

Minutes of the meeting of the
Health Service Executive Board
Wednesday, 31st March 2010

Members present: L. Downey (Chairman), B. Drumm (CEO), N. Brennan*, P. Farrell, J. Fitzgerald, PJ Fitzpatrick, S. Langford, J. Lavelle, J. Mooney, D. Power and A. Scott.
 (*participated by teleconference for part of the meeting)

Apologies: E. McCague.

Attendees: D. Purcell (Secretary).

Joined the meeting: L. Woods, V. Plant, P. de Freine and B. White.

Time & Location: HSE Offices, Adelaide Road, Dublin at 8.30a.m.

The items are presented in the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
1.	Annual Financial Statements 2009	
	<p>L. Woods and V. Plant joined the meeting for the discussion of this item.</p> <p>The Chairman advised members that, in accordance with the Health Act 2004, there was a statutory requirement to adopt the 2009 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) on or before the 1st of April 2009. He asked PJ Fitzpatrick to report on the consideration of the AFS by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>PJ Fitzpatrick reported that the Audit Committee had considered the 2009 AFS in draft format at its meetings on 19th March 2010 and 26th March 2010. The Committee had also considered related documents including the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) on the audit of the accounts; the draft statement of Board members' responsibilities; the report on the review of the system of internal financial controls and the letter of representation to be made to the Office of the C&AG.</p> <p>He informed the Board that officials from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General had attended the Audit committee meetings on 19th March 2010 and 26th March, 2010 and they had confirmed there were no significant issues outstanding on the accounts.</p> <p>During consideration of the accounts, the Audit Committee had suggested some changes in presentation which would not change the outcome for the year.</p> <p>L. Woods presented the detailed accounts and confirmed that the changes suggested by the Audit Committee had been incorporated into the accounts. He reported that the accounts included for the first time the pension levy income and the funding for claims settled through the State Claims agency. He also reported that the appropriate level of disclosure in the statement of internal financial controls on the review initiated during 2009 of the SKILL programme and the undertakings to be made in the letter of representation were being finalised with officials in the C&AG office. Reports on these matters would be provided to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 27th April 2010.</p> <p>The accounts were reviewed by the Board and some further suggestions/inputs were provided for inclusion in the final accounts. Following the review, the adoption of the AFS 2009 was proposed by PJ Fitzpatrick, seconded by J. Mooney and agreed by the Board (HSE Board</p>	<p>Report to the Audit Committee</p>

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	<p><i>Decision No. 31.03(9)/2010).</i></p> <p>The Board noted that, in accordance with Section 36 of the Health Act 2004, the accounts would now be signed by the Chairman and CEO and sent to the Minister for Health and Children and the C&AG for audit certification.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked management and the Audit Committee for their considerable work and contribution to the completion of the AFS 2009.</p>	Chairman/CEO
2.	Grant approval for Capital development (Ward Block) at St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) Dublin.	
	<p>N. Brennan, declaring a possible conflict of interest, left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>In the absence of B. Gilroy, L. Woods remained in attendance for consideration of this item and P. de Freine joined the meeting.</p> <p>L Woods spoke to the briefing paper on this item circulated prior to the meeting and confirmed that, as the value of the contract exceeds €10M, it is a function of the Board to approve the funding of the contract.</p> <p>P. de Freine confirmed that a procurement process has been carried out by SVUH in accordance with all relevant EU and national procurement law and other relevant procedures and guidelines for the construction of the ward block at the SVUH. He also confirmed that funding for the project was provided in the HSE Capital Plan and that the award of the contract would be subject to the conditions set out by the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) in the letter dated 11th March, 2010 to B. Gilroy (as circulated prior to the meeting).</p> <p>Approval to provide a capital grant to SVUH to place a contract for the works with the recommended bidder in accordance with the outcome of the tender assessment process was proposed by A. Scott, seconded by D Power and agreed by the Board (<i>HSE Board Decision No. 31.03(10)/2010</i>).</p> <p>The Board requested that management would report back when the successful bidder has complied with the conditions set out in the letter from the NDFA.</p>	B. Gilroy/ P. de Freine
3.	Quality and Clinical Care Directorate (QCCD)- Priorities 2010	
	<p>B. White joined the meeting for consideration of this item and spoke to the briefing paper circulated prior to the meeting. He presented the priorities for the QCCD in 2010, and highlighted in particular two areas of work being undertaken by the Directorate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of specific programmes to improve quality and reduce cost. 2. Development of the Quality, Safety and Risk function. <p>He reported that national clinical programmes are being established for each of the six chronic diseases (Stroke, Heart failure, Acute Coronary Syndromes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)/Asthma, Diabetes and Depression). National Programmes have also been established to address three additional areas - Integration, Outpatients/Ambulatory care and Emergency Function. A leading specialist has been jointly appointed with the respective College (e.g. Royal College of Physicians) to lead the programmes. The structure of the programmes will be similar to the National Cancer Control Programme.</p> <p>Following consideration of the methodology developed for the programmes, the programme outputs and the key measures of success, the Board welcomed the development of this programmatic approach to chronic</p>	

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	<p>disease management to improve quality and reduce costs.</p> <p>B. White also updated the Board on the specific objectives for 2010 to implement the quality, safety and risk framework and A. Scott Chairperson of the Risk Committee confirmed that the Committee would continue to monitor the ongoing implementation of the Quality, Safety and Risk Framework.</p> <p>B. White also updated the Board on the management of the incident at Tallaght hospital in relation to unreported Radiological examinations and unopened GP referral letters.</p>	
4.	AOB	
	No items were raised under this heading.	

The meeting concluded at 11.20am.

Signed:

Date:

Liam Downey
Chairman
