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# PENSIONS COUNCIL

Meeting on Thursday, 21 July 2021 at 3.00pm  
Virtual meeting

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**Attendance:** Jim Murray (Chair)  
Eoin Dormer  
Tim O'Hanrahan  
Joanne Roche  
Brendan Kennedy  
Roshin Sen  
Roma Burke

**Apologies:** Deirdre Cummins  
Munro O'Dwyer  
Stephen Gillick

**Also present:** Joseph Mhlanga (Note taker)  
Brian Purcell

**Quorum:** Quorum present  
7 of 11 Council Members present (6 required)

## Minutes

### 1. Adoption of agenda

The proposed agenda for this meeting was agreed.

### 2. Conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### 3. Approval of draft minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2021 were approved by the Council.

### 4. Review of Recent Developments

Roshin informed the Council that the Pensions Commission has completed its work and a report will be published after the summer. Auto-Enrolment will be incorporated in the Government Economic Development Plan, whose design is to be finalised by

the end of 2021. The Council's Housing Steering Group will be meeting with the ESRI on a regular basis, and the first meeting scheduled for August.

Roshin and Brian Purcell are transferring from the Department of Social Protection to other Government departments. Claire Dowling will replace Roshin, and Brian's replacement will be announced in due course.

## **5. Letter from Minister – Gender Gap**

Members discussed Munro's Pensions Gender gap analysis and thanked him for compiling the document. The next step is how to frame and communicate the consultation findings to the Minister. Members provided further comments on the implications of Munro's analysis. These are to be prioritised under key headings, including but not limited to the Supplementary pension system, significant impacts affecting exclusions (e.g. child benefit and vesting periods), extending coverage and improving access to pensions, service breaks, roll-over limits and spousal / partner contributions on behalf of women. These will be used as the basis for the final document to be completed and presented to the Minister before the end of 2021.

Non-priority issues will be set out as appendices in the document.

## **6. Cost Transparency (including at decumulation)**

To be looked into at the next meeting.

## **7. Other Work?**

None

## **8. Other Business – New Chairman**

Jim's term as the Council Chairperson expires on 2 August 2021. Members paid tribute to Jim for his able leadership and wished him well in his future endeavours. The Minister for Social Protection sent a video message thanking Jim for his sterling work over the years.

Ms. Roma Burke has been appointed as the new Chairperson, and her term will run from 3 August 2021 to 2 August 2023. She welcomed her appointment and pledged to continue working from a consumer focus perspective. Roma also thanked Jim for his service to the Council over the last 6 years.

Brian bade his farewells to the Council and all members expressed their appreciation for his expertise, input and service.

## **9. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Pensions Council will take place on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

## 10. To-do list

To post the Minister's video message on the PC website	Joseph Mhlanga
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