



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORT NI BOARD HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2019 AT 2.30PM IN THE HOUSE OF SPORT  
DRAFT**

<p><b>Present: Board members:</b> George Lucas Jay Colville Richard Bullick (joined meeting at 2.55pm) Wilma Erskine (joined meeting at 4.00pm) Kyle Ferguson (joined meeting at 3.45pm) Kieran Harding Catherine O'Mullan (joined meeting at 3.15pm) Darryl Petticrew</p>	<p><b>In attendance: Sport NI Officials</b> Adrian Doherty, Director of Finance &amp; Governance Gillian Gilliland, Secretariat Officer</p>
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Record of main discussion</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Apologies were received from Jackie Bryson.
<b>2. Register of Member's Declaration of Interest</b>	D Petticrew declared a new interest as a Board Member of Basketball NI.
<b>3. McBride Judgment SNI 19 25</b>	<p>Members received paper SNI 19 25 which highlighted the recent High Court judgment and the implications for delivery of Sport NI functions.</p> <p>Members heard initial work carried out by DSO had identified four ALBs within DfC, including Sport NI, as not having an express power to delegate functions or decision making to staff. The Permanent Secretary had requested further investigation to assess the full impact of the judgement.</p> <p>Members noted DfC have asked Sport NI to provide an impact assessment by the end of November in advance of the Accountability meeting on 28 November.</p> <p>Members queried how this would impact on Sport NI and it was confirmed all decisions currently made by staff would have to be made by the Board. Members noted Sport NI exist by way of legislation and all functions are based on this legislation.</p> <p>Members discussed the options contained within the paper and the Chair proposed the Board approve Option 2 – continue at risk: Board and staff continue to work as before in the full knowledge of the McBride judgement. The Chair also proposed that ARAC consider the matter at its next meeting in December and this is added as a new significant risk on the Corporate Risk Register.</p>

	<p>Members queried what actions the other three DfC ALBs were taking regarding the judgment; it was agreed this would be investigated and reported to the ARAC December meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that SNI continue as normal until CCNI appeal is heard on 3 February 2020.</p> <p>Members agreed to approve Option 2 and further agreed the paper should be circulated to ARAC members in advance of the December meeting to highlight the issue at the earliest stage and to allow discussion with the internal and external auditors.</p>
<p><b>4. AOB</b></p>	<p>The Director of Finance and Governance provided an update on the outstanding accounts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16/17 Exchequer accounts were published on 8 November 2019</li> <li>• 17/18 Exchequer audit is almost finished and nothing of significance has been identified to date</li> <li>• 18/19 Draft Exchequer accounts will be issued to ARAC on 26 November</li> <li>• 14/15 and 15/16 Lottery accounts are still with the National Audit Office</li> <li>• 18/19 Draft Lottery accounts will be issued to ARAC on 26 November</li> </ul> <p>The Chair queried whether the accounts would be back on track by the December Board meeting and it was confirmed this was the case. However, not all accounts would be signed off. Members queried had Sport NI met the timeline agreed with the NIAO and this was confirmed as being the case.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated the CEO and Executive Team for meeting the agreed programme in what was a very difficult process for a long period of time and requested this be passed on to all staff involved.</p> <p><i>A Doherty and G Gilliland left the meeting at 2.50pm.</i></p> <p>The Board went into Closed Session.</p> <p><i>A Doherty and G Gilliland re-joined the meeting at 4.45pm.</i>  <i>A Doherty and G Gilliland left the meeting at 4.45pm.</i></p>
<p><b>5. Date of next meetings</b></p>	<p>11 December – meeting to start at <b>4.00pm</b></p> <p>The Board went into Closed Session.</p>

Approved by: George Lucas  
Sport NI Chair

Date: 11/12/19