

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
2nd December, 2008**

Date	Topic	Decision
2.12.08	Minutes of Meeting of 12th November 2008	Approved
	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes A discussion took place regarding the High Court judgement which ruled that an age limit could not justify excluding from the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme persons who enjoyed in law the status of children during the time they were resident in a residential institution. It was noted by the Board that, while the Judgement may impact on the work of the Board, the implications for the EFB might not necessarily be similar in all respects to those that arise for the work of the Residential Institutions Redress Board.</p> <p>The Procedures document arising from the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control for 2008 was approved.</p> <p>A draft document on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee was presented to the Board. A final draft will be available for the next meeting of the Board.</p> <p>It was requested that Ethics in Public Office (Prescribed Public Bodies, Designated Directors of and positions in Public Bodies) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 forms be available at the next meeting of the Board in preparation for their lodgement with the Standards in Public Office Commission in January 2009.</p>	<p>It was agreed that if the Department of Education & Science appeals the decision it should be asked to have regard to any particular implications for the Education Finance Board.</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>Correspondence Copy of letter received from Alliance Victim Support Group, addressed to the DES, requesting that the EFB be registered under the Freedom of Information Act; the audited accounts for the Ad Hoc Education Committee be made public; the release and publication of the Commission's Report; regret at not seeking funding for advertising the Criteria and a request for the names of those attending meetings of the EFB be made public.</p> <p>Letter written by the Chairperson on behalf of the Board in reply to Alliance Victim Support Group's letters of 7th April and 19th September.</p> <p>Letter from CARA Irish Housing Association, Sheffield Irish Survivors Outreach Service (SIOS) stating that the office will close on 31st December, 2008.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries There were 167 approvals in respect of 152 applicants to a total value of €171,206.64. The Board also approved 5 applications under reasonable expectation to the value of €5,390. The breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 40 (23.95%); child 97 (58.08%); grandchild 23 (13.78%); spouse 5 (2.99%); stepchild 2 (1.20%). The country analysis is: Ireland 148 (88.62%); UK 17 (10.18%); Australia 1(0.60%); USA 1 ((0.60%). Queries, Appeals and Reasonable Expectations were approved. Next approvals meeting 10th December, 2008.</p>	
	<p>Criteria 2008 Advertising/Information Campaign The Publicity Committee presented a report of their last meeting to the Board.</p> <p>The Board extended an invitation to all support groups or groups of former residents who would benefit from an information meeting about the EFB to inform the Board in writing and the request will be brought to the Board at the</p>	<p>The Board thanked the Committee for their dedication in pursuing every avenue open to the Board to publicise the Education Fund.</p>

	<p>next meeting.</p> <p>The issue of the limits for short courses that fall under Personal Development and Lifestyle courses which amount of €1,000 was further discussed.</p>	<p>It was agreed to put this issue on hold until the next Board meeting .</p>
	<p>Finance</p> <p>The audit fee of the Comptroller and Auditor General for the annual financial accounts for the year ending December 2007 was noted.</p> <p>NTMA Report: The total Fund value on 31.11.08 was €7,140,853.26. CDVEC Financial Statement of EFB to October 2008. Request from CDVEC for draw-down from NTMA</p>	<p>Noted Noted Noted</p>
	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Reassurance sought by member of the Board that the staff of the EFB had entitlements to sick leave. Reassurance given that, according to their contracts, all staff had been employed under CDVEC guidelines.</p>	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Christmas holidays agreed by the Board.</p>	
	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>Next Board meeting – 21st January 2009. Next approvals meeting – 10th December, 2008.</p>	