

## NICS BOARD – PURPOSE, ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP

<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>To deliver the Executive's policy priorities and serve the people of Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b><u>The Role</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Deliver</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Executive to develop and deliver its Programme for Government to improve wellbeing for all and provide better outcomes for society. The role of the Board will have particular emphasis on delivery, to ensure those aspects requiring strategic cross-Departmental collaboration are taken forward; and to address major problems being experienced in delivering the PFG</li> <li>• Provide strategic direction and oversight for corporate strategic cross-cutting initiatives, appointing as appropriate Programme Boards to lead this work.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Transform</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The corporate programme of NICS modernisation and reform to improve efficiency, effectiveness and delivery will be led by DoF and TEO on behalf of the Executive. The NICS board will have an important role in the co-design and delivery of this programme.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity, capability and diversity of the NICS by empowering people from within NICS and through focused recruitment to provide the energy, ideas and skills to strengthen our culture of innovation and agile delivery.</li> <li>• Enhance the leadership capacity of NICS to ensure we have a motivated and engaged workforce. Developing talent and management of the SCS as a corporate resource with learning and development opportunities for senior managers/leaders.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Respond</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address issues of strategic significance facing the NICS as a whole or constituent parts of it.</li> <li>• The Chair of the Board will determine which issues warrant Board consideration, which will include a focus on horizon scanning.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reporting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and report to the Executive on the Board's outputs which will be shared through HOCS.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver NICS wide external and internal communications of our work program.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Values</u></b></p> <p>Members commit to living the NICS Code of Ethics core values of integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality as a board and promoting them more widely.</p> <p><b><u>Membership</u></b></p> <p>The NICS Board will be chaired by the Head of the Civil Service.</p> <p>Membership of the NICS Board will include the Permanent Secretaries of all Northern Ireland Departments, the Departmental Solicitor and the First Legislative Counsel and two External Advisory Board members. SRO leads of Programme boards and others will be invited to attend meetings as appropriate to deal with issues that fall within their areas of responsibility e.g. Strategic HR, PFG director.</p> <p><b><u>Frequency of meetings</u></b></p> <p>The NICS Board will meet at least six times per year, typically at the start and end of each quarter. In addition there will be short, weekly Permanent Secretary stocktake meetings [which will take place via blended in-person and virtual meetings]. Where an urgent decision is required, this will be circulated by correspondence and additional Board meetings can be convened if required.</p> <p><b><u>Secretariat</u></b></p> <p>Secretariat support to the NICS Board will be provided by TEO.</p> <p><b><u>Work Programme</u></b></p> <p>The NICS Board will develop and communicate to the NICS a forward programme of work relevant to its role and will regularly report progress on the delivery of this work programme.</p> <p>The work programme will be delivered through programme boards with regular progress reports to the Board and items to reach a decision on key strategic questions thereto. Circulation by correspondence will be subject to agreement of the Chair.</p> <p>The NICS will also have formal engagement with SCS through regular reviews.</p>
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