



**Minutes of Special Board Meeting No. 87 held on Monday 18 January 2021
at 9:30am by Video Conference.**

Present:

Nicole Lappin, Chief Charity Commissioner
Gerard McCurdy, Deputy Chief Charity Commissioner
Carmel Mullan, Charity Commissioner
Hugh McKeag, Charity Commissioner
Kieran Donaghy, Charity Commissioner
Séamus Magee, Charity Commissioner

In Attendance:

Frances McCandless, Chief Executive
Aubrey McCrory, Head of Corporate Services
Punam McGookin, Head of Charity Services
Sarah Finnegan, Head of Compliance & Enquiries
Clare McElherron, Minutes

Apologies: Nuala O'Hare, Board Apprentice

1. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Litigation Re Opening of a Statutory Inquiry

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time. The Board were reminded to keep a note of their additional hours. The Chair indicated that this special meeting offered an opportunity to discuss, ask questions and consider legal advice regarding the opening of the Lough Neagh Rescue S22 Inquiry and whether to continue defending the related Tribunal case. The Board considered the legal advice presented, noting that this case is factually unique, due to a delay in the implementation of the inquiry requested by Commissioners. For this reason, it was noted that a decision not to defend this case would not impact on other inquiries opened by a committee of Commissioners. Further consideration was given to the Commission's reputation and relationship with stakeholders, and taking of timely decisions in this area. The Board decided to withdraw from defending the case, on the basis that the delay in the institution of the inquiry made the case uniquely complex and that orders falling out of the inquiry were already acknowledged as being void, since they were made by staff. It was agreed that relevant

parties should be notified of this decision as soon as possible. The Board noted that the Legal Advisory Group will meet in February 2021.

AP1 – Instruct legal adviser to withdraw opposition to the proceedings

Proposed Kieran Donaghy and Seconded by Séamus Magee

3. AOB

It was noted that Business Consultancy Services will be attending the next board meeting to discuss the Board effectiveness review.

Meeting ended at 10.30am

Date of next meeting 25 January 2021