

Áine Lynch	Present
Ann Mulcahy	Present
Anne Howard	Present
Anne Loughnane	Present
Bryan O'Reilly	Present
Catherine Doolan	Present
Catherine Moynihan	Present
Ciaran O'Donnell	Present
David O'Sullivan	Present
Declan Fahie	Present
Eamon Dennehy	Present
Eamonn Shaughnessy	Apologies
Fergal McCarthy	Present
Gerry Leydon	Present
Gráinne Conachy	Present
Jean Beswick Duignan	Present
Kathleen Burke	Present
Liam Ó Néill	Present
Mai Fanning	Apologies
Mary Magner	Present
Mary Curley	Apologies
Michael Delargey	Present
Michelle Keane	Present
Niall Duddy	Present
Niamh Hourigan	Present
Niamh Dennehy	Apologies
Noel Cronin	Present
Paul Moroney	Present
Peter McCabe	Present
Rosena Jordan	Present
Séamus Ó Fearraigh	Present
Seán Ó hArgáin	Present
Seán Ó Dubhlaing	Present
Seán O'Neill	Apologies
Teresa O'Doherty	Present
Tracie Tobin	Present

Staff in attendance: Lynn Ramsey, Director; Phil Fox, Deputy Director; Harry McGeary, Head of Finance and IT; Siobhan Healy, Head of Registration; Finola O'Dwyer, Solicitor & Head of Professional Standards; Bríd Murphy, Head of Initial Teacher Education & Induction, Carmel Kearns, Head of Teachers' Learning and Research, Ruth Flynn Head of Corporate Affairs and Human Resources,

1. Attendance & Apologies

1.1. Opening Remarks by Chairperson

- i. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- ii. The Chair extended sympathy on behalf of the Council, to Council Member Liam Ó Néill, on the recent death of his brother Monsignor Caoimhín Ó Néill, and to staff member Elaine McDermott on the death of her mother Laura McDermott.
- iii. The chair extended sympathy on behalf of the Council to their colleagues in St Michael's College on the sudden death of two students at the weekend.

1.2. Noting of Apologies

Apologies were noted from Seán O Neill, Mary Curley, Niamh Dennehy, Mai Fanning, and Eamon O' Shaughnessy

1.3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts declared

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1. Minutes

The minutes of meeting 22 May 2023 were approved having been proposed by David O'Sullivan and seconded by Jean Beswick Duignan

2.2. Matters Arising

No matters arising noted

3. Standing Item

3.1. Appointments to Committees & Panels

There were no appointments to Committees & Panels. The Head of Corporate Affairs and HR advised that contact had been made with IBEC and they are hoping to progress the nomination over the summer.

4. Directors Report

4.1. Update from Director

The Director's report was taken as read and the following points were noted by the Director:

- o The phone lines are now open from 12pm – 5pm effective from today

- The Irish Language Portal is scheduled to go live on 19 July. It was confirmed that the Teaching Council have an Irish language phonenumber in operation and staff trained to answer it.
- The Head of Teachers' Learning provided members with an update on the Longitudinal Research project.
- The Head of ITEI provided the members with a presentation on International Qualified Teacher Status (iQTS)

The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- The Teaching Council is aware that NITE, part of the Coventry University group, has been engaging with schools in the Irish Education system but we have no access to any data on this engagement.
- To date, the Qualifications Panel has not received any applications from iQTS graduates
- The Director and Head of ITEI have been engaging with the Department to ensure they are aware of the iQTS model and its potential implications, and it was included in the early warning report to the Department for Q2.
- This initiative is backed by the Department for Education in the UK and the UK government. The Director and Head of ITEI have a meeting scheduled with the Department for Education and will be seeking clarity on the origin of this programme and the intention behind it. Members expressed concern regarding the potential eroding of standards and threat to the integrity of the register that this represents and requested that this be added to the Risk Register.
- An update on the relevant actions from the Teacher Supply draft action plan was provided.
- The Head of Registration also provided an overview on the 'Signs of Life' project which the CSO are conducting on behalf of the Department and the Teaching Council. This project will analyse data in respect of teachers who are currently registered with the Teaching Council but are not employed as teachers in Ireland.

5. Items for Decision (HR/Staffing)

5.1. Staff sanction for Professional Standards

The Head of Corporate Affairs & HR advised the Council of the requirement for sanction for an Executive Officer to support the additional workload in the Profession Standards team.

