the Strategy Day, including the sanction for six additional posts. A number of these have been advertised or will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Outcome

Scope of Service approved by iRC.

4. Matters Arising

- No matters arising.

5. Legislation – iRC Discussion

The Department circulated the Bill to iRC Members for further review and comment. The Bill remains in draft with additional areas currently being drafted.

It was agreed that the Committee would write to the Department outlining discussion points from the meeting.

Action

- 1) Provide iRC considerations and comments to the Department.

6. Pac Outcomes – iRC Discussion

The Chair and Head of Regulation provided Committee Members with a brief, high level overview of their appearance at the Public Accounts Committee on the 21st February. The Chair congratulated the Regulation Office on the preparatory work completed which enabled a professional and constructive session to take place.

7. New Members – iRC Discussion

There are a number of positions on the interim Regulatory Committee that are free currently and members contributed to the identification of the skills and expertise most relevant for the committee moving forward.

It was agreed that the iRC and Regulation Office will write to the Department outlining the skills and expertise identified and seeking its assistance in addressing the shortfall in membership at present.

Action

- 2) The iRC and Regulation Office to write to the Department, highlighting skills identified and seeking assistance in addressing shortfall in membership.

Regulation Committee Meeting 27 Minutes February 28th, 2019.



8. 2019 Communications plan

G.J. provided the iRC with an overview of the Regulation Office's Communication Plan for 2019. Using data from the Annual Regulatory Returns, the Regulation Office will identify the key areas of the Code and Standards that require education and guidance.

The Committee were supportive of the plan. It was highlighted that additional communication with Local Authorities to demonstrate the positive work of AHBs and increase awareness for the regulatory framework would also be useful.

9. AOB

Secretary to circulate Declaration of Interest documentation for 2018 to Committee Members for completion.

Secretary to circulate dates to Committee Members for September meeting as this date remains outstanding.

Action

- 3) Secretary to circulate DoI to Committee Members.
- 4) Secretary to circulate dates for September 2019 meeting.

The next iRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 25th April.