

**MINUTES OF THE 482nd MEETING OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS AGENCY BOARD
HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10.00AM
AT THE LABOUR RELATIONS AGENCY HEAD OFFICE,
JAMES HOUSE, 2-4 CROMAC AVENUE, BELFAST, BT7 2JA**

Present: Gordon Milligan (Chair)
Geraldine Alexander
Clare Duffield
Jill Minne
Kevin McCabe
Daire Murphy
John Taylor
Lee Wilson

In Attendance: Don Leeson Chief Executive
Paul Lowe Director of Corporate Services
Christine Magill Boardroom Apprentice
Scott Alexander Employment Relations Roundtable Secretariat
Alison Millar Employment Relations Roundtable Secretariat
Oliver Murray Executive Assistant

Apologies: Deirdre Fitzpatrick
Michelle McGinley

This was a hybrid meeting, with some Board members attending in person and others by videoconference.

Declarations of Interest: None.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

- 1.1 It was noted that the meeting had been brought forward from the following day because of the Agency's Employment Relations conference. The primary focus of the meeting was to brief Board members on the conference and clear essential business. Standing agenda items, such as the minutes of the last meeting, will be presented to the March 2023 Board meeting.

- 1.2 The Chair reported that interviews for new Board members were completed on 20 February 2023. It was noted that the speed at which appointments will be made may depend on whether a Minister for the Economy was likely to be in office in the near future. In the event of a delay, extensions to the terms of office for those Board members whose appointments end on 31 March 2023 may be required.

2. Employment Relations Conference – overview of the programme and arrangements, and briefing on the role of Board members

- 2.1 The Chief Executive highlighted the aims of the conference, which is being held at Titanic Belfast on 23 February 2023, and gave an overview of the programme. It was noted that the conference had been conceived four years ago and had been twice postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 Board members noted that the Agency and Belfast City Council are hosting a pre-conference event for the keynote speakers and key stakeholders. This was to initiate the conversation about improving employment relations in NI.
- 2.3 The Employment Relations Roundtable Secretariat, who have helped organise the conference, briefed Board members on logistics for the afternoon workshops that they would be introducing. Those Board members unable to attend the Board meeting and introducing a workshop will be briefed separately.

Action: Executive Assistant

- 2.4 The Board thanks the Employment Relations Roundtable Secretariat and Executive Assistant for their work in organising the conference.

3. Business Plan Performance Report for the Period Ended 31 January 2023

- 3.1 The Business Plan Performance Report for the period ended 31 January 2023 (paper BP01-02/23) was noted by the Board.

4. Management Accounts for the Period Ended 31 January 2023

- 4.1 The Management Accounts for the period ended 31 January 2023 (paper BP02-02/23) was noted by the Board.

5. Review of the Meeting

- 5.1 Board members confirmed that they were content with the papers, discussions and decisions taken at the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 There was no other business.

7. Dates of Next Meetings

7.1 The revised proposed schedule of Board and Committee meetings to March 2024 (Paper BP03-02/23) was approved.

Action: Executive Assistant

7.2 The draft agenda for the next Board meeting (Paper BP04-02/23), which is scheduled for 29 March 2023, was noted.