

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
26th August, 2009**

Date	Topic	Decision
26.8.09	<p>The updated Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published by the Department of Finance in May 2009 was presented to the Board.</p> <p>The document for Revised Foreign Travel Policy Guidelines 2009 was also noted for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Code of Practice would be noted for this meeting and would be discussed at the next meeting of the Board</p>
	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 14th July 2009 The Minutes of the seventh meeting were adopted. The report of the seventh meeting was approved for publication on the website.</p>	
	<p>Matters arising from Minutes The Chairperson presented to the Board a draft letter to the Minister for Education and Science drawing his attention to the Fine Gael Justice Spokesman's remarks regarding the EFB in the Dáil on 8th July, 2009.</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (with a copy to the Minister for Education and Science) regarding the Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse 2009 Implementation Plan : Educational Services.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Board would benefit from direct contact with former residents from time to time.</p>	<p>The Board agreed the contents of the letter, with some amendments, and the letter is to be sent to the Minister as soon as these amendments are included.</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>Notification of Motions There were no Motions notified for this meeting.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence Letter from Accountants to the Board outlining their planning for potential influenza pandemic.</p> <p>Email from SOCA UK requesting that the Board consider a free-phone number for all applicants from the UK. The Board was informed that this had been considered at the setting up of the Board but it had been advised by Eircom that, due to the volume of calls received from the UK, the cost of setting up such a system would not be viable in this case. At present the office operates a call-back system with applicants from the UK.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Board agreed that it would keep this matter under review.</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries There were 110 approvals in respect of 103 applicants to a total value of €81,342.26. The Board also processed two applications under reasonable expectation to a total value of €2,241.84. The breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 29 (26.36%); child 46 (41.82%); grandchild 29 (26.37%); spouse 06 (5.45%). The country analysis is: Ireland 69 (62.73%); UK 34 (30.91%); Australia 1 (0.91%); USA 4 (3.64%); Canada 1 (0.91%); Jersey 1 (0.91%);</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Criteria It was agreed to include in the Criteria for Awarding Grants by the EFB 2009 a further amendment to include payment of the car theory test in the section on driving lessons. A quotation for the printing of the Criteria will be available for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Publicity The series of meetings with the former resident support groups to seek their continuing help in generating an even higher volume of applications for 2009/2010 was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that the experience had been a success. Five former resident support groups took part with two other groups agreeing to meet at a date that would be convenient for them. There were many helpful suggestions and these will be included in a report to all the groups who attended.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Finance</p>	

	<p>The Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Irish translation of the Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the completion of the audit of the Education Finance Board financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2008 were presented to the Board.</p> <p>The financial statements pursuant to Section 31 (2) of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005 will now be forwarded to the Minister who will make arrangements for them to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas not later than three months after his receipt of them. Arrangements will then be made for their publication on the Board's website.</p> <p>The Management Accounts for the period ended 30th June 2009 by Crowleys DFK, Accountants, were presented to the Board.</p> <p>NTMA Report: The total Fund on 31/7/09 was €5,991.967.81 City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC) Financial Statement to July 2009.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted Noted</p>
	<p>IT and Communication Requirements The final draft of the Annual Report 2008 for publication purposes was noted.</p> <p>A quotation for the redevelopment of the website was noted. The quotation will be assessed and a report given at the next Board meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>Staffing A meeting will be arranged with officials of the Redress Unit of the Department of Education and Science to consider staff contracts.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Next Meeting The date of the next meeting was set for 24th September 2009.</p>	<p>Noted</p>