

Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
12th October, 2006

Date	Topic	Decision
12.10.06	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 6th September, 2006 The Chairperson informed the members that as the position of Secretary/Manager had now been filled and given the statutory independence of the Board, the Board would operate henceforth without direct assistance from the DES. The DES and staff of the RIRU would continue to be available to liaise and co-operate with the Board as needed.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>It was agreed that the gratitude and appreciation of the Board for assistance provided by the staff of the RIRU would be conveyed to the Secretary General of DES.</p>
	<p>Correspondence Correspondence relating to the article in the Sunday Times was circulated and discussed.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the correspondents be informed that the contents of their letters had been considered and noted by the Board.</p>
	<p>Liaison Officer for Disability It was proposed that the Secretary/Manager should be the liaison officer with DES re enquiries from the Ombudsman's Office in relation to complaints under the Disability Act 2005. FOI Act – A copy of a letter from DES to the Department of Finance to include the EFB under the FOI Act was noted. Ethics and Public Office Regulations: It was noted that members of the EFB would probably be subject to these regulations from 2007.</p>	<p>Seconded.</p>
	<p>Draft Criteria One amendment had been made to the draft criteria in relation to grants for relatives. Printed Version of Criteria: Approval was sought for the cost of printing the document. Current Application Forms: It was decided that in relation to former residents a short birth certificate or baptismal/birth certificate would suffice. Other items discussed in relation to the Criteria were Proof of Residency, Briefing Sessions, Media and Special Cases.</p>	<p>It was decided, after a vote, to publish the criteria in its present form and review it no later than September 2007.</p> <p>It was decided to launch the criteria on 22nd November 2006.</p>
	<p>Finance The balance in the account was noted. The Chairperson to explore the possibility of procuring a limited accountancy service. This could assist in reconciling approval against expenditure on a regular basis and in the preparation of end of year accounts.</p>	
	<p>Staffing Sanction had been sought from Department to upgrade the second post for the EFB. A temporary member of staff to be recruited to deal with backlog of applications.</p>	
	<p>I.T. and Communications Requirements. It was reported that most of the EFB's I.T. and communications requirements were now in place.</p>	
	<p>Approvals and Appeals 96 approvals from 86 applicants. 4 Appeals.</p>	<p>Noted</p>