

Minute of the meeting of the

**Board of the Health Service Executive
on
Monday, 23rd February, 2009**

Members present: L. Downey (Chairman), N. Brennan, B. Drumm, (CEO), D. de Buitleur, P. Farrell, PJ Fitzpatrick, M. Gaffney*, E. McCague, J. Mooney and A. Scott* (* participated by teleconference)

Apologies: W.O'Reilly

Attendees: L Woods; B Gilroy; S Mc Grath; P Connors; L Mc Guinness; A Doherty and D. Purcell.

Time & Location: HSE Offices, Adelaide Road, Dublin at 12 noon.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
1	<p data-bbox="323 741 1243 1106">Finances 2009</p> <p data-bbox="323 775 1243 1106">The Chairman confirmed that the meeting had been convened to consider the emerging financial situation following the report from management, to the Board meeting on 12th February 2009, which forecasted a funding shortfall/extra expenditure estimate of the order of €600 million for 2009. This projection is based on the most recent information from the January 2009 Vote return and arises from income shortfall/costs for which no funding has been provided to date, particularly the income loss/extra costs associated with the Health levy and Demand led schemes. These emerging financial pressures had been reviewed and discussed with officials of the Departments of An Taoiseach, Finance and Health & Children following the February Board meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1144 1243 1323">Management confirmed that €530 million of cost efficiency measures have already been targeted as part of the VFM programme in the National Service Plan 2009 (NSP 09) and further measures have been identified to achieve an additional €133 million savings to offset certain risks identified in that NSP 09 and which are now crystallising. Management reported that there is little or no scope for further cost reductions without impacting service delivery.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1357 1243 1507">The Board considered a briefing paper from management on the service reduction measures necessary in both the acute hospital and primary/community care areas if the additional €600 million shortfall is to be met from within the 2009 financial allocations and financial breakeven is to be achieved for the year.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1541 1243 1809">The Board agreed that, as the projected income shortfall/extra costs are due to circumstances and once off events outside the control of the HSE, clarification should be sought from the Minister for Health and Children on whether additional Exchequer funding will be provided to meet these cost pressures before acting on service reduction measures. The Board also expressed the view that measures should be considered to reduce the projected exposure in the areas of the Pharmacy Wholesale margin; Demand led scheme eligibility; and delays in payments under the long stay repayments scheme.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1843 1243 1993">The Chairman was mandated to write to the Minister for Health and Children to convey these views and to seek clarification on the issue of additional exchequer resources. The measures required to address the emerging financial pressures including, if necessary, an amendment to the NSP 09 will then be considered at the March 2009 Board meeting.</p>	Chairman

The meeting concluded at 1.50pm

Signed:

Date:

Liam Downey,
Chairman