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Heather Humphreys TD.
Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Kildare St
Dublin 2

24th September, 2014

Dear Minister Humphreys,

I am writing to acknowledge the appointment of John McNulty and Sheila O'Regan to the IMMA Board on September 12th, of which the Director received notification on September 18th.

I think it is appropriate to bring to your attention a number of matters concerning recent Board appointments that we feel should be clarified and perhaps should be a basis for a discussion between us in order to gain some clarity.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter received from your Department on October 31st 2012 outlining what appears to be a Government Decision retaining the Board of IMMA but reducing its number to 9. We have been operating on the basis of our understanding of this decision and currently have 9 members. This letter also outlines the Government decision that all future appointments should be considered on the basis of an independent assessment process managed by the Public Appointments Service.

We would like clarity as to whether the 2012 Government decision has now been over-turned and if we can now proceed on the basis that our Board is back to 15 members as laid out in our Memorandum and Articles. If there are further vacancies on the IMMA Board we would ask if further appointments could be made with consideration of the nature of IMMA's programme and financial priorities.

I would also like to draw your attention to our Memorandum and Articles which I am also enclosing and in particular clause 21 (xi) which states and IMMA Director's must resign from the Board on receiving nomination to become a member of the Seanad. I have sent a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of IMMA to John McNulty and drawn his attention to Article 21 Rule 9.

The IMMA Board has been proactive in its response to the Public Sector Reform Plan and I would also like to draw your attention to a paper on the role of the Board submitted to your Department in 2012. In this document we outlined the case for a well-governed, effective Board whose skills, experience and personal network is appropriate to the specific programme and nature of IMMA, namely modern and contemporary art. As IMMA faces cuts of up to 50% in its grant in aid our ability to raise additional funds through philanthropy is essential and the Board's role in supporting this is a key priority for the organisation. This has been

demonstrated in 2014 by a number of significant donations made by Board members to IMMA and through introductions made by Board members to high level Business contacts. IMMA considers this contribution to philanthropy, coupled with an understanding and commitment to contemporary art to be essential qualities for future Board members.

A meeting to discuss this issue and other matters relating to IMMA would be welcomed as soon as possible. You might take note that I will be out of the country from September 29th to October 5th.

With kind regards,

Eoin McGonigal
Chair