

Appointment of a Chairperson and Ordinary Member to the Health Insurance Authority

Closing Date: 15:00 on Tuesday 13th April 2021

**State Boards Division
Public Appointments Service
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stateboards.ie operates under the auspices of the Public Appointments Service and is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services. PAS also has responsibility for providing an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.stateboards.ie, is the channel through which the PAS advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard and in accordance with 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, "it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards."

The [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016](#) (the Code) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

Appointment of a Chairperson and Ordinary Member to the Health Insurance Authority

Location:	Health Insurance Authority, Beaux Lane House, Mercer Street Lower, Dublin 2
Number of Vacancies:	2
Remuneration:	Chair €8,978. Chairperson. Ordinary Member €5,985. It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors. Travel and subsistence is payable at appropriate civil service rates.
Time Requirements:	Approximately 6-8 meetings per annum each lasting around 2 hours. 16-30 hours per annum required including preparation and sub-committees. There is an Audit and Risk Committee that must contain at least two Members and must meet at least four times per year

Candidates' attention is also drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to Audit and Risk Committee membership which can be found [here](#).

1. Background

The Health Insurance Authority (the 'Authority') is a statutory regulator of the private health insurance market in Ireland. The Authority was established by Ministerial Order on 1 February 2001 under the Health Insurance Act, 1994 and operates in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Health Insurance (Amendment) Acts (collectively "the Health Insurance Acts").

The Principal Objective of the Health Insurance Acts is set out in legislation as follows:

"The principal objective of this Act is to ensure that, in the interests of the common good and across the health insurance market, access to health insurance cover is available to consumers of health services with no differentiation made between them (whether effected by risk equalisation credits or stamp duty measures or other measures, or any combination thereof), in particular as regards the costs of health services, based in whole or in part on the health risk status, age or sex of, or frequency of provision of health services to, any such consumers or any class of such consumers."

The Acts also set out the other principles of health insurance regulation, community rating, open enrolment, lifetime cover and minimum benefit.

The Authority is independent in the exercise of its functions. The principal functions of the Authority as provided for in the Health Insurance Acts include the following:

- To monitor the health insurance market and to advise the Minister (either at his or her request or on its own initiative) on matters relating to health insurance;

- To monitor the operation of the Health Insurance Acts and, where appropriate, to issue enforcement notices to enforce compliance with the Acts;
- To carry out certain functions in relation to health insurance stamp duty and in relation to the Risk Equalisation Scheme;
- To carry out its functions in relation to the Risk Equalisation Fund;
- To take such action as it considers appropriate to increase the awareness of members of the public of their rights as consumers of health insurance and of health insurance services available to them; and
- To maintain “The Register of Health Benefits Undertakings” and “The Register of Health Insurance Contracts”.

The Authority exercises such powers as are necessary for the performance of its functions. The Minister for Health (“the Minister”) may assign further responsibilities to the Authority as provided for in the Health Insurance Acts.

2. Functions of the Board

For the objective and effective discharge of its functions, it is desirable that the Authority membership includes a broad mix of skills and experience. When the Health Insurance Authority was established in 2001, provision was made for five Board members to be appointed. Since that time, the health insurance market has become more complex, with insurers increasingly adopting innovative marketing and product propositions to expand their client base and improve their risk profile. The regulatory framework has also expanded, most recently with the establishment in 2013 of the Risk Equalisation Scheme and the introduction of Lifetime Community Rating in 2015. Further significant changes can be expected as the cross-party Sláintecare programme is implemented.

In consideration of these recent developments to the market, and to ensure there is an appropriate mix of skills on the Board, the Health Insurance Acts were amended in 2018 to provide for a Board of seven members (including the Chair) instead of five. The Board meets six to eight times a year, and its functions include:

- conforming with all health insurance legislation and all relevant general legislation applicable to public bodies;
- working towards achieving the objectives of the Authority efficiently and effectively;
- responsibility for the structures and processes for decision making, accountability, controls and behaviour in the Authority;
- providing leadership, strategic and policy direction;
- determining control mechanisms to safeguard the Authority’s resources;
- supervising the overall management of the Authority’s activities; and
- reporting on the Authority’s activities and performance.

The Authority has established an Audit and Risk Committee with its own terms of reference. The Audit and Risk Committee will contain at least two Members of the Authority and must meet at least four times per year.

The current composition of the Board:

Name	First Appointed	Reappointed	Expiry Date	Position type	Basis of appointment
Caroline Barlow	24/06/2019		23/06/2024	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
Damien McShane	05/07/2019		04/07/2022	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
Fiona Kiernan (Dr.)	01/02/2016		31/01/2021	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
John Armstrong	18/09/2019		17/09/2022	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
Marcella Flood	05/07/2019		04/07/2022	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
Michael A. O'Sullivan	24/06/2019		23/06/2024	Board Member	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process
Sheelagh Malin	01/02/2011	17/08/2016	30/06/2021	Chair	Nominated and appointed by the Minister for Health following PAS Process

3. Person Specification

The Minister for Health invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill two positions on Board of the Health Insurance Authority.

