



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Audit & Risk Committee Meeting

Minutes

A meeting of the HSE Audit & Risk Committee was held on Friday 24 July 2020 at 14:00 via videoconference.

Members Present: Ann Markey, Brendan Lenihan (Vice Chair), Pat Kirwan, Colm Campbell, Martin Pitt.

Apologies: Fiona Ross

HSE Executive Attendance: Stephen Mulvany, Geraldine Smith, Mairead Dolan, Dean Sullivan (CSO), Paul De Freine (Chief Architectural Adviser), Niamh Drew (Deputy Secretary), Hannah Barnes.

Minutes reflect the order in which items were considered and are numbered in accordance with the original agenda.

1. Capital

1.1 Update on Capital Plan

The V/Chair underline the statutory requirements viz a viz the Capital Plan and how important that expenditure was reviewed, submitted, approved and monitored in a timely manner in line with the legislation, even (perhaps even more so) in trying times. The CSO provided an overview of the updated Capital Plan 2020 which the Committee had been briefed on at their previous meeting. He highlighted that the draft Capital Plan 2020 had not yet been presented to the HSE Board and has not been approved as events were overtaken by Covid-19. In any case, the expenditure to-date in 2020 has been much different to what was projected at the start of the year and priorities have changed. The Committee was told that the HSE's Capital Plan for 2020 has been reviewed and redrafted by HSE Estates to reflect the impact of Covid-19 on capital expenditure, the capital programme, the amended capital allocation for 2020 and changing priorities.

It had been agreed by EMT and ARC that the revised 2020 Plan should now be finalised for Board approval, with clarification of capital allocations from 2021 onwards to be secured later in the year. Under this process all statutory requirements should be met.

The CSO answered questions on the expenditure of equipment under Capital COVID-19 Actions and expenditure under the Equipment Replacement Programme, clarifying that the spend for each is

drawn down separately. It was the CSO's understanding that within the COVID-19 allocation of capital on equipment almost all of the €77m (Ventilators & Other Medical Equipment) has been drawn down, with COVID-19 equipment having been procured. The Equipment Replacement programme has been ongoing as a separate process. The Chief Architectural Adviser clarified that each capital project will also have specific equipment funding tied to it. He also outlined that although there will always be a challenge where needs exceed capacity to deliver throughout the system, there has been substantial engagement with services and all decisions have been based on prioritisation from this engagement.

Regarding the €166m, which is the estimated capital funding available from the underspend on projects allocated funding at the start of 2020, clarification was sought as to how its allocation was decided. The CSO said that in this instance it was guided by where the key risks and pressures are in the system. The Committee were also reminded that the Capital Plan does not include ICT infrastructure and equipment. The Chief Architectural Adviser responded to queries regarding larger spends on certain projects and clarified that such spend often deals with issues arising within clinical settings such as maintenance to water systems, or the replacement of electrical systems within such sites.

Concerning infrastructure, the Chief Architectural Adviser advised that the situation was fluid with contractors starting back very slowly. It is expected that the full extent of the effects of COVID-19 on infrastructure work will not be fully understood until it is reflected in tendering prices in 2021.

The Committee requested that a further update is provided which also reflects on spending against the proposed budget within the Capital Plan. The Committee also AGREED that the Revised Capital plan 2020 is to be brought to the Board. The Committee also requested that Table 6 within the Capital Plan is to be included within the executive summary of the document. The CSO agreed to update the Briefing Note to include the main elements in advance of the Board meeting.

Actions:

- Monthly capital report to be a standing item and is to include ICT capital funding – CSO / CFO
- Table 6 within the Capital Plan update document is to be included within an executive summary of the document – CSO

2. Any Other Business

The V/Chair advised Committee members that a special meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee will take place towards the end of August in order to look at the Risks of which the Committee has.

The V/Chair noted the FOI C394.

Meeting concluded at 16:10.

Signed: Ann Markey

A/Chairperson

11/09/2020

Date

