

From: Sarah Glennie

Sent: 23 September 2014 18:10

To: Patricia White; Brendan Flynn; Brian Ranalow; Eimear O'Connor; Emma Goltz; Eoin McGonigal; Julie O'Neill; Mary McCarthy; Rowan Gillespie

Cc: Frank Brennan

Subject: New Board Members

Dear all

You may have seen some coverage in the media today relating to new IMMA Board members so I wanted to update you with our understanding of the situation.

I was notified by the Department via a phone call from Kevin Lonergan on September 18th that two new appointments had been made to the IMMA Board, John McNulty and Sheila O'Regan. We have not received anything in writing about this or any communication from the Minister's office but I was told by both Kevin and Niall O'Donnchu that the appointments had been accepted and confirmed.

Several queries had been sent into our press department on that day and subsequent days asking for the list of our Board members and the list of 9 current members was sent out to all queries. We had not been notified by the Department that our current limit of 9 members had been lifted so we did not know there were vacancies.

It emerged yesterday that John McNulty is going forward for election to the Seanead via the Cultural and Educational Panel and his appointment to the IMMA Board has become the focus of some debate in that regard. The Minister is currently answering questions on his appointment in the Seanead and a large amount of press interest has gathered during the afternoon.

I am attaching below a copy of the Press Release issued today by DAHG and some of the press coverage so far.

The press release references a visit to IMMA in August. The Minister made an unannounced visit during August with the Commissioners of OPW and met Gale briefly. Myself and Eoin did not meet her. We met her very briefly last Thursday at the CNCI meeting with Chairs and Directors of the CNCI and this matter did not come up.

As discussed at the Board meeting we have written requesting a meeting but have not received a confirmed date from her office.

Best

Sarah

DAHG press release:

Following a visit to the Irish Museum of Modern Art last month, Minister Humphreys took a decision to make two appointments to the IMMA board to include representatives from the regions.

Minister Humphreys made the two appointments to the IMMA board on Friday

September 12th - John Mc Nulty, Donegal and Sheila M O'Regan, Limerick.

There is no remuneration for board members.

Further information on board appointees:

John McNulty, Kilcar, Donegal, is a self-employed businessman who brings 15 years business experience to the IMMA board. He is involved in the local Tourism and

Cultural committee in Kilcar and has a track record in promoting culture, heritage, the GAA and the Irish language.

John has been actively involved in local heritage events and heritage restoration projects in South Donegal, as well as festivals such as the Fleadh Ceol.

He is also currently driving a three year Irish language development plan for the area.

Sheila M O'Regan, Ardagh, Co Limerick, was the curator of the Palatine Museum in Rathkeale, Co Limerick, for nine years. She has a MA in Local History from UL. She is a member of a number of local community groups and voluntary groups, and her previous experience includes time as a Research Librarian with An Foras Toluntais and a Field Survey Representative with the ESRI.

Sheila was a founder of the local community station, West Limerick 102fm, and is currently a producer and presenter for the station.

She has previously served on the boards of Rural Bus and West Limerick Resources.

Kind regards,

Helen Francis

Press and Information Office / Preasoifig agus Oifig Eolais

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht / An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta

<https://twitter.com/lostexpectation>

<http://www.thejournal.ie/fine-gael-seanad-nominee-state-board-1685391-Sep2014/>

<http://www.newstalk.com/Arts-Minister-defends-appointment-of-Seanad-candidate-to-state-board>

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/humphreys-slammed-for-appointment-288204.html#.VCEdScSqOAI.twitter>

<http://www.todayfm.com/john-mcnulty-heather-humphreys-imma>

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/fg-seanad-hopeful-is-given-state-board-seat-30607240.html>

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