The request for an Executive Officer for Professional Standards Team was approved having been proposed by Niall Duddy and seconded by Peter McCabe.

6. Items for Decision

6.1. Approval of Annual Financial Statements

The Head of Finance outlined the Financial Statements for the members. The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- The ARC had met with a representative of the external auditors to review the Financial Statements.
- The auditors had no items which needed to be brought to the attention of Council

- The ARC recommended the Financial Statements to Council for approval
- The Finance team were acknowledged by members for the clean audit report and for their efficient stewardship of the Council finances.
- The Financial Statements are published annually on the Teaching Council website once approved by Council.

The Financial Statements were approved by Council having been proposed by Michael Delargey and seconded by Seán O'Dubhlaing

6.2. Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report 2022

The Council noted the Audit & Risk Annual Report 2022.

7. Item for Decision

Shane Gorey, Corporate Affairs Manager, joined the meeting for this agenda item

7.1. Procurement – tender for Print and Post

The Corporate Affairs Manager outlined the process, evaluation and outcome for the tender for Print and Post services.

The tender process and appointment of the preferred tenderer was approved having been proposed by Michael Delargey and seconded by Niall Duddy.

7.2. Extension of Abtran contract (for noting)

The Head of Finance advised that the contract with Abtran, the managed services provider, will be extended for two years, in line with the provisions of the tender process, in November. Ahead of this extension a new SLA will be agreed with Abtran. The Council will then use the coming two years to review this service delivery model and what alternative options the Council could implement.

8. Items for Decision - Education Committee

8.1. Droichead Review Terms of Reference

The Head of ITEI presented the terms of reference for the Droichead review to the Council. Members requested a presentation from the researchers who undertook the DEEPEN research at a future Council meeting.

The terms of reference were approved having been proposed by Rosena Jordan and seconded by Áine Lynch.

9. Item for Decision

9.1. Agency Governance Framework

The Head of Corporate Affairs synthesised the Agency Governance Framework before the Council for approval.

The Agency Governance Framework was approved having been proposed by Jean Beswick Duignan and seconded by Catherine Moynihan

10. Item for Decision

10.1. Approval of members travel to overseas conference

The Council approved travel for the Chair and the Deputy Chair to the Clear Regulation Conference in Salt Lake City having been proposed by Niall Duddy and seconded by Teresa O'Doherty

11. Item for Noting

11.1. Refresher information session on publication provisions in Teaching Council Act

The Head of Professional Standards presented to Council with regard to the publication provisions contained in the Teaching Council Acts 2001-2015 and decisions of Council to date relating to website notices in terms of findings and sanction following fitness to teach inquiries. Council considered the statistics to date presented, around publication of website notices post inquiry, and the landscape scanning exercise presented in relation to what other regulators are doing in the publication space, both in Ireland and in the UK.

12. Items for Noting

12.1. Executive Committee

The Update from the Chair was noted.

12.2. Education Committee

The Education Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.4. Registration Committee

The Registration Committee Chair's report was noted.

The Head of ITEI presented to Council with regard to the recognition and registration processes for teachers who qualify out of state. The presentation included an outline of the scenarios and problems that may arise for the Council's Qualification's Panel when considering applications from teachers who qualify overseas, arising from the Council's current legislative framework. She also advised of the timelines and next steps involved in the review of the recognition and registration processes, which is under the remit of the Council's Registration Committee who will consider this matter again, in more detail, when it reconvenes in September.

Members of the Council's Qualifications Panel expressed their concern at some of the applications they were obligated to grant conditional registration to in the context of the importance of maintaining professional standards. They also requested that this item feature on the Council's agenda going forward.

12.5. Investigating Committee

The Investigating Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.6. Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee Chair's report was noted.

13. Item for Noting

13.1. Teacher Release Update

The Director advised members that the matter of Teacher Release was raised at the recent meeting with Minister. The Director and Chair also met with the affected member to provide an update on this meeting. The legislative amendments that have been submitted to the Department also have a request to provide for Teacher Release in the Primary legislation.

The PCR is expected to commence in September, and this will provide an opportunity for members to look at the issue of release time and workload.

Meeting Ended 16:00

Signed: Michelle Keane
Council Chair

Date: 09.10.23

Signed: Ruth Ky
Secretary to Council

Date: 09/10/23

APPENDIX 1

Actions Arising from Council Meeting 03 July 2023

Action	Owner	Timeframe

