

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Infected Blood

Compensation Authority

IBCA Board - Minutes and Actions
1 May 2025, 12:30 - 13:30
Online

Board Members:

1. Sir Robert Francis (SRF) - Interim Chair
2. David Foley (DF) - Interim CEO
3. Russell Frith - Chair of Audit & Risk Committee - Non-Executive Director
4. Deborah Harris-Ugbomah - Non-Executive Director
5. Helen Parker - Non-Executive Director
6. Sir Rob Behrens - Non-Executive Director
7. Richard Hornby - Interim Finance Director
8. Celine McLoughlin - Interim Director of Digital
9. Sindy Skeldon - Interim Director of Operations

Attendees:

1. Catherine Webster - IBCA Chief of Staff
2. **GRO-D** - Board Secretariat
3. **GRO-D** - Private Secretary to Sir Robert
4. John Kelly - Interim Director of Data
5. Rachel Forster - Interim Director of Communications
6. Shainila Pradhan - Programme Director
7. Gill Nicholson - Interim HR Director
8. Hannah Probert - Deputy Director, Strategy & Governance
9. Susan Harris - User Consultant
10. Clair Walton - User Consultant

Apologies: Gillian Fairfield - Interim Non-Executive Director
Paula Sussex - Interim Non-Executive Director

1. Welcome

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Extraordinary Board meeting following a meeting with the Minister for the Cabinet Office (MCO) and the Permanent Secretary (PUS) on 30 April.

2. Chair and CEO's Summary of meeting with MCO and PUS

- 2.1. The Chair began the meeting by acknowledging the ongoing concerns of the community over the pace of IBCA's delivery and the Minister's ambitions for faster payments of compensation.
- 2.2. He summarised the key points of the 30 April meeting. The package of proposals for faster delivery that had been presented by the IBCA Executive was colour-coded to highlight the levels of risk that the Minister would need to underwrite for them to move

ahead. The Minister expressed support for the green and amber-rated proposals and agreed with the Executive that the red proposals should not move forward.

- 2.3. The discussion with MCO and PUS had focused on what could be achieved by the end of the year, provided certain conditions outlined in the proposals were met and there was support from the Cabinet Office to release IBCA from some of its obligations via Ministerial direction.

2.4.

2.5.

2.6.

2.7.

GRO-D

3. Board Discussion

3.1.

3.2.

3.3.

GRO-D

- 3.4. It was pointed out that the regulations stated that a choice needed to be made within three months, and there was no flexibility for people to move between support payments and core payments.

3.5. The IBCA Executive suggested that there may be some flexibility on the timings for decision making, or there was always the option to defer a decision until the supplementary offer could be made.

3.6.

3.7.

GRO-D

3.8. Questions were asked about implications for fraud and whether the technology could cope if large numbers of people were making claims at once.

3.9. There was an acknowledgement that an IDV solution would need to be put in place, and a front-end registration system had been discussed. There would be implications for legal support as eligibility for compensation was one of the criteria for legal support.

3.10.

GRO-D

3.11. The Board was advised that the expectation was that the current business plan would need to be delivered from the existing budget, and any move to increase delivery would need additional funding. Written assurance, provided by PUS, was required to confirm additional budgetary cover, which would allow for IBCA to assume a 'go-faster' approach.

3.12. Discussion with HMT indicated that there was no money for additional spending and that Cabinet Office would need to find any extra funds. Any additional budget would need to be clarified clearly and unambiguously in writing from the Cabinet Office before additional spending could be undertaken.

3.13.

GRO-D

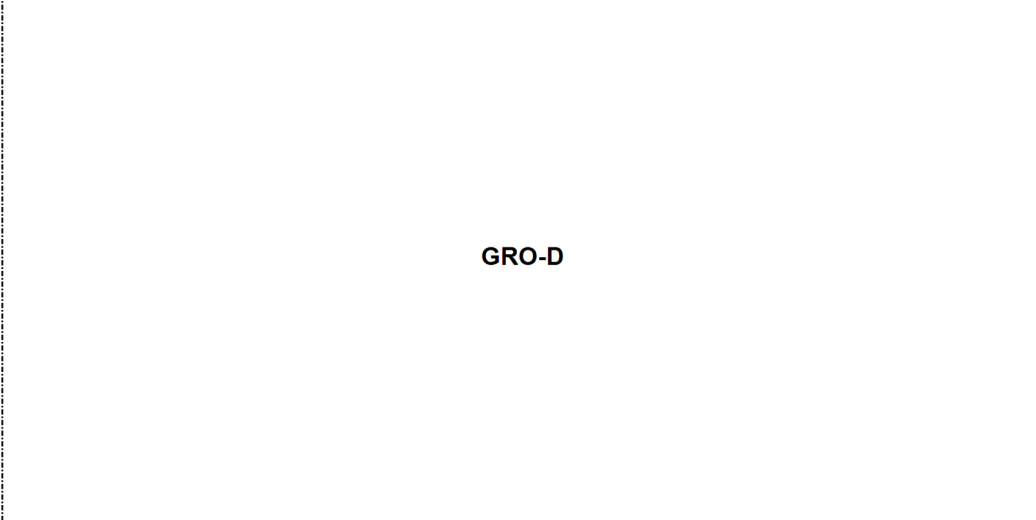
3.14. The Finance Director made clear that without this confirmation, the Executive Team would need to look closely at the levels of expenditure, including the development spend and recruitment costs for Claims Managers, as the budget could not sustain the current rate of spend.

3.15. Board members confirmed that without guarantees, recruitment could not increase.

3.16. The Board asked if assurances were given on how confident the IBCA Executive was in delivering the proposals.

3.17. The CEO confirmed that if the resources were available and restrictions lifted, then he was confident that the proposals could be delivered.

3.18. A note of caution was issued that if the guarantees of support did not materialise, combined with the financial advice received, then IBCA should be cautious about doing anything that was not affordable until the guarantees were in place.

3.19. 

3.20. **GRO-D**

3.21.

3.22. The Chair noted the importance of having the User Consultants' input at the meeting and thanked them for their contributions.

AGREEMENT: The Board was supportive of the package of proposals but only if the resources were guaranteed and the conditions set out in the proposals were met.