

Regulation Committee Meeting 31 Minutes November 28th, 2019



Date	28 th November 2019
Venue	Housing Agency, Mount Street Upper
Time	11.00am – 1.00pm
Chaired by	Eddie Lewis (E.L.)
Committee Members Present	Donal McManus (DmcM), Oonagh Breen (O.B.), Ronan Heavey (R.H.), Paul Lemass (P.L.), Michael Cameron (M.C.)
In attendance	Susanna Lyons (S.L.) (Head of Regulation, RO, Housing Agency) Jenny Murphy (J.M.) (Secretary to the Committee, RO, Housing Agency) Steven Sheridan (S.S.) (Head of Performance and Communication, RO, Housing Agency) Ken Jackson (K.J.) (Engagement Leader, RO, Housing Agency)

Agenda Items

1. Apologies

- Margaret Geraghty sent apologies

2. Declaration of Interest

- No declarations of interest

Part 1 – Consent Agenda Items

3.

- Minutes
- Head of Regulation Report
- Engagement Update

Outcome

Item 3b Head of Regulation Report and Item 3c Engagement Update removed from Consent Agenda for discussion.

IRC Members suggested amendments to minutes from September.

Action

- 1) Secretary to make amendments to minutes from September and circulate for approval.

4. Matters Arising

The Bill has continued its progression through the Oireachtas. P.L. provided the Committee with an update on this progress including amendments that had been tabled during committee stage. The Bill is due to go to Report and Final Stage next week and then progress through the Seanad in December.

3b. Head of Regulation Report

S.L. provided the Committee with an overview of the operations of the Regulation Office since the last iRC meeting. The Regulation Office has published its Annual Report and the revised Financial Standard and has completed its programme of Annual Review and Engagement meetings. S.L. also provided the Committee with an update on the Freedom of Information and High Court Appeal.

3c. Engagement Update

K.J. provided the Committee with an update regarding organisations in Engagement. Since the last iRC meeting in September, one Tier 3 AHB has been removed from Engagement. In addition to this, one Tier 2 AHB has been deemed to require Engagement.

One AHB that had been deemed Unsatisfactory previously has demonstrated significant progress towards addressing the issues that had been identified. This organisation has been brought into the current assessment cycle.

5. Assessment Programme Update

J.M. provided the Committee with an overview of the current assessment process following the implementation of changes that were approved by the iRC at its meeting in September.

180 AHBs have been issued with an expanded Charter of Commitments Renewal in lieu of completing a full Annual Regulatory Return. 101 AHBs have been brought forward for assessment and have been issued with an Annual Regulatory Return. Additional AHBs may be identified as requiring assessment following the submission of the Charter of Commitments Renewal.

6. Preliminary Discussions: Regulation Office Business Plan 2020

S.L. provided the Committee with an overview of the Regulation Office Business Plan 2020 which has been divided into two areas taking account of transition projects to be completed alongside the business as usual of the interim regulatory function. S.L. also highlighted the risks associated with business as usual and the transition process and the Regulation Office's risk management framework will be discussed at a later agenda item. Communication with the sector regarding the transition from a voluntary to a statutory regulator will be very important and a decision will have to be made regarding the assessment process for 2020/2021.

The Committee discussed the proposed Business Plan 2020. 'Project Register' will be a key area of focus in order to review and clean the existing register in a non-statutory environment. The Regulation Office has conducted some analysis on the existing register and those AHBs that have not signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code to date. The Committee suggested linking in with other bodies such as the CRA, RTB and Revenue where there are difficulties in establishing if an AHB is active or inactive.

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7. Risk Management Framework

S.S. outlined the Regulation Office's Risk Management Policy & Framework for the Committee. The Regulation Office is currently part of the Housing Agency and has adopted the Housing Agency's Risk Management Policy and Framework.

As highlighted during discussions regarding the Business Plan 2020, the Regulation Office is entering a period of transition with the anticipated introduction of the Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Bill 2019. Therefore, the approach to risk management has been aligned to this. The risk framework has been divided into two key functions; Business as Usual and Project Regulatory Readiness, and this is reflected in the risk policy and risk register.

The Committee discussed the proposed framework noting that risk associated with Business as Usual is owned by the iRC. However, it was determined that the risks associated with the transition process and 'Project Regulatory Readiness' are owned by the Housing Agency and a new statutory Board when it is established. It was agreed that the risk register should go to the Housing Agency Board and Audit & Risk Committee.

Action

- 2) Risk register to be circulated to Housing Agency Board.

8. 2020 IRC Meeting Dates

Action

- 3) Secretary to put dates into iRC members diaries for meetings through 2020.

The next iRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 27th February