



**National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)**  
**Final Minutes of the Meeting – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 11:15 a.m.**

**Venue:** Room B.36B, Custom House, Dublin

**Attended by:**

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members:	Brian Cawley	Noel Harrington
	Fiona Quinn	Niall Quinn
	Declan Breathnach	Kathleen Holohan
	Margaret Lane	Ciarán Hayes
Secretariat:	Claire Gavin	Alan McDermott
	Joan Comiskey	

The NOAC Chair and board welcomed the new board member Kathleen Holohan to her position in NOAC.

**1. Minutes & actions of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

**2. Declaration of conflict of interest**

One board member noted that a previous planning application issue that he highlighted in the February board meeting has been concluded.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Work Programme for 2023-2024 and Statement of Strategy**

The latest version of the NOAC Strategy and Work Programme documents were discussed by the board. In particular, it was noted that there had been a number of changes made to the circulated documents which had moved the work further away from completion. It was noted that the previous version was an almost complete document and had needed some alignment and updating. The board noted that input from the Secretariat had been useful and it was felt that the abovementioned previous version could be cleaned up and circulated for comment or changes before being finalised.

Additionally, the Secretariat noted that the scrutiny process of the document had no new proposal and given that all but one Stage 1 has been completed with a few Stage 2 meetings to be carried out this year, that a succession plan was necessary. The Chair and Secretariat outlined a number of proposals and it was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate proposals for board members to consider and give feedback on. The agreed proposal would be included in the Work Programme document. Members felt that the Scrutiny process going forward needs to hold local authorities to account and there is a need to be seen as a recognisable oversight body.

Other issues surrounding processes regarding future budgeting, resourcing, PI's and the LPT as well as procurement processes were discussed. In particular, it was noted that the OGP is a good source in terms of procurement.

#### **5. Discussion regarding the implementation of the Communications Strategy**

The implementation of the Communications Strategy was discussed in terms of the Strategy and Work Programme. In particular, it was noted areas of priority were needed to develop a focus regarding messaging and the possibility of using a retained communications resource was raised. It was important to consider what reports and events that require PR assistance this year and to properly plan for these events.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is set for Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May and this will be online.

#### **9. AOB**

An update on the NOAC Chair's meeting with the Council of Europe was discussed and it was highlighted that the line of questioning was detailed and intense, though the engagement was very cordial. It was agreed that details of the previous report (2013) would be circulated and any further questions could be followed up.

Following the meeting, the Chair and some members met with Minister Darragh O'Brien to present him with the NOAC Annual Report for 2022. The Minister expressed his interest in attending a future in person meeting as he had ideas which NOAC might consider as part of their work. He was also eager to hear about the work that has been undertaken by NOAC.

**The meeting was brought to a close.**

<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Minutes and actions of previous meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to, and will be published on the website.</li> </ul>
2.	Strategy and Work Programme document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be updated and circulated to the working group chairs (and board) for review with response required by May 3rd</li> </ul>
3.	Future Scrutiny Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals to be circulated to the board for review with response required by May 3rd</li> </ul>
4.	Meeting with Council of Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of the previous report to be circulated to the board</li> </ul>