



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Minutes of HSE Board Meeting

Tuesday 16th March 2021

A meeting of the Board of the Health Service Executive was held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 17:00 by video conference.

Present: Ciarán Devane (Chairperson), Deirdre Madden (Deputy Chairperson), Aogán Ó Feargháil, Brendan Lenihan, Fergus O’Kelly, Fergus Finlay, Fiona Ross, Yvonne Traynor, Tim Hynes, Sarah McLoughlin.

In Attendance for Board Meeting:

Paul Reid (CEO), Colm Henry (CCO), Damien McCallion (National Lead on Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccine), Mark Brennock (ND Communications), Dara Purcell (Secretary), Hannah Barnes.

1. Update on National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommendation for the temporary deferral of the administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca®

The Chair welcomed members to the special meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared. The Chair outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to brief Board Members on the decision to defer the administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca following the NAC’s recommendation on 14th March 2021. Board members noted the correspondence from the 12th and 15th March between the Acting CMO and the CCO regarding NIAC’s recommendations around the use of certain COVID-19 Vaccines for certain cohorts of the population.

The CEO confirmed that following a safety alert from the Norwegian Medicines Agency on the night of the 13th March 2021, the NIAC met with the HPRA and HSE representatives to consider this information. A full committee meeting was then held on the morning of the 14th March. As a result of this meeting and NIAC’s recommendations the acting CMO wrote to the HSE advising that the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca should be paused until further notice. This notification was received by the HSE and a communication re temporary deferral of AZ vaccine from the HSE CCO was circulated as a priority through the operational line to the Community and Hospital Groups so that the following morning vaccination clinics were contacted to implement this recommendation. Following the communication to

the system to pause these vaccines a communications plan was implemented to ensure clear public communications.

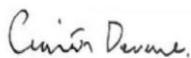
Following a discussion with the CEO around the need for prior engagement between the HSE and the Department on the operational implications of the CMO's advise, the Board recognised that while safety must be paramount throughout the management of the Vaccination programme the operational impacts were not adequately considered in the decision making process and the need for improvements in this process would be communicated to the Minister with a view to improving the process in order to support effective working relationships.

The Board noted that the vaccine programme was organised in eight workstreams, four of which (mainly focused on vaccine rollout) were led by the HSE. It was noted that the Audit and Risk Committee had reviewed the risk assessment, controls and mitigating actions for the workstreams which are within the direct operational responsibility of the HSE and requested sight of the risk documentation for the balance of the programme areas. The Board noted that the ownership of risks around the monitoring of pharmaceutical quality, safety and effectiveness of vaccines and regarding the risks around vaccine supply does not sit within the HSE.

2. AOB

The Chairperson thanked all in attendance for their contributions and robust discussions.

The meeting concluded at 18.05.



Signed: _____

Ciarán Devane

Chairperson

Date: 28th April 2021