

Minutes
Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group
12th May 2020, 4pm (by telecall)

Present: Cliona O’Farrelly (Co-Chair), Mark Ferguson, Ana Terres, Ivan Perry, Stephen Kinsella, Ivan Perry, Orla Feely, Sarah Gibney, Teresa Maguire, Mairéad O’Driscoll.

Apologies: Siobhán O’Sullivan, Colm Bergin (Co-Chair).

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1.	Draft Minutes from 8th May 2020 -Reviewed and approved	
2.	Conflict of Interest Declarations - None declared	COI to remain an active agenda item on all meetings
3.	Correspondence - A letter from HSE COVID-19 Laboratory R&D Product Solutions Group regarding the HSA Interim Statement on Risk Group Classification SARS-CoV-2 was circulated by a member to the group for information.	
4.	Research Document - Paper has been circulated to D/Taoiseach and NPHE sub-groups for feedback	
5.	Role of REAG: self-assessment	Discuss at next meeting
6.	National COVID-19 Biorepository - The group discussed infrastructure and funding - it was noted that there should be a focus on mapping what is currently collected and engaging with different governance groups, research groups and the research community on two key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ what samples are being collected now, and where, and what plans are in place for samples to be made available for research? ○ how could these samples be optimally organised for research? - It was noted that it would involve significant national effort to scope this out, including input from universities and health services - A business plan approach was suggested - One member discussed an approach to leverage the existing infrastructure within each regional healthcare organisation which has a laboratory and a biobank and increasing existing capacity - The role of clinical leads was noted	A short document with rationale and guiding principles to be drafted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support at senior level was noted - The case for research funding and resource allocation was noted - The level of clinical research capacity available in the healthcare system, to collect samples and complete required documentation, was discussed - The role of university-hospital partnerships was noted - Possible engagement between this group and the chief academic officers (CAOs) working on this matter was discussed, to identify what can be done in the short term - There was reference to the international agenda (e.g. guidelines and principles) given the level of national participation in international studies. 	
7.	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A desire to publishing ToRs and minutes was discussed and re-stated by members 	Chair to write to EAG
8.	AOB	