

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
12th November, 2008**

Date	Topic	Decision
12.11.08	The Chairperson welcomed the new member of the Board (Christopher Heaphy) appointed by the Minister for Education and Science with effect from 6 th November, 2008 until 17 th February, 2009.	
	Minutes of meeting held on 8th October, 2008	Approved
	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary discussion took place on the recent High Court judgement on the challenge to provisions of the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2002. • It was reported that the Professional Accountant in the DES had completed his report on the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control and he had recommended the additional strengthening of the system to take account of the changes in the system since 2007. • A committee was formed to review Standing Orders and report back to the Board as to whether the adaptation of these would be useful in the conduct of the EFB meetings. 	<p>It was agreed that the Chairperson would forward judgement to Board members as soon as he received it from the Department of Education & Science.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Letter received from Redress Unit on behalf of the Minister for Education & Science confirming the appointment of Christopher Heaphy to the Board.</p> <p>Letter received from the Redress Unit confirming that no information regarding the EFB or its clients had been put at risk as a result of any thefts of laptops from DES and that, as the Board is an independent body, the Department does not hold any records associated with any of the Board's clients.</p> <p>Request received from a student requesting assistance for her college thesis.</p> <p>Request received from former resident wishing to hold an information night in Waterford on behalf of the Board.</p> <p>Ethics in Public Office (Prescribed Public Bodies, Designated Directorships of and positions in Public Bodies (Amendment) Regulations 2006 forms were distributed to the Board in preparation for their lodgement with the Standards in Public Office Commission in January 2009.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>It was agreed that the student could talk to the EFB about the process of applying to the Board but no information regarding the confidentiality of clients could be disclosed. It was also agreed to inform the student of the EFB website and to send the student a list of the support groups involved in this area.</p> <p>The former resident was commended for their goodwill towards the Board and it was agreed that two local Board members would be present at the meeting.</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries</p> <p>There were 189 approvals in respect of 177 applicants to a total value of €216,147.27. The Board also approved 7 applications under reasonable expectation to the value of €17,692.06. The breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 47 (24.8%); child 109 (57.67%); grandchild 25 (13.23%); spouse 8 (4.23%). The country analysis is: Ireland 156 (82.54%); UK 26 (13.76%); Australia 3 (1.59%); USA 4 (2.12%). Queries, Appeals and Reasonable Expectations were processed. The next approvals meeting to be held on 21st November, 2008.</p>	
	<p>Criteria 2008</p> <p>Advertising/Information Campaign</p> <p>The publicity committee agreed to meet on 21st November 2008 to review and establish the</p>	

	<p>next step in the publicity campaign.</p> <p>The Board extended its good wishes to the Drumcondra Deaf Women's Association, which is to meet on 21st November.</p> <p>Review of Criteria The issue of the limits (€1,000) for short courses that fall under Personal Development and Lifestyle was discussed. Under Section 4 of the Criteria former residents have access to €5,000 per annum for post school, undergraduate and post-graduate courses.</p>	<p>It was agreed that members of the Board would reflect on this issue prior to considering it further at the next meeting of the Board.</p>
	<p>Finance The Financial Statements of the Education (Former Residents of Certain Institutions for Children) Finance Board for the year ended 31st December, 2007 were adopted and signed for submission to the Comptroller and Auditor General.</p> <p>The quarterly Management Accounts for the month ended 30th September, 2008, prepared by the Board's accountants, were presented to the Board.</p> <p>NTMA Report: The total fund value on 31/10/08 was €7,371,820.99. CDVEC Financial Statement of Education Finance Board to September 2008. CDVEC requested draw-down from National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)</p>	<p>Noted Noted Noted</p>
	<p>IT and Communication Requirements Meetings have been arranged with database consultants to update the database in preparation for the annual end of year commitment report.</p> <p>A photograph was shown to the Board of the storage facilities for the back-up to the Education Finance Board database as part of the data protection policy of the Board.</p>	
	<p>AOB .</p>	
	<p>Date of future meetings The date for the next meeting of the Board was fixed for 2nd December. 2008. The next approvals meeting to be held on 21st November.</p>	