

Higher Education Authority**Report of Special Meeting of the HEA held on 19th August
at the HEA's Offices, 3 Shelbourne Building**

Present¹: Mr Tony Donohoe
Dr Judith Eaton (via teleconference)
Professor Orla Feely
Dr Sharon Feeney
Mr Michael Horgan, Chairperson
Ms Darina Kneafsey
Dr Deirdre Lillis
Dr Ronan Lyons (via teleconference)
Dr Sinéad O'Flanagan (via teleconference)
Mr Pól Ó Móráin (via teleconference)
Dr Lynn Ramsey (via teleconference)

Apologies: Dr Bahram Bekhradnia
Ms Lorna Fitzpatrick
Dr Jim Mountjoy
Dr John Wall

In attendance: Mr Paul O'Toole
Mr Padraic Mellett

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the Special Meeting which was convened to consider the appointment of a new CEO.

1. The Chair summarised the process to date. The recruitment process was managed by the Public Appointments Service (PAS) using the criteria identified by the HEA. There was a considerable level of interest in the position with many high calibre applicants. The interview panel consisted of an independent chair appointed by PAS, the Chair of the HEA, an international expert on higher education and a former Secretary General. An initial screening process was undertaken followed by interviews with shortlisted candidates. Final interviews were conducted by the panel following a range of psychometric tests of those chosen for final interview. The PAS then made a provisional recommendation which is for consideration by the Board today. Members were informed that roughly 50% of the applicants were female and this proportion was reflected in those chosen for final interview.

¹ The quorum for HEA Board meetings, six members, was met.

2. The Board had a thorough discussion on the process and the proposed appointment. The Board considered the challenges facing the new CEO including;

- New legislation
- The increasing regulatory role of the HEA
- The development of the HEA as an organisation
- Maintaining the independence of the HEA consistent with its mandate and
- The importance of high quality relationships with all stakeholders including the HEIs.

Decision: The Board approved the appointment of Dr Alan Wall as Chief Executive of the HEA.

Next Meeting

3rd September 2019

Chairperson

Date