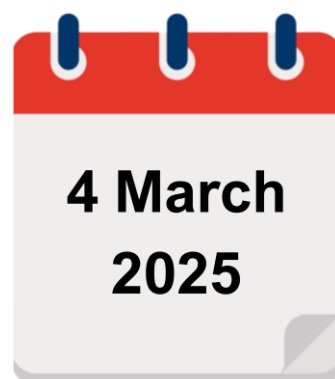




Northern Ireland Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

4 March 2025



What this document is about

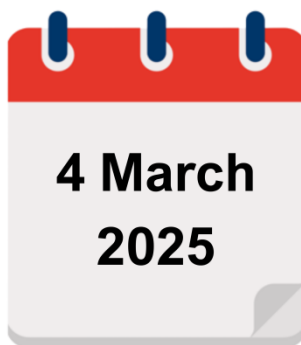


This is an Easy Read document.

It is a set of Minutes to say what happened at a meeting.

In this document:

- the Independent Living Fund Scotland is ILF Scotland for short
- Northern Ireland is NI for short



The meeting was at The Mount Conference Centre and on Zoom.



It was on 4 March from 1 to 3 in the afternoon.

Who was at the meeting?



David McDonald -Chairperson

Niqi Rainey

Amanda Paul

Colin Dunlop

Aisling McHugh

Greta Gurklyte

June Best



ILF Scotland Staff

Peter Scott

Harvey Tilley

Emma O'Neill

Lee House

Karen Burnett on Zoom

Who was not at the meeting?



Frances McHugh

Michaela Hollywood

Robert Dallas

Linda Scott

1. Welcome and introductions



David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from the last meeting



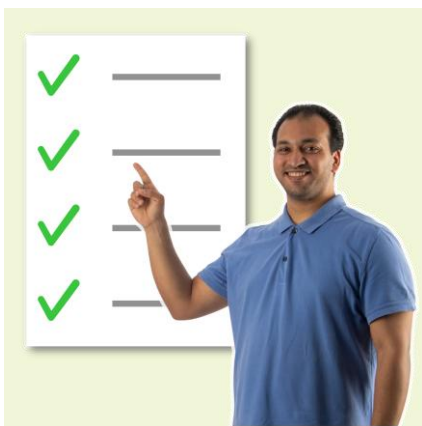
The minutes were checked and agreed.

ILF Scotland's Communications Team will put them on the website.

Actions from the last meeting

These actions have been done:

- Sandra will make information about Universal Credit and Lee will email it to the Group
- Lee will contact Frances McHugh and include her in any emails sent about the NI Advisory Group



These actions are still being worked on:

- David will write a letter to the Minister of Health asking him to meet with the Group

3. What do we need to talk about?



David said that **IMNI** cannot take new applications to join it at the moment.

IMNI is the Independent Mechanism Northern Ireland.



David said he has sent Colin a copy of Revenue and Customs information about:

- how employers have a duty to give employees the National Minimum Wage including when they work through the night
- **handovers** – when a staff shift ends and new staff start
- travel as part of work
- training



Colin will check if it applies to Northern Ireland.



The group will talk about this at future meetings.

4. Anniversary celebrations in Northern Ireland



Peter will write to the Minister of Health, inviting him to the celebration event.

David will check the dates of 11, 18 or 25 June with Danny Donnelly.



Peter will arrange a planning meeting with Communications and Senior Management on 1, 8 or 15 April.

5. Re-opening the ILF in Northern Ireland



Harvey asked Colin when the re-opening plan should be sent to the Department of Health.

Harvey said it must wait until the **Programme for Government** has had its budgets approved.



This sets out the work the Government will do and how much money there is to do it.



Colin said:

- the Department of Health budget will be 400 million pounds short for next year
- there must be a consultation for any new policy decision
- by April this year it will be decided if the re-opening goes to the consultation stage



Colin will tell the Group what is decided.

6. ILF Recipients Northern Ireland (NI)



David said there should be a NI ILF group like the Direct Payments User Group NI started by Caroline Wheeler.

Niqi suggested posting on the Direct Payments User Group and will talk to Caroline about this before our next meeting.



Harvey suggested that ILF Scotland's Communications Team could prepare Questions and Answers for the post to help anyone new to ILF.

Niqi and Harvey's suggestions will be followed up for the next meeting.

7. Wage Uplift – an increase to the amount of money workers are paid an hour



Peter said that ILF Scotland and the NI Sponsor Team are working on the next uplift in April after increases to the National Minimum Wage.

Colin said that from April 2025 the uplift of ILF would happen at the same time as the uplift of Direct Payments.



Peter said that ILF Scotland would need extra funding for it to match the Direct Payments rate for everyone.

8. Universal Credit Practice Note



Emma agreed to work with Sandra Sweeney to make a Universal Credit practice note.

9. Policy Update and 10. Terms of Reference



There was no policy update.

Information about **Terms of Reference** has been moved to the next meeting.

Terms of Reference explain the work of an organisation and how it will be done.

11. Anything else we need to talk about



David asked who covers Award Managers if they are ill and how is it paid for?

Peter said that in Scotland there is financial management available.

It could take over for a while and ILF Scotland could pay for this.



Peter will talk to companies like the Centre for Independent Living Northern Ireland (CILNI) to see what could be available.

ILF Scotland would pay for this extra support if needed.



Emma and Linda are working on a feedback plan to look at how people connect with ILF Scotland information.

They will ask the Group to say what they think of it.

12. Next meeting and arrangements



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 June at The Mount Conference Centre.

This is the end of these Minutes.

Made with

