

**CARE AND REPAIR SCOTLAND  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE  
2022 BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

**Present:** Gerry Power, The Alliance (Chair)  
Angela Brunton, Region 3  
  
Robert Thomson, National Director

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gerry Power welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies from Gerry Begg, Stewart Wilson, Andy Douglas and Elizabeth Eadie. Gerry confirmed that the meeting met the Articles' requirement of two Board members in attendance and was quorate. Robert advised that he would explain the absence of other Board members during the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minute of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 meeting was approved without amendment.

**4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

*Action: Robert and Stewart to discuss how CRS can help with the situation in Western Isles.*

Robert advised that there has been a restructure of TIG which has sadly resulted in redundancies, including Stewart and Donald McKinnon, the Care and Repair Manager. A statement from the management committee summarises the reason for the decision:

*"Tighean Innse Gall's management committee have held further discussions to take into account recent talks with the Scottish Government around insulation services. As directors of TIG the Community Benefit Society we remain agreed that, in light of the irretrievable damage already done to the supply chain coupled with continuing uncertainty around project delivery, the only competent route forward is to regrettably continue the redundancy consultation process."*

Therefore, Stewart cannot represent Region 4 according to the Articles and has resigned from the Board of Care and Repair Scotland. Stewart is the longest-serving Board member, and we greatly appreciate his support and level-headed advice.

In addition to this news, Robert advised that Gerry Begg and Elizabeth Eadie have retired from their posts at Scottish Borders Council and Lomond & Clyde Care and Repair. Therefore they are also resigning from the CRS Board.

***Action: Robert will write to Stewart, Gerry and Elizabeth and thank them for their service. He will update Companies House records. He will arrange for elections with Regions 1 and 4 to find replacements for Stuart and Elizabeth. He will also liaise with ALACHO about how best to proceed with a nomination to the Board.***

## 5. National Director's Report

### Covid

The National Director tested positive for Covid in March and was off work for three weeks. The report therefore covers April to June.

### Fire Safety Alarms Scheme

As at 16<sup>th</sup> May, the offices reported:

Grant Allocation	Grant Spend	Enquiries	Households Free Alarms	Households Chargeable Alarms	Households Waiting List
£1,100,000	£842,145	12,777	2421	2331	1466

There were supply issues reported across the country. SFRS also ran out of alarms. This resulted in a waiting list. The offices will work through the list and the remainder of the funding will be spent. The Scottish Government has asked for a further report in July.

The National Director was previously advised by The A9 Partnership auditors that we would not require to include the grant of £1.1M in our accounts. However, they have since taken advice from OSCR and have now confirmed that we will require a full audit of the accounts because the grant is above the threshold of £500,000 set by OSCR. The National Director appealed against this decision and the Scottish Government advised that there is no income and expenditure incurred by CRS under the terms of the grant. However OSCR then said that, as they did not have enough understanding of the relationship between CRS and the local teams, we would have to defer to the view of the auditor. The A9 Partnership has confirmed that we will require a full audit for the financial year 2022/23. The process is now underway and every payment to the local offices has a payment confirmation from RBS and a receipt from the manager/finance officer.

### Equity Loans Scheme

Our involvement with the scheme ended on 31 March and to date there have been no issues with client complaints or any other outstanding problems. It remains to be seen if Ministers will take the scheme forward. A homeowner feedback analysis is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/home-energy-efficiency-equity-loan-pilot-homeowner-feedback-survey-analysis-responses/>

### Care and Repair Digital Conference

The Zoom report for the Care and Repair Connections Conference shows that 115 delegates registered, one person cancelled and 79 people attended concurrently with total views of 164. A number of people advised that while they were unable to attend due to work commitments, they would watch the recording. Big Bright Star has been asked by several exhibitors when we will recommence the live conference. The National Director wants to record his thanks to Gerry Power for chairing the event and to Sinead Hammond for running the technical aspects of Zoom.

### Falls Prevention Collective

The National Director has joined a new 4 Nations Falls Prevention Collective that is meeting to discuss shared experience and best practice. A copy of the Terms of Reference and outline plan is attached. There have been some difficulties in arranging online discussions between 4 nation groups so we are now proceeding on the basis that each nation will hold a detailed meeting and at the 4 nations meeting we will summarise our findings and reach a consensus way forward.

### Adaptations Review

DWP has asked CRS to work with them to provide background information about variations in the benefits assessments used by Scottish Councils to assess applications for adaptation grants. This is quite an involved piece