



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA  
POLICING AUTHORITY

## Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

**Date:** 15 June 2021

**Venue:** Remote Video-Conference

### Attendance:

<b>Committee</b>	Moling Ryan (Committee Chair), Ronan Nolan, Melanie Pine
<b>Secretary</b>	Mark Nother
<b>Executive</b>	Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Aoife Clabby, Cormac Keating, Clare Kelly, Claire McElroy
<b>Visitors</b>	Bob Collins (Authority Chairperson) – for item 5.1

### 1. Closed Session

Committee members did not exercise the standing option to conduct a closed session.

### 2. Chair's Opening Remarks

In a minor amendment to the agenda, the meeting with the Senior Auditor of the Comptroller and Auditor General was deferred to the September meeting due to a last minute query arising in respect of the 2020 Appropriation Account.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, unchanged.

In addition to the CEO Report provided, the Chief Executive provided a verbal update to the Committee on matters pertaining to the Authority and the oversight of the Garda Síochána, including: a recent meeting with the Garda Síochána in relation to CAD/999 calls, and work the Executive are doing in this area; and, a review which has been undertaken in light of the recent HSE Cybercrime attack. Arising from the latter, the Committee had an in-depth discussion on the topic of cyber security and updates and assurances were provided by the Executive relating to ongoing work in respect of data and system security – including liaison with system providers and hosts.

Relatedly, the Committee were made aware of issues which arose in relation to the arrangement which sees the Authority IT platforms hosted by the Department of Justice – it was outlined that a meeting has been organised the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Justice to discuss same. It was agreed that that the Authority be notified of the above and that a further update would be provided at the Committee's September meeting.

### 3. Governance

The Committee received a verbal update on the progress made in respect of the amendments made to the Governance Framework Review following the April meeting and the approval of same by the Authority in its May meeting. It was noted that necessary changes to the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct of the Authority had been identified as a result of this work and the implementation of

internal audit recommendations (see item 5) and that drafts would be brought to the next meeting for Committee approval.

#### **4. Finance**

The monthly Financial Report was considered and an update provided concerning the financial position at the end of May 2021. In keeping with agreed practice a quarterly update and assurance on prompt payments was provided to the Committee.

#### **5. Audit**

The Authority Chairperson joined the meeting for item *5.1: External Review of Board Effectiveness – implementation of recommendations*. There was an in-depth discussion in respect of each recommendation and consideration of the extent to which recommendations were to be accepted and thereafter methods through which they may be implemented.

All twelve recommendations were either accepted or partially accepted and actions identified to be undertaken by the Executive. In respect of recommendations falling within the latter category there was cognisance of the statutory framework within which the Authority must operate and the need to ensure that benefit realised through the implementation of any recommendation was commensurate with available resources.

It was agreed an update on implementation progress would be provided to the September meeting.

#### 2021 Audits

An update was provided on engagement with the Internal Audit Provider on the revised terms of reference for the upcoming internal COVID-19 audit – the report on which is due to the Committee for the September meeting. The Committee requested that there be a minor change to terminology and that the audit, and any other applicable materials, refer henceforth to ‘future ways of working’, as opposed to ‘return to work’. It was agreed that this is reflective of the permanency/lasting change to practice and acknowledges that people were still working over the period since the onset of COVID-19 – albeit in a different environment.

The Internal Audit Plan 2021 – arising from the 3 year plan (2021-2023) as provided by the Internal Audit Provider and agreed by the Committee in April – was considered and approved without amendment.

#### **6. Risk**

The Committee noted the Risk Management Report for June and the Risk Register. Minor amendments were proposed to be made to the latter including the reclassification of number of risks (highered) due to the recent HSE cyber-attack and matters discussed under item 2. The Committee was reassured that the Risk Register is kept under continuous review.

#### **7. AOB**

There were no items raised under AOB.