

**TOURISM IRELAND CLG**  
**MINUTES OF THE 185TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**HELD AT THE FITZWILLIAM HOTEL BELFAST**  
**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 02:00PM**

**PRESENT:**

Christopher Brooke	(Chairman)
Nóirín Hegarty	Laura McCorry
Ruth Andrews	Katy Best
Harry Connolly	Stephen McNally
Joe Dolan	Mary Mulvey
Kathryn Thomson	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Niall Gibbons	Chief Executive Officer
Shane Clarke	Director of Corporate Services, Policy & Northern Ireland/Company Secretary
Louise Finnegan	Acting Director of Central Marketing (agenda Item 7,8)
Alan Myles	Financial Controller (agenda items 8)
Tom Noone	Finance Manager (agenda item 7)
Audrey McNevin	Corporate Services, Policy & Northern Ireland
Sinéad Barry	Senior Manager  Corporate Governance   Risk Advisory - Deloitte

**1. APOLOGIES AND OPENING REMARKS**

John Mc Grillen sent apologies.

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. They were signed by the Chairman and will be published on Tourism Ireland's corporate website. **Action: Shane Clarke**

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted that matters arising from the previous meeting on 2<sup>ND</sup> February 2023 had been actioned.

**5. CEO REPORT**

The content of the report was noted. The CEO elaborated on certain matters contained in the report:

- The current status of the Electronic Travel Authorisation.
- Planning for a number of Good Friday Agreement Anniversary Events.

- Christoher Brooke and Niall Gibbons meeting with the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, along with the Chairs and CEOs of other Cross Border bodies on 23 March.
- An update on a range of events attended during St. Patrick's week which included meeting with An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister Martin and attendance at the events held in honour of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar.
- Upcoming appearance at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Tourism on 29 March.
- It was recommended that a meeting with the Northern Ireland Secretary of State be requested **ACTION:** CEO/Shane Clarke
- It was noted that the planned European Review will commence later in 2023
- An update on Business Tourism was provided
- An update on the current status of the "Invitation" was provided

## 6. SECRETARIAT MATTER

### 6.1 Procurement

The Board granted approval for the following:

- Approval to the signing of a new mandate detailing the addition of Ms Louise Finnegan, Acting Central Marketing Director, to replace Mr Mark Henry, for these accounts with an unlimited signing limit for the Dublin Office EUR, GBP and USD Accounts
- Approval for the addition of Mr Chris Lynn to replace Ms Dana Welch as account signatory with a signing limit of USD \$20,000 and the addition of Ms Louise Finnegan, Acting Central Marketing Director, to replace Mr Mark Henry, with an unlimited signing limit for the NY Office USD Account
- Approval for the addition of Ms Louise Finnegan, Acting Central Marketing Director, to replace Mr Mark Henry, with signing limit of CAD \$375,000 on the Toronto Office CAD Account
- Approval to remove Mr Mark Henry as account signatory from all accounts with immediate effect from all Tourism Ireland Bank Accounts
- Approval to remove Mr Niall Gibbons as account signatory from all accounts with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 from all Tourism Ireland Bank Accounts

- Approval for the initiation of an EU level competitive procurement process for the provision of Public Relations Services in Great Britain market.

**6.2** Management Accounts

These were noted

**6.3** Business Plan

Shane Clarke updated Board on the current status of approvals, by Government Departments, of Business Plan 2023 and Corporate Plan 2023-2025

**6.4** Overseas - Salary Cost of Living

The Board noted Management's recommendations for payment effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Paper to be circulated for information: **ACTION:** Shane Clarke

Louise Finnegan, Alan Myles and Tom Noone joined the meeting

**7. Finance Presentation**

A presentation was made on Finance by Alan Myles and Tom Noone. There was comprehensive discussion and projections for 2023 were noted.

A copy of the presentation will be uploaded to Decision Time **Action:** Shane Clarke/Alan Myles

Alan Myles and Tom Noone left the meeting

**8. Central Marketing Presentation**

A presentation was made. The Board considered and discussed the plans outlined.

A copy of the presentation will be uploaded to Decision Time **ACTION:** Shane Clarke/Louise Finnegan

The Board requested that Louise Finnegan revert mid year, to outline her proposals for the management of major contracts in "The Central Marketing Area" **ACTION:** Louise Finnegan/CEO

Louise Finnegan left the meeting

**9. UPDATE BY THE CHAIR OF THE ROMI COMMITTEE**

An update was provided by the Committee Chair.

**10. UPDATE BY THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE [ARAC]**

An update was provided by the Committee Chair.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair and the Board thanked Niall for his dedication and service over 21 years in Tourism Ireland he commended his professionalism and leadership and wished him every success in his future endeavours

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April to take place in Galway with an Industry Dinner to take place on the evening of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Action:** Shane Clarke

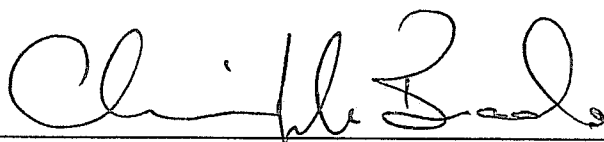
Niall Gibbons, Shane Clarke and Audrey McNevin left the meeting.

**13. MEETING WITHOUT THE EXECUTIVE**

A number of matters were discussed by the Board.

The meeting concluded at 5:00pm

Signed:



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**CHRISTOPHER BROOKE - CHAIRMAN**