



**Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta
National Treasury Management Agency**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 2.00PM ON 26 JANUARY 2021 AT
TREASURY DOCK, NORTH WALL QUAY, DUBLIN 1**

PRESENT: Maeve Carton, Chairperson
Gerardine Jones
Derek Moran
Martin Murphy
Brian O'Kelly
Conor O'Kelly
Rachael Ingle
Susan Webb

APOLOGIES: Robert Watt

IN ATTENDANCE: Elaine Hudson, Secretary
Anastasia-Ilektra Sakellariou, Secretariat
Ian Black, Chief Financial and Operating Officer (CFOO)
Susan O' Halloran, Chief Legal Officer (CLO)
Sinead Brennan, Chief People Officer (Item 5 only)
Ciarán Breen, Director, SCA (Item 6 only)
Sue Moriarty, Solicitor/Clinical Claims Manager (Item 6 only)
Jim Deery, Senior Corporate Planning & Strategy Manager (Item 7 only)
Fergal Power, Head of Finance (Item 7 only)
Frank O'Connor, Director, FDM (Item 8 only)
David Purdue, Senior Economist, FDM (item 8 only)
Deirbhile Brennan, Head of Compliance (Item 10 only)
Sinead Flanagan, Senior Compliance Officer (Item 10 only)

1. NOTICE AND QUORUM

The Chairperson noted that notice of the meeting and of the nature of the business to be conducted had been given to all members entitled to attend the meeting and a quorum was present.

The Agency noted that its session prior to the meeting with a cross section of new employees (new joiners) talking about their experiences of being on-boarded remotely to NTMA had been beneficial.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

For the purposes of Section 13A of the National Treasury Management Agency Act 1990 (as amended) and Section 17 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995, there were no material interests declared by members in the business to be transacted at the meeting.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chairperson noted that draft minutes of the meetings of 24 November 2020 and 9 December 2020 had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved and that they be signed by the Chairperson.

The Agency noted the status of items arising from the minutes as circulated in the paper.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive presented his Report. He briefed the Agency on a number of corporate matters including the recent bond syndication, the drivers behind the ISIF's strong 2020 investment performance, **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 40(1)(a) as it applies to Section 40(2)(r) of the FOI Act 2014.**

The Chief Executive updated the Agency on key staffing changes and the various arrangements being put in place to ensure the smooth transition and support in respect of the various roles. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.** The Chief Executive noted further that the NTMA Townhall meeting would take place on 4 February.

Arising from the report **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 40(1)(a) as it applies to Section 40(2)(d) of the FOI Act 2014.** leveraging the benefits of remote working post pandemic and how the NTMA receives feedback on the quality of various advices provided by it. The Agency also discussed the ISIF Global portfolio noting the various policy options in respect of same.

5. GENDER BALANCE UPDATE

The Chief People Officer presented an update on progress in relation to the NTMA's Gender Balance Strategy including the impact of Covid-19 on same. She briefed the Agency on the NTMA Gender statistics noting that notwithstanding the significant range of initiatives and events led by the Gender Matters team during 2020 and the evident change in mind-set, progress in terms of a shift in gender balance (versus 2019) was slow. In this latter regard, the Chief People Officer outlined the impact on the statistics of small structural changes at EMT and EMT minus 1 levels. The Agency discussed the gender representation in the context of recruitment processes, noting that the NTMA was endeavouring to ensure that for external recruitment processes, there was at least 30% representation of each gender. In response to a question from the Agency, it was noted that a target of 50% representation of each gender, while maintaining the requisite quality of all candidates, would be challenging particularly for historically male dominated areas. The Committee noted that the NTMA's graduate programme was a useful channel for recruiting female candidates into previously male dominated areas (and vice versa). Responding to a further question from the Agency, the Chief People Officer noted that the turnover statistics did not suggest any material differences attributable to gender. The Agency was supportive of the Gender Balance Strategy and noted the focus for 2021 as presented.

6. BUSINESS UPDATE: SCA

The Representatives of the SCA provided an update of its work to the Agency, which included, amongst other things, advising on a variety of State indemnity, liability and risk management considerations arising in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as on aspects of the indemnity arrangements between the State and private hospitals and Ireland's vaccination programme. They also provided an update on the current status of various significant mass actions claims, the current Clinical and General

Indemnity Schemes' outstanding liability estimates and an overview of Tort law reform initiatives with potential implications for the work of the SCA.

