

Appointment of Chairperson to the Pyrite Resolution Board

Closing Date: 15:00 on the 24th of February 2017

**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. On 30 September 2014, the Government decided that the PAS should also be given responsibility for putting in place 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](#) provides a framework for the application of best practice incorporate 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 to the Pyrite Resolution Board

Location:	Dublin
Number of Vacancies:	1
Remuneration:	€8,978 Travel and subsistence is payable at appropriate Civil Service rates. (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).
Time Requirements:	11 half-day meetings per annum with up to a day's worth of preparatory work per meeting. Additional attendance at the quarterly Audit & Risk Committee meetings may be required.

1. Background

The Pyrite Resolution Act 2013(No. 51 of 2013) provided for the establishment of the Pyrite Resolution Board and for the making of a pyrite remediation scheme by the Board for certain dwellings affected by pyrite.

The Pyrite Resolution Board, which was first established on an administrative basis in early 2013, was placed on a statutory footing on 10 January 2014 when the Pyrite Resolution Act 2013 came into effect. The Board is responsible for oversight, general direction and budgeting of the pyrite remediation scheme, under which the remediation programme is implemented by the Housing Agency.

The pyrite remediation scheme, which first came into effect on 13 February 2014, was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act and is broadly reflective of the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the Pyrite Panel (July 2012).

The principal functions of the Pyrite Resolution Board are set out in [Section 9](#) of the Act which provides, among other things, that the Board:

- make a scheme of pyrite remediation;
- direct and oversee the implementation of the pyrite remediation scheme;
- may give directions to the Housing Agency in relation to certain operational matters under the scheme, including the following –
 - the testing, categorisation and verification of damage in respect of dwellings for which applications have been received under the scheme,
 - the procurement of consultants, contractors and services and the appointment of consultants and contractors,
 - budgetary matters and priorities under the scheme having regard to expenditure and progress,
 - the preparation of progress reports on the implementation of the scheme, and

- liaising and making arrangements with scheme participants with regard to the remediation of their dwellings;
- provide information in relation to pyrite and significant pyritic damage;
- consider and determine applications for inclusion in the pyrite remediation scheme;
- determine certain appeals;
- prepare annual reports based upon activity in the preceding calendar year; and
- prepare quarterly progress reports.

[Section 11](#) of the Act provides that the members of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister and shall be not fewer than four and not more than seven members.

2. Functions of the Board

The Board normally meet monthly (excluding August).

The Board are required to carry out their business in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (August 2016).

The chair and members are expected to contribute to all aspects of the Board's functions and responsibilities and to bring their own individual areas of expertise to bear on Board decisions.

Members may be required to be members of the Board's Audit & Risk Committee which meets quarterly.

The current composition of the Board is as follows:

Name	First Appointed	Re-Appointed	Expiry Date	Position typ
Caroline Gill	10/01/2014	10/01/2017	09/01/2020	Board Member
Derek Sinnott (Dr.)	02/09/2016		01/09/2019	Board Member
Vacant	-		-	Chair
Sean Balfe	10/01/2014	10/01/2017	09/01/2020	Board Member
Alec Flood	29/12/2016		28/12/2019	Board Member

3. Person Specification

Candidates for the Chair of the Pyrite Resolution Board must have:

- Extensive experience at a senior level which demonstrates that the applicant has a knowledge and experience of civil engineering, construction or project management;
- Significant corporate governance and compliance experience at a senior level, preferably with an understanding of the governance requirements of public bodies;
- Previous experience of board membership.

In addition to the required skills set out above, the following skills and experience would be considered advantageous for the chair of the Pyrite Resolution Board to have:

- Knowledge/ experience of pyrite remediation;
- Previous experience as chair of a similar body.

Candidate's attention is drawn to the general details of the role of Chairperson as set out on page 18 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 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.

[Section 11](#) of the *Pyrite Resolution Act 2013* does not provide that membership be drawn from specific professions or organisations. The [Schedule](#) to the Act does provide that membership of the Board shall not include:

- a member of a local authority;
- a member of SeanadÉireann;
- a member of either House of the Oireachtas;
- a Judge of the District Court, Circuit Court, High Court or Supreme Court;
- the Comptroller and Auditor General;
- a member of the European Parliament;
- a Judge, Advocate General or Registrar of the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- a member of the European Commission; or
- a member of the Court of Auditors of the European Union.

4. Term of Appointment

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend the term of engagement for a second term of 3 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 date specified in the notice or upon receipt of the notice by the Minister, whichever is the later;
- 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 Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available on the website of the Department of Finance (see [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 expression of interest - 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. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may arise if appointed to this Board.

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 application. 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 Board 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.

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
 - Meeting¹/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 suitable candidates to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

7. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 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 Acts 1988 & 2003

¹The Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

Should your name be forwarded to a Minister for consideration, please note that your cover letter and curriculum vitae will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant department and may be retained for up to one year.

For further information on Data Protection please follow the [link](#).

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.