

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
8th October, 2008**

Date	Topic	Decision
8.10.08	Minutes of meeting held on 27th August, 2008	Approved
	<p>Matters arising from Minutes</p> <p>It was reported that a letter had been written to the Director of Audit asking whether data pertaining to the EFB was at risk after the robbery of a laptop computer. Assurance had been received by the EFB from the Senior Auditor that all material on an electronic audit file is encrypted as an integral component of the computer programme that is used by the C & AG.</p> <p>It was suggested that a similar letter should be sent to the Department of Education and Science noting the loss of a laptop from that Department.</p> <p>It was reported that the Chairperson and Secretary Manager of the EFB had met with the Advisory Council of the Legal Services Section of the Department of Education and Science in relation to matters that had been discussed at the meeting of 27th August.</p> <p>Issue 1: The status of applicants to the Fund who may have become residents after 5th June 2002.</p> <p>Issue 2: The issue of guardianship. Advice had been received from the Advisory Counsel that, in his view, guardianship does not qualify as a relation in the terms of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005</p> <p>Issue 3: Client having difficulty accessing the fund because former resident will not allow access to his/her records.</p> <p>The Chairperson agreed to raise the possibility of meeting with the Advisory Counsel to discuss the issue of residency within the terms of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005.</p> <p>It was reported that the Residential Institutions Redress Review Committee is satisfied that residents in Kirwan House qualified as residing in a scheduled institution. The Redress Unit of the Department of Education and Science had been advised of this correspondence.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is being progressed. The tax clearance issues raised at the last meeting had not yet been clarified.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Issue 1: It was agreed that the Board would consider applications for grants only in cases in which the residency of the former resident commenced prior to 11th May, 1999.</p> <p>Issue 2: Applicant to be informed that he does not qualify under Section 22 of the Act and will not receive any further funding.</p> <p>Issue 3: It was agreed to follow legal advice that there is no obligation on the Board to seek evidence on behalf of an applicant. The onus is on the applicant to obtain correct documentation.</p>
	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>In relation to correspondence received from Alliance Victim Support group the Board agreed that there would be no change in its reporting procedures. It was also noted that no funding for courses provided by Right of Place Cork is provided by the EFB. However, the Board does provide funding for individual applicants who wish to partake of a course wherever they may live.</p> <p>Letter received from office of the Minister of Education & Science acknowledging receipt of letter from EFB regarding resignation of member of EFB.</p> <p>Email received from Deaf Women's Association regarding an information session with the EFB on 21st November.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>It was agreed that a Board member and the Secretary/Manager would attend session.</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries</p> <p>There were 168 approvals in respect of 168 applicants to a total value of €203,112.64. The Board also approved 6 applications under reasonable expectation to the value of €14,454.37. The breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 49 (29.17%); child 87 (51.78%);</p>	

	<p>grandchild 25 (14.88%); spouse 5(3.57%); Stepchild 1 (0.60%). The country analysis is: Ireland 119 (70.83%); UK 39 (23.21%); Australia 4 (2.38%); USA 4 (2.38%); Spain 1 (0.60%); Netherlands 1 (0.60%).</p> <p>The next approvals meeting will be 29th October 2008.</p> <p>Queries, Appeals, Reasonable Expectations and a pre-approval were processed.</p>	
	<p>Criteria 2008</p> <p>Advertising/Information Campaign</p> <p>The summary report on meetings with former resident support groups, outreach services UK and the Federation of Irish Societies was presented.</p> <p>The report will be sent to all groups who attended the publicity meetings of the Board.</p> <p>It was reported that all FAS careers advisors would be informed of the work of the Board.</p> <p>It was agreed that the publicity committee would reconvene to establish the next step in the publicity campaign for 2008.</p> <p>Review of Criteria</p> <p>It was agreed to amend Section 2 of the Criteria to read as follows:</p> <p>Section 2: Who may apply for grants.: The grants are open to all former residents of the institutions listed in the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2002 whose residency commenced prior to 11th May 1999 and to their spouses, sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, stepsons and stepdaughters.</p> <p>The issue of assistance for short courses that do not fall under Section 4 of the Criteria was raised, i.e. post school, undergraduate and post-graduate courses. It was agreed to add the following additional paragraph to the section of the Criteria which deals with Personal Development and Lifestyle Courses.</p> <p>Assistance up to €200 towards additional certified expenditure in respect of course materials and other course-related costs.</p>	<p>Approved.</p> <p>Agreed</p>
	<p>Finance</p> <p>NTMA Report: The total Fund value on 30.9.08 was €7,597,440.67.</p> <p>CDVEC Financial Statement of Education Finance Board to July 2008.</p> <p>CDVEC requested draw-down from NTMA.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	<p>IT and Communication Requirements</p> <p>The Board approved quotation for printing of the Criteria.</p> <p>The Board approved quotation for updating the database.</p>	
	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Salary increments for administrative staff were approved.</p>	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>IT was agreed that further consideration of standing orders for meeting would be considered at the next Board meeting.</p>	
	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>The dates of the next two meetings of the Board were provisionally set for 12th November and 2nd December.</p>	<p>Noted</p>