

Regulation Committee Meeting 8 Minutes March 26th, 2015.



Date	26 th March, 2015
Venue	Housing Agency, Mount Street Upper
Time	2.30pm
Chaired by	Jennie Donald (J.D.)
Committee Members Present	Damian Allen (D.A.), Oonagh Breen (O.B.), Michael Cameron (M.C.), Ann Marie Farrelly (A.M.F), Ronan Heavey (R.H.), Eddie Lewis (E.L.), Donal McManus (D.M.C), Gerry Hunt (G.H.), Mary Lee Rhodes (M.L.R)
In attendance	Rosalind Carroll (R.C.) (Head of Regulation, Housing Agency) Adèle Lacey (A.L.) (Secretary to the Committee, Housing Agency) Sophie Geraghty (S.G) Regulation Finance Manager John O'Connor (J.O.C.) (CEO, Housing Agency) Sheila Power (S.P.) (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government) (left after item 4)
Apologies	None

The Chair welcomed the Committee and attendees.

Agenda Items

1. Apologies

- No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest

- O. Breen set out that she is now part of the Accounting and Reporting Working Group of the Charities Regulation Authority (CRA)

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes

- The minutes of the January iRC meeting were approved for publication.

Matters Arising

- There were no other matters arising.

Actions

- Regulation Office to publish minutes for the iRC meeting held on the 23rd January 2015.

4. Legislation

The DECLG gave an update on the ongoing work in relation to preparation of a draft Bill. It was noted that the Heads of Bill will be sent to the Minister by March 31st, 2015.

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Minutes

March 26th, 2015.



It was **agreed** that any further comments re. the Heads of Bill could be sent in advance of the 31st to D.A., R.C. and the Chair.

Actions

It was **agreed** that any further comments re. the Heads of Bill could be sent in advance of the 31st March to D.A., R.C. and the Chair.

5. Head of Regulation report

The Head of Regulation presented her report to the Committee. The following key points were raised and discussed:

- The main focus of the Regulation Office at present is on progressing the assessment of annual returns. It is likely that assessment reports will be circulated in May.
- A new Regulation Finance Manager has joined the team. (It was noted that this is useful in terms of progressing the financial chapter and it is hoped that a further meeting can be held with the established steering group.)
- There are 178 AHBs signed up to regulation, those AHBs hold approximately 85% of the overall AHB stock.
- There was a consultation meeting with Tier 1 AHBs in relation to the Financial Chapter in February.
- In terms of communications, the core publications highlighted in the Communications Plan, the "Annual Report" and the Financial Chapter will be delayed on account of delays in recruitment and processing assessments.
- It was also noted that a progress report to the Minister is being worked on.

6. Removal of AHBs from Register

The Head of Regulation gave an update on removing AHBs from the register.

- It was proposed that where an AHB having signed-up to the Code and failed to provide an annual report, they would be removed from the Public Listing of AHBs signed up to the Code and advised that they would be considered for retesting only on completion and assessment of the required return.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to provide further clarity in the Code on the consequences of non-submission.

The report also highlighted that some redrafting of the Code itself was required in order to avoid any future such ambiguity. It was suggested that this is considered in tandem with the publishing of the Financial Chapter.

Actions

- It was **agreed** that Regulation Office to delist AHBs where an annual return was not made available by the final deadline of 24th December 2014, in order to assess the AHBs compliance with the Code.

7. Assessment, Engagement and Annual Return 2014

A.L went through a paper on the assessments, planned engagement and plans for the annual return for the 2014 year.

The following was highlighted:

- 61% of reports have been completed as of 19th March 2015.
- Specific key recommendations are included in each report
- There are different levels of proposed engagement.
- In relation to the next annual return, it was noted that the form of the return will be updated and an outline of the proposed timeframe was set out.

It was suggested that it may be useful to discuss different levels of engagement in assessment reports or at future training events.

Overall the Committee commended the work of the Regulation Team in progressing the assessment reports.

8. Update on number of AHBs signed up to the Code

The report on the number of AHBs signed up to the Code was noted by the iRC. It was highlighted that this also includes reference to stock numbers which have been reported on as part of the Annual Return process.

9. AOB

There was no AOB.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 11th June at 10.30am.