

Minutes of proceedings of the Plenary Meeting of the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health held on Monday 11th March 2019

Present: Professor Suresh Pillai (Chairman), Dr Brett Duane, Dr Máiréad Harding, Dr Therese Montgomery, Dr Marie Sutton, Mr Ray Parle, Dr Una Fallon, Dr Patrick Quinn (Telecon), Mr Michael Madden (Telecon), Dr Gerard Colleran, Professor Blanaid Daly

In attendance: From Secretariat: Ms Etain Kett

EB Minute 01/19: Apologies

There were no Apologies.

It was noted that Ms Patricia Gilsenan had resigned as Chief Executive from the Dental Health Foundation, it was agreed that the Expert Body will write to her to thank her for all her hard work and to wish her all the best in her new position.

EB Minute 02/19: Expert Body Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of December 11th 2018 were agreed, subject to minor amendments.

EB Minute 03/19: Matters Arising

It was noted that IT in the local HSE Office for Mr Ray Parle have informed him that Zoom video teleconference cannot be facilitated.

It was noted that Irish Water is finalising training in relation to the Code of Practice on the Fluoridation of Drinking Water 2016. It was further noted that the HSE and the Expert Body have raised concerns to get the Code of Practice circulated to the local authorities, a delay was caused in the tender.

It was noted that the paper 'Evidence Review for Adverse Health Effects of Drinking Optimally Fluoridated Water (2010-2017) – Public Health Ontario would be reviewed by the NEI Health Sub-Committee.

EB Minute 04/19: Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

EB Minute 05/19: Finance

It was noted that Budget 2019 has not yet been received.

EB Minute 06/19: Report of the Sub-Committee

A briefing was given by the NEI Health Sub-Committee regarding the draft search strategy:

It was noted that the search strategy/systematic review will include reports from Public Health Ontario, and systematic reviews from the Health Research Board, New Zealand and the York Report and will include both medical and dental. It was suggested that terminology for the environment include animals and aquatic life in order to consider the impact of fluoride on both and any resulting exposure in humans.

It was suggested that an eco-toxicologist be co-opted on to the NEI Environment Sub-Committee.

It was noted that the search strategy requires further discussion and also input from the Librarian in Dublin Dental University Hospital for refining before it can be piloted.

A briefing was given by the Communications Sub-Committee.

It was noted that Expert Body website, including the FAQ Section will be reviewed by the Communications Sub-Committee, to ensure that consistent messaging is available for public queries.

It was noted that Dr Patrick Quinn, Media Spokesperson for the Expert Body had recently conducted an excellent interview on Radio Kerry.

It was noted that a communications strategy will be developed.

EB Minute 07/19: Work Plan

It was noted regarding the draft Work Plan that the Department of Health considers technical matters concerning water fluoridation an operational matter and no longer within the remit of the Expert Body.

It was suggested that, although operational matters rest with the Health Service Executive (and with Irish Water acting in its capacity as agent of the HSE), that national

and international best practice relating to the technical aspects of drinking water fluoridation be kept under review by the Expert Body.

EB Minute 08/19: Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

EB Minute 09/19: Presentation by Professor Helen Whelton

A presentation was given by Professor Helen Whelton 'Global Consensus on Unacceptable Fluorosis to Inform Fluoride Intake Decisions', regarding the recent approaches to public engagement in policy.

EB Minute 10/19: Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 13:30pm. It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate dates for the next Meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____