The Agency discussed the update and questioned the SCA representatives on various aspects of same including, the recently published Final Report of Judge Meenan's Expert Group, timing of introduction of Pre Action Protocols, the recent European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruling in respect of historic symphysiotomy claims and the potential extent of downstream claims in respect of Covid-19. The SCA Strategy Committee Chairperson advised that the Committee was cognisant of the significant increase in the SCA workload arising from the Pandemic. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.**

7. NTMA OUTTURNS 2020

The Senior Manager, Corporate Strategy, Planning and Development presented a summary of the NTMA outturns and key performance indicators (KPIs) by business unit and corporate function to end December 2020. He noted, *inter alia*, that the NTMA had to adapt quickly to the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, pivoting its business operations in response to key mandate changes and the new operating environment to ensure delivery of existing and new business priorities. The Agency noted that the NTMA's business continuity arrangements, together with its pre-existing technology platform (which provided for agile working) had facilitated this continuity/resilience. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.**

8. MARKET REPORT

The Agency noted the report as presented. The Senior Economist provided an overview of the Irish economy in 2020 noting that Ireland's fiscal position held up under severe strain in 2020. He noted that notwithstanding the significant short-term upheaval, the longer-term economic risks had reduced on foot of the nascent vaccine rollout and final agreement on the Brexit deal. He indicated that the conservatism in the Exchequer Budgetary process, including contingency provisions, should provide sufficient headroom for the unexpected expenditure arising as a result of the extended level 5 lockdown restrictions.

The Director, FDM briefed the Agency, *inter alia*, on the strong funding position with €28 billion raised in 2020 and completion of the first bond syndication of 2021 representing 30% of the mid-point of the target funding range. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 40(1)(a) as it applies to Section 40(2)(d) of the FOI Act 2014.**

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson, Gerardine Jones, presented the Report of the Committee meetings held on 3 December 2020 and 19 January 2021. She noted that the Committee had approved the appointment of a new Head of Internal Audit, with a deferred start date to commence at the end of the appointee's upcoming maternity leave (in April 2022). She noted that satisfactory interim arrangements were being put in place for the inter regnum period.

The Committee Chairperson informed the Agency that Deloitte representatives had presented the key findings and recommendations following their reviews of the NTMA Risk Management Policy and

Framework (RMPF), Risk Appetite Framework (RAF) and the Enterprise Risk Management Committee (ERMC) to the Committee. The Deloitte review confirmed that the Risk Management Policy and Framework and Risk Appetite Framework were broadly in line with market practice. She reported on Deloitte's review of the ERMC noting that the adoption of the recommendations would ensure that the ERMC was appropriate for the size, nature and complexity of the organization.

The Committee Chairperson noted that the Committee had been briefed on, amongst other things, the SCA Strategic and emerging risks, progress against the Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance plans, and **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.**

She added that the Committee had reviewed the operation of the Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance functions and concluded that they were all operating effectively.

Finally, the Committee Chairperson noted that the Committee had undertaken its annual self-assessment review and outlined the agreed actions arising from same.

9.2. Investment Committee

The Investment Committee Chairperson, Susan Webb, briefed the Agency on the Committee meeting held on 25 January. She noted that notwithstanding the fact that 2020 represented a challenging and volatile period for wider markets, the ISIF Portfolio had proved resilient with relatively strong performance. She also advised that some recent market feedback indicated that a 'second wave' of adversely impacted Medium and Large companies might arise which could lead to further PSRF funding enquiries as the Covid-19 crisis continued.

The Committee Chairperson noted that the Committee reviewed the near-term PSRF pipeline and the summary of investment decline decisions by the ISIF Team and/or PSRF Clearing Committee. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.**

The Committee Chairperson reported on the outcome and agreed actions from the Committee's annual self-assessment evaluation.

9.3. Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee Chairperson, Martin Murphy, presented the Report of the Committee meeting held on 20 January 2021. **This has been redacted pursuant to Section 30(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2014.**

The Committee Chairperson noted that the Committee also approved updates to the NTMA Remuneration Policy.

10. STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS UPDATE

The Head of Compliance and Senior Compliance Officer presented the material statutory obligations relevant to the NTMA, highlighting the key changes since last presented to the Agency in January 2020. The Head of Compliance noted that further details on the obligations contained in the various pieces of legislation covered in the presentation were available on BoardPad.

11. GOVERNANCE ITEMS

11.1 Delegated Matters to the Agency

The Agency noted the Report on Delegated Matters Notifiable to the Agency.

12. AOB

There being no other items under AOB, the Chairperson brought the meeting to a close.

13. PRIVATE SESSION

The Agency agreed to reconvene in private session ahead of its March meeting to consider Agenda Item 13, the Board Self -Assessment Review Report 2020.