

Regulation Committee Meeting 32

Minutes

February 27th, 2020



Date	27 th February 2020
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.) [from 11.30am], Michael Cameron (M.C.), Margaret Geraghty (M.G)
In attendance	Susanna Lyons (S.L.) (Head of Regulation, RO, Housing Agency) Steven Sheridan (S.S.) (Head of Performance and Communication, RO, Housing Agency) Ken Jackson (K.J.) (Engagement Leader, RO, Housing Agency), Catherine Rawson (DHP&LG), John O'Connor (J.O'C.) (Chief Executive, Housing Agency) [From 11.30am]

Agenda Items

1. Apologies

- There were no 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 November.

Action

- 1) Secretary to correct November minutes to show M.C. as being in attendance.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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. 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 November, one Tier 3 AHB and four Tier 1 AHBs have been deemed to require Engagement. K.J. also advised that it was likely that a number of other organisations would enter Engagement as a result of the ongoing assessment process.

The Committee confirmed it was content for the names of all organisations in Engagement to be provided to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

5. Assessment Programme Update

S.L. provided the Committee with an overview of the current assessment process. It is anticipated that all assessment reports would be issued by April 2020. S.L. also provided an update on Tier 3 growth based on data obtained through the assessment process. This included an analysis of funding and balance sheets. S.L. also provided a commentary on gearing, liquidity and debt cover and highlighted some of the critical areas for AHBs such as strong risk management structures and treasury management.

8. Update post-signed legislation

P.L. provided the Committee with an update in relation to the current position on the implementation of the Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019. P.L. provided a high-level road map for the commencement of various sections, including those relating to the appointment of a CEO Designate and Board Members, staffing during the transition period and following Establishment, Establishment Day, communications, standards, registration, assessments and investigations.

The Committee discussed a number of issues arising, including the practicalities of operating the Voluntary Regulatory Framework during the transition period, the timing of assessment processes, workforce planning and the significant work programme required for transition to statutory regulation.

The next iRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 30th April 2020