

Minutes of the WAB Meeting

Wednesday 10 July 2019 13.30

Venue: East Room, Custom House, Dublin 1

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Sharon Kennedy

Miriam McDonald

Darragh Page

Martin Sisk

Andy Fanning (by invite)

Secretariat Lisa Clifford

Darren Browne

Irish Water Attending for part of item 3.

Brendan Murphy, Ervia Group Commercial Regulatory Director

Angela Costello, Irish Water Head of Human Resources

Michael O'Leary, Irish Water General Manager

Eamon Gallen, Acting Irish Water Managing Director

Chris McCarthy, Head of Finance, Irish Water

1. Minutes of last meetings and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2019 were presented and agreed by the members.

2. Declaration of any conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest from the members. Mr Sisk did ask that it be noted for the record, in the context of the meeting with Irish Water, that he formerly served as a board member on the board of the Office of Public Procurement.

3. Irish Water Presentation

A delegation from Irish Water attended at the request of the WAB and made a presentation (appended to the minute) to the Board. Following the presentation, a discussion was held with the members covering areas including procurement, staffing and remuneration, payment for professional services, external auditing and health and safety standards. The Chair outlined the approach that the WAB would like to take in assessing performance in the areas of staffing,

remuneration and procurement using independent review of policy or audit of implementation. Irish Water indicated their willingness to operate to the approach suggested by the WAB and requested some level of engagement with the WAB in determining the terms of reference for any policy review or audit. The WAB signaled their intent to review one policy area at a time with the first being procurement policy for which the WAB envisage the review coming to fruition in early 2020.

4. Draft 3: 1st WAB Report

The Board and Secretariat agreed several changes to the text, layout and format of the draft of the first WAB Report.

Draft 4 of the report, with the agreed changes will be circulated to the members by cob 19th July with a view to finalising the main text of the report by end July. It is intended that the first report will be published in September.

5. Any Other Business

Darragh Page from the EPA confirmed that he will resign his post in the coming weeks and the EPA will nominate Andy Fanning as replacement to the Board thereafter.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed but will be held sometime between mid to late September. The agenda for the next meeting will include –

- How the topic of procurement will be explored with IW,
- The content of the WAB's 2nd report, and
- Preparations for a session with the JOC following publication of the 1st report.