

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, Oak House, South Western Area Health Board H.Q., Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Monday, 26th August, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Cllr. E. Byrne  
Cllr. C. McGrath  
Ald. M. Mooney  
Cllr. J. Reilly  
Cllr. D. Tipping

Ms. M. Hoban  
Cllr. M. Miley  
Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D.  
Cllr. T. Ridge  
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

*Non-Voting Members*

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

*Apologies*

Cllr. C. Byrne  
Dr. K. Harkin

Cllr. T. Cullen  
Dr. B. Murphy

*In the Chair*

Cllr. T. Ridge

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. W. Quinn, A/Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. M. Knowles, A/Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. F. Mills, A/Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance  
Ms. M. Gorry, A/Director of Human Resources  
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications  
Mr. J. Leech, Management Accountant  
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

93/2002

**CORRESPONDENCE RE EMPLOYMENT-RELATED COST SAVINGS**

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed members and outlined the reason for convening the Special Board Meeting. She invited the C.E.O. to summarise the briefing material that had been circulated to members [copy filed with official minute] and introduce the staff in attendance.

Following the staff introductions, the C.E.O. proceeded to advise members regarding correspondence that had been received recently from the Eastern Regional Health Authority (E.R.H.A.) concerning the need for our Board to identify employment-related cost savings.

Members were advised that, as a means of achieving such savings, the Department of Health & Children had suggested the non-filling of a certain number of posts. In analysing the situation pertaining to our Board, as outlined in the correspondence from the E.R.H.A., the C.E.O. had ascertained that the required savings could be achieved through the non-filling of 50 clerical/administrative posts associated with new developments contained in the Provider Plan. It was indicated that these posts would be spread across a range of service developments and that it would be necessary to discuss the implications of the non-filling of these posts with the E.R.H.A. In conclusion, the C.E.O. emphasised that he was confident that there would be no job losses.

Members thanked the Chairman and C.E.O. for convening the Special Board Meeting and discussion followed to which Ms. N. Harvey, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. J. Wall, Cllr. C. McGrath, Mr. G. McGuire, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. T. Ridge, Cllr. M. Miley and Cllr. C. O'Connor contributed.

The C.E.O. responded to issues raised by members as follows:-

- The proposed non-filling of posts relates to developmental posts, therefore, recent advertisements for existing vacancies will not be affected.
- The role of members in relation to the matters raised in the above discussion was clarified.
- The issue regarding current acting arrangements was clarified.
- This matter should not directly impact on our Board's policy regarding the implementation of the National Health Strategy.
- The C.E.O. again confirmed that he does not envisage any job losses in our Board as a result of cost savings.

Members proposed various responses by our Board on this issue. The C.E.O. indicated that, if it was agreeable to members, he would respond to the E.R.H.A. regarding our Board's proposal not to fill the 50 posts and that he would continue discussions with the Authority regarding the resultant impact on services. In conclusion, members requested that a reply should not be forwarded to the E.R.H.A. until further discussion takes place on this matter at the forthcoming South Western Area Health Board Meeting on 3rd September, 2002, at which details of posts affected will be made available to members.

In addition, on a proposal by Cllr. D. Tipping, which was supported by members present, it was agreed to advise the E.R.H.A. that the members of the South Western Area Health Board are seeking a Special Meeting of the Authority as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

**CORRECT:**                    **P. DONNELLY**  
   **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**CHAIRMAN**