

Edited minutes of the meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) on Tuesday, 20 October 2020 starting at 10.00hrs by video conference.

### **Members present**

Dr L Kavanagh McBride – Vice President  
Mr L Hamill  
Ms K Lombard  
Mr J Horan  
Mr M Higgins  
Mr D Manning  
Ms K Canning  
Mr M Blake-Knox  
Ms E Kelly  
Ms B Liston (from item 4.2)

### **In attendance**

Ms S McClelland, CEO  
Ms U Byrne, Director of Regulation  
Mr C O’Leary, Director of Registration  
Ms V O’Rourke, Fitness to Practise Department  
Ms O Coady, Governance and Secretariat Manager

### **Item 1 – Apologies and conflicts of interest**

1.1 Apologies were received from Ms E Cassidy, Dr D Lawler, Mr P Dolan, Ms L Clarke-Bishop, Dr L Sahm, Prof C O’Herlihy, Mr Minihan and Ms C Cocoman.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President assumed the chair.

Being members of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee Mr D Murphy, Ms A Horgan, Ms M Gorman and Ms K Greene did not join the meeting.

1.2 The Vice President reminded Board members of the provisions of the conflict of interest policy. The Vice President then asked Board members to review the agenda to identify any conflicts of interest.

### **Items 2-4 – Fitness to practise matters**

The Board considered the following:

- Seven no prima facie recommendations from the Preliminary Proceedings Committee.



- One application pursuant to section 55(1) of the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011.
- Two reports of the Fitness to Practise Committee of Inquiry – Nurses and Midwives Act 2011.

## **Item 5 – Terms of office of members of the PPC and FTPC**

### **5.1 Membership of the PPC**

The Board considered the briefing document which had previously been circulated to members.

The Board considered the term of office of Deirdre Naughton. The Board noted that Ms Naughton’s first term of office would come to an end on 23 January 2021.

**Decision** The Board agreed to approve the re-appointment of Ms Naughton for a second term of three years to end on 23 January 2024.

The Board considered the terms of office of the following members of the PPC whose second term of office would come to an end on 23 January 2021:

- Ger Feeney
- Ann Sheehan
- Timothy Frawley

**Decision** The Board approved an extension of the term of office of these three members of the PPC for a period of one year to end on 23 January 2022. The rationale for this decision was to enable the work of the PPC continued with the least disruption as possible given the current COVID-19 public health restrictions which would make the recruitment and training of new members of the PPC more difficult. It will also mean that in the future changes in the Board membership of the PPC will not occur at the same time as changes in the non-Board membership of the PPC.

### **5.2 Membership of the FTPC**

The Board considered the briefing document which had previously been circulated to members.

The Board considered the term of office of James Buckley. The Board noted that Mr Buckley’s first term of office would come to an end on 23 January 2021.

**Decision** The Board agreed to approve the re-appointment of Mr Buckley for a second term of three years to end on 23 January 2024.



The Board considered the terms of office of the following members of the FTPC whose second term of office would come to an end on 23 January 2021:

- Mark Kane
- Stephen Keeley
- Shane McCarthy
- Amanda Phelan
- Mary Barrett

**Decision** The Board approved an extension of the term of office of these three members of the FTPC for a period of one year to end on 23 January 2022. The rationale for this decision was to enable the work of the FTPC continued with the least disruption as possible given the current COVID-19 public health restrictions which would make the recruitment and training of new members of the FTPC more difficult. It will also mean that in the future changes in the Board membership of the FTPC will not occur at the same time as changes in the non-Board membership of the FTPC.

Ms Liston expressed her concern that by approving one year extensions to terms of office, some committee members would have served on NMBI committees for a considerable length of time. Ms Byrne noted that these extensions for a period of one year were in accordance with the revisions to the terms of reference of the PPC and the FTPC that had been approved by the Board at its September 2020 meeting. The Board noted Ms Liston's concerns.

#### **Item 6 – Plain English Guide**

The Board considered the briefing document and the draft document titled *Complaints Against Nurses and Midwives: A Plain English Guide* which had previously been circulated to members. The Board noted that the document had been reviewed and revised by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

**Action** Members to email Ms Byrne advising of any typographical errors noted in the document.

**Decision** The Board agreed to approve the document subject to minor amendments suggested by the Board. The Board noted that the document would now be proofread and typeset in consultation with the Communications Manager and with advice from NALA. It would then be brought back to the Board for final approval.

The Board further noted that now that the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2020 had been signed into law, the document would need to be revised once various sections of this Act were commenced.



### **Item 7 – Any other fitness to practise business**

There being no further matters to consider the meeting ended at 11.15hrs.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essene Cassidy**  
**President**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_