

# **MINUTES: EXTRA-ORDINARY BOARD MEETING**

## **17 May 2024, MS Teams**

### **Present**

Dr Geraldine O'Hare – Chair  
Dr Joe Judge  
Mr Jim Farish  
Mr James Maybee  
Dr Alain Zysset  
Prof Kieran McCartan

### **In Attendance**

Mr Mark McSherry, Chief Executive  
Mr Paul Keoghan, Director Corporate Services  
Mr Geoffrey Tordzro-Taylor, Head of Development  
Mr Eddie Kotrys, Head of Effective Practice  
Ms Debbie Campbell, Head of OLR  
Ms Lauren McClintock, OLR Team Manager

### **Welcome**

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 13:00 pm and welcomed all present.
2. The Chair also welcomed two new Board members Dr Alain Zysset and Prof Kieran McCartan to their first Board meeting and asked for all present to introduce themselves.

### **Apologies:**

3. The Chair noted apologies were submitted by Mr McAllister and Ms Gilluley .

### **Declarations of Interest**

4. The Board noted there were no declarations of interest.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **5. SPS Prison Population – Board Paper 1084**

- 5.1. The Chief Executive (CE) presented the SPS Prison Population paper and briefed the Board on the critical status of the prison population in Scotland. The CE proceeded to review the areas of work the RMA proposed to undertake to support Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service in addressing this emergency.

- 5.2. Given the Cabinet Secretary's announcement on 16 May 2024, the CE informed the Board the primary proposal is to work with SG and SPS in reviewing the guidance for emergency release, relating this to relevant risk assessment information. The RMA will also consider whether relevant risk assessment data can be provided to inform this proposal with risk relevant information.
- 5.3. The CE advised the proposed work is expected to last one month but will require delays to a few business plan objectives which the CE reviewed with the Board.
- 5.4. The Board noted while the initial proposed work is planned to last one month, it was agreed there was a high likelihood work may extend to three months. The Board agreed that the RMA plans accordingly and requested an update at the June meeting. The Board also recommended consideration be given to the impact of RMA inputs, after three months.

**Action: CE**
- 5.5. The CE also advised that the Scottish Government plans to conduct a short consultative exercise over the summer, and to return after recess with a proposal for a Bill for Parliament with consideration of changes to automatic early release. Further work is also planned in relation to Home Detention Curfew and the CE stated it expects the RMA to be party to this review process and more information will be provided as it emerges.
- 5.6. The Board thanked the staff for all their efforts on this matter and agreed to approve the proposed works together with the required revisions to the business plan.

### **Other Competent Business**

6. The Board noted no other competent business.

### **Date of next meeting**

7. The Board members noted the next meeting is scheduled for 17 June 2024.
8. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and proceeded to close the meeting at 14:00.