Chairperson

The Minister shall appoint a Chairperson from among the members of the Board. Therefore, as part of this application process, applicants should indicate whether they wish to be considered for the position of Chairperson.

Candidate's attention is drawn to the general details of the role of Chairperson as set out on page 19 of the Code which can be found here. The Principle states:-

- The Chairperson is responsible for leadership of the Board and ensuring its effectiveness on all aspects of its role.

- The Chairperson should display high standards of integrity and probity and set expectations regarding culture, values, and behaviours for the State body and for the tone of discussions at Board level.

In addition to the requirements laid out below for Ordinary Member, candidates for the Chairperson role must demonstrate in their application evidence of previous Board membership experience and a genuine interest in the business of health insurance

Ordinary Member

Candidate's attention is drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to the role of a Board member, where the principle states: -

- Each State body should be headed by an effective Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term sustainability of the body.
- Non-executive Board members should bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance resources, key appointments and standard of conduct.

Details on the role of Board Members can be found in Section 3 of the Code which can be found [here](#).

Essential

Candidates must demonstrate significant experience, at an appropriately senior level, in one or more of the following areas:

- Corporate governance/regulation (previous experience as a Public Sector Board member and/or experience developing and supporting good governance in an organisation);
- Accountancy (professional qualification required) with relevant risk management experience;
- Experience at a senior level in a consumer advocacy role or in a consumer-focused/regulatory organisation;
- Health economics, healthcare policy analysis or academic experience in a related discipline.

Desirable for both roles

- previous Board experience
- familiarity with the public sector.
- knowledge or experience of the regulation of the private health insurance market or a similar area in which regulation plays a significant role would also be desirable for all Members
- Senior healthcare management;
- Actuary (a professional qualification is required) with relevant risk management experience.

Candidates must not have any conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role of a Board member.

The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments, in line with the updated Code.

In order to qualify for appointment a person must not have any legal impediment or conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role Chairperson of the Board. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

4. Term of Appointment

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 5 years with an option to extend the term of engagement for a second term of up to 5 years, subject to:

- The membership of any member of the Board may be terminated by the Minister at any time, on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Minister.
- A member of the Board may resign his or her membership of the Board by notice in writing sent or given to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect on the day on which the Minister receives the notice.
- Members of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, from time to time determine.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board Members are described in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available here [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies](#).
- A board member shall cease to be a member of the board if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament, elected to the European Parliament, or becomes a member of a local authority.

5. Submitting your Application

Before submitting your application, please review the self-assessment questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This questionnaire is designed to help you in considering whether to submit an application - you are not required to submit the questionnaire as part of the application process.

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

1. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Authority position(s) specified in this booklet, and*
2. *That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board. **Please only include information that is directly relevant to the particular role for which you are applying.**

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email info@stateboards.ie.

6. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the "Panel") will be convened by PAS to consider and assess the applications received by PAS. The Panel will:

- review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
- assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
 - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
 - Meeting/conference call; and/or
 - Referee checks; and/or
 - Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include PAS requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).
- arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates (based on the information provided by the candidate) to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

Please note that the Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of our selection process.

7. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

8. Data Protection

The Data Protection Act 2018 provides that the processing of personal data shall be lawful where such processing is necessary for the performance of a statutory function of a controller. PAS is mandated by statute under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act, 2004 to act as the centralised assessment and selection body for the civil service and to carry out all the procedures necessary to undertake the recruitment, assessment and selection of suitable candidates for appointment. By submitting your personal data (including your name, address, contact details and details of your education and work history contained in your curriculum vitae and cover letter) via publicjobs.ie, you acknowledge that such data may be used by the Public Appointments Service and disclosed to and used by client departments, in connection with its statutory roles to assist and advise relevant Ministers in relation to appointments to the boards of State bodies. The information contained in your publicjobs profile is yours to manage, amend, update or delete as appropriate. For more detailed information on our Data Protection Policy, please see our [Code of Practice for the Protection of Personal Data in the Public Appointments Service](#).

If your application is assessed and you are considered to be suitable for appointment your c.v. and cover letter (and any additional supplementary information requested as part of the application process), will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant Department. Once it obtains your personal data, the Department will act as data controller of such data and will retain it for up to one year following the appointment/s. Unless you request the withdrawal of your application such data may be used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that arise for a period of up to one year for this Board.

APPENDIX 1

Submitting your application:

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

1. Go to www.stateboards.ie.
2. On the bar at the top of the page click on "Available Appointments".
3. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
4. On the relevant page please click on the "apply for position" button at the bottom of the page
5. This will bring you to a page on www.publicjobs.ie and, if you already have a publicjobs.ie account, will prompt you for your username and password. If you do not have an account you will be asked to create one.
6. Once you input your details you will be brought to a page where there is a prompt in the middle of the page which says "apply here". Click on the link to the online application form beside it.
7. A form will appear on your screen, some of the text boxes will be populated with information from your publicjobs.ie profile (Name, address etc.). You will need to complete the rest of the fields and enter your name and the date at the bottom of the form. Click on "continue".
8. You will then be brought to a screen where you should upload your CV and Cover Letter. These are required documents and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.
9. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

You must confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Board. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Board member.