



**Miontuairisci agus Chruinnithe den
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Luimnigh agus An Chláir
Teach Marshal, Bóthar Tuar an Daill, Luimneach, V94 HAC4
ar an 31 Márta, 2026
Ag 16:30**

I Lathair /Present Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Ms. Ann Norton, Deputy Chairperson (Online), Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua (Online), Cllr. Michael Begley, Cllr. Maria Donoghue (Online), Cllr. Peter Doyle, Mr. Darren Feldon (Online) Ms. Jeannette Ferguson, Cllr. Rachel Hartigan (Online), Cllr. Mary Howard Mr. Conal Kelly (Online), Ms. Claire Knight (Online), Mr. Michael MacCurtain (Online), Mr. Sean McMahan, Cllr. John Sheahan (Online), Cllr. Noreen Stokes (online), Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

Executive Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support & Development, Ms. Breda Flynn, Director of Organisation Support & Development, Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools & Youth, Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training, Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT and Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services.

1. Preliminary

1.1 Conflicts of interest

The Board was requested to declare any conflicts of interest in respect of any matters listed on the agenda.

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.2 Attendance/apologies/condolences

The attendance was noted, and a quorum verified.

The Chairperson Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies Ms. Kate Hehir, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon

In absentia Cllr. Catherine Slattery

The Chief Executive expressed her sincere condolences, and those of the Board and the organisation, to the Chairperson Mr. Kieran O'Hanlon on the death of his brother, Mr Gary O'Hanlon and to Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon on the death of his uncle.

Condolences

- Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon on the death of his brother, Mr. Gary O’Hanlon.
- Mr. Adrian O’Hanlon on the death of his uncle, Mr. Gary O’Hanlon.
- Ms. Bernie Stackpoole (College of Further Education and Training, Station Road Campus, Newcastle West) on the death of her husband Mr. John Stackpoole.
- Mr. Pdraig O’Sullivan (College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus) on the death of his aunt Ms. Noirin O’Dalaigh.
- Mr. Pdraig Barry (College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus) on the death of his wife Deirdre Barry (nee O’Mahony).
- Ms Eukaria O’Grady (St Anne’s Community College, Killaloe) on the death of her mother-in-law Ms. Bridie Evans.
- Ms Emma Noonan (Head Office, Marshal House) on the death of her uncle Mr. Michael Aherne.
- Mr. Philip and Ms. Susan Daly and family on the death of their son, Emmet (Bradley) Daly, (Student in Desmond College, Newcastle West).
- Ms. Sinead Broadrick (Desmond College, Newcastle West) on the death of her father, Mr. Mossie Brouder.
- Ms Caitriona O’Halloran (Limerick Community Special School) on the death of her grandmother, Ms. Margie O’Halloran.
- Ms Mary Hogan (Limerick Community Special School) on the death of her uncle, Mr. Sean Organ.
- Ms Ailsing O’Gorman (Limerick Community Special School) on the death of her grandfather, Mr. Con Ryan.
- Ms Louise O’Connor (College of FET, Croom Co Limerick) on the death of her mother, Ms. Marie O’Connor.
- Ms. Phyllis Peters (Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste an Chláir) on the death of her husband, Mr. Pa Scanlan.
- Cllr. Joe Leddin on the death of his brother, Mr. John Leddin.

1.3 Limerick and Clare Minutes

The minutes of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board meeting held on 19 February, 2026 which were circulated to all prior to the meeting were adopted.

Proposed by: Mr. Sean McMahon

Seconded by: Cllr. Brigid Teefy

1.4 Matters arising

None.

1. Information and Communication

The Chief Executive advised members that it has been another busy month across the organisation and the information in the meeting pack gives a flavour of the various events.

The Chief Executive advised members that Circular letters from the Department of Education and Youth are included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

2.1 News Releases by Limerick and Clare ETB

The Chief Executive noted the extensive news releases by the ETB showcasing many of the opportunities available to students and learners.

These correspondences are included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

2.2 Department of Education and Youth Fortnightly Updates

These correspondences are included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

2.3 Overview of Statement of Strategy 2027-2031

The Director of Organisation Support and Development, Mr. Eamon Murphy briefed the Board on developments regarding the Statement of Strategy 2027 - 2031.

The first Steering Group meeting with nominees from the various parts of our organisation was held on 10 March and confirmed that the working group of the Board, met ahead of the meeting to agree next steps, including further engagement with internal and external stakeholders to support a shared strategic vision. The Working Group will keep the Board updated on the process which will involve consultation with Board Members.

2.4 Submissions to Convention on Education by Limerick and Clare ETB

The Director of Schools, Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh presented on the Limerick and Clare ETB submissions, which were informed by consultation with Student Councils, Boards of Management, Staff, and the wider school community. The submissions comprised of three elements: a Student Voice submission, a general submission, and Aighneacht lán-Ghaeilge faoin nGaeilgeachas.

This presentation was included in the member packs issued in advance of the meeting for information.

3.1 Parliamentary Questions

None.

4 Reports from the Executive

The Chief Executive, Ms. Bernadette Cullen informed the board that Ms. Deirdre McDonnell has been appointed to the position of CE of SOLAS. Deirdre is currently an Assistant Secretary

in the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration responsible for governance and oversight of criminal justice agencies, including An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. She also has extensive experience in the education sector where she has spent most of her public service career, working in policy and leading the implementation of Education Services Business Services (ESBS).

The Chief Executive noted that Deirdre's experience and expertise will be of benefit to SOLAS, ETBs, and the wider Further Education and Training sector and learners as she leads the organisation in delivering the ambitions of the National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2026 - 2030 (which is due to be launched shortly) and in the delivery of key national strategic objectives future ready knowledge and skills, inclusion for prosperity and cohesion, quality and innovation and collaborating for impact.

The Chief Executive noted that Dr. James Eustace has been appointed as Acting General Secretary ETBI, he previously held the position of Director of Organisation Support & Development in ETBI. His work is driven by a commitment to fostering collaboration and strengthening the education and training sector. Dedicated to advancing opportunities across the education sector through collective effort and strategic leadership.

The Board passed a vote of congratulations to Ms. McDonnell and Dr. Eustace.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training, and members of the Further Education and Training team attended TUS Athlone on 18 March for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding marking an important new development. The ETB have partnered with other ETB's the Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands Midwest, and the National Tertiary Office to launch a new tertiary degree pathway in Mental Health Nursing. The programme will commence in September, with Year One delivered at the College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus, before learner's progress to complete their studies at TUS Athlone.

Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training highlighted to the board a number of recent activities across the FET Department. A highly successful Open Week took place from 9 - 13 March, showcasing the wide range of programmes available to learners across the region. The annual Explore Engineering Showcase, held at Shannon Airport on 5 March, attracted approximately 2,000 students and parents. Members were also informed that Kilfinane Outdoor Education & Training Centre will once again host Camp Abilities this Easter for children who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, course schedules across both centres are extremely busy, reflecting an increase in FET provision. As part of April's QQI submission, a total of 238 learners will achieve 271 minor awards: 83 modules in a range of Level 5 & 6 subjects, including: Early Learning Care, Special Needs Assisting, Business Administration, Web Authoring, Spreadsheets, Payroll etc; 190 modules in a range of Level 1-4 subjects, including: Digital Media, Word Processing, Art and Design, ESOL, Crafts (Ceramics, Quilling and Mosaics), Relaxation Techniques, Breads, Pastries and Desserts and Life Sciences (Horticulture) etc.

4.2 a Finance Report to Board

Ms. Columba Glavin, APO Finance took members through the Financial Report, as circulated to all prior to the meeting, for the period from 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026. This report detailed the cash position, receipts and payments year to date.

Following due consideration the Finance Report was adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Seconded by: Cllr. Michael Begley

4.2 b. Audit Update Report

Ms. Glavin provided the meeting with an update on the OCAG audits, the current status of the IAU audits, the various Sectoral reports as reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and also provided an update on the current status of the ESF+ audit.

4.2 c. Report from Audit and Risk Committee 28 November, 2025 & 23 February, 2026

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

4.2 d. Report from Finance Committee 19 February, 2026

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

4.2 e. Education Shared Business Services (ESBS)/Other Finance Projects including Travel & Subsistence (T&S) payments.

None.

4.2 f. 2024 Annual Financial Statements including Comptroller and Auditor General Audit Report.

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that confirmation had been received to publish the 2024 Financial Statements on the ETB's website and that the 2024 Financial Statements were currently being translated.

5. Committee Minutes/Reports

5.1 Minutes from Audit and Risk Committee 23 October, 2025

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 October 2025 were included in the meeting documents for approval.

Proposed by: Ms. Ann Norton

Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Doyle

5.2 Minutes from Audit and Risk Committee 28 November, 2025

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 28 November 2025 were included in the meeting documents for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Mary Howard

Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Doyle

5.3 Minutes of Finance Committee 23 October, 2025

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 October 2025 were included in the meeting documents for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Seconded by: Cllr. Michael Begley

5.4 Minutes of Finance Committee 3 December, 2025

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3 December 2025 were included in the meeting documents for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

5.5 2025 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report to the Board

Ms. Glavin advised members that a 2025 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report was included in the meeting documents. Ms. Glavin further advised members that this Annual Report detailing the work carried out by the Audit and Risk Committee during 2025, was reviewed and approved at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 27 March 2026.

Ms. Glavin drew the Boards attention to the following extract from the Annual Report *“From our review of audits, engagement with Management, Auditors etc., we as an A&R Committee give reasonable assurance that the ETB operates a sound system of risk and internal controls.”*

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Ms. Ann Norton

Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Doyle

5.6 2025 Finance Committee Annual Report to the Board

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that a 2025 Finance Committee Annual Report was included in the meeting documents. Ms. Glavin further advised the meeting that this Annual Report detailing the work carried out by the Finance Committee during 2025, was reviewed and approved at the Finance Committee meeting held on 30 March 2026. Ms. Glavin drew the Boards attention to the following extract from the Annual Report *“From review of the finances; engagement with management etc., we as a Finance Committee give qualified assurance that the ETB operates a sound system of financial controls.”*

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Peter Doyle

Seconded by: Mr. Sean McMahon

5.7 2025 Draft Financial Statements

Ms. Glavin guided the Board through the draft 2025 Financial Statements including the Statement of Board Responsibilities, Statement on Internal Control, Operating Statement, Statement of Current Assets and Liabilities and the notes to the Financial Statements. Following due consideration, the draft 2025 Financial Statements were approved by the Board for signing subject to minor immaterial changes.

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Cllr Maria Donoghue

6.1 Risk register

The Organisational Risk Register was presented to the Board by The Head of Corporate Services and IT, Mr. Denis O’Brien. Members were alerted to a review of Q4 2025 risk register and also briefed on new and emerging risks identified since the previous review, along with the actions taken to mitigate them. He outlined the controls that have been put in place and the arrangements for ongoing oversight and review. The SMT regularly review the risk register before presentation to the Board and Committees. The Board noted the report and was satisfied with the approach to risk management and control.

6.2 New legislation and circulars as per schedule circulated

Proposed by: Cllr. Mary Howard

Seconded by: Mr. Sean McMahon

8.1 Results of Board Self-Assessment Questionnaire 2025

The Chief Executive advised members that, to date, 11 Board members have completed the Board Self-Assessment survey and encouraged those who had not yet done so to complete it as soon as possible. The completed results to date were included in the meeting pack for information.

The Chief Executive also advised that support is available to any Board members who require assistance in relation to meeting participation or accessing meeting documents through the


link provided. Members thanked ETB staff who had supported the Board members accessing Staff Connect.

8.2 Request to Purchase Portrait of pioneering Education Minister, Donogh O'Malley

The Chief Executive informed the board that she had spoken with Mr. Michael O'Dwyer and he has agreed to donate the portrait to the ETB rather than the ETB having to purchase arrangements will be made for Mr. Michael O'Dwyer to present the portrait to the Board at the May board meeting. There will be a series of events to mark the 60th anniversary of Minister, Donogh O'Malley's announcement introducing free Secondary Education in Ireland. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. O'Dwyer and the impact this decision had on inclusive education.

Date and Time of Next meeting.

19 May, 2026 Time & Location To be confirmed.

Signed 

Chairperson at Meeting 19 May, 2026