

**Irish Council for Bioethics**  
*Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann*

**Minutes of Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

- In the Chair:** Dr Dolores Dooley
- Present:** Dr Alan Donnelly; Professor Andrew Green; Professor Cliona O'Farrelly; Professor David Smith; Mr Stephen McMahon; Mr Asim Sheikh; Dr Darina O'Flanagan. Professor John Vincent McLoughlin; Professor Richard O'Kennedy.
- Apologies for absence:** Dr Peter McKenna; Professor Linda Hogan; Dr Richard Hull;
- Also present:** Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan; Ms Emily de Grae; Mr Paul Ivory; Ms Emma Clancy

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

**2. Report from the Scientific Director:**

Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council that the ICB had been in contact with the Revenue Commissioners with regard to seeking charitable status and that a re-application showing the ICB as a non-profit, public interest organisation should ensure that the ICB receives charitable status in the New Year.

Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council that in September she had attended a meeting with the Department of Health and Children and a Health Research Group to discuss the regulation of research ethics committees.

Dr O'Sullivan suggested that the Council might consider new approaches to communicating with policymakers. It was decided that a sub-committee would be established, in order to undertake this review. Individual members expressed their interest in joining the new committee and it was agreed that they would meet in early 2009.

Ms de Grae also informed the Council that she had visited Farmleigh with representatives from the Fishamble Theatre Company with regard to the forthcoming staged reading on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2009.

**3. Report from the Chair:**

The chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked the departing Council Members Dr Darina O'Flanagan and Professor Linda Hogan for their valuable contribution and expertise. The Chair announced that the three candidates who had been invited to join the Council and had accepted were Dr Sheila Willis, Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Mr Turlough O'Donnell SC and Dr Mary Henry. The Chair noted that a fourth candidate would be approached in the New Year to supplement Council Membership.

**4. Biometrics Conference:**

Ms Emily de Grae informed the Council that the biometrics policy conference took place in the RCPI on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. Ms de Grae said that she had received very positive feedback from those who attended.

It was agreed that the aforementioned sub-committee would also evaluate the current policy conference model.

**5. Biometrics Report:**

A draft of the report on biometrics was presented to Council and its structure and recommendations were discussed. The Council paid tribute to the heavy workload undertaken by the secretariat. It was agreed that the structure in the main ethics section needed to be altered by bringing the common good section forward and also amalgamating the recommendations. Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council that a revised report would be sent to Council by e-mail.

**6. Any other Business:**

Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council that she had been asked to present the biometric recommendations at the NEC meeting in Paris in 2009.

Dr O'Sullivan also presented to the Council the new ICB logo representing the new cycle the ICB was entering, and also informed the Council that the new logo represented a more modern and accessible ICB. Dr O'Sullivan also unveiled the upgraded website to the Council which is to be maintained internally by secretariat staff.

Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council of the procurement of new office space located at Ormond Quay, with a predicted move from their current offices in February 2009.

**7. Dates of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 in the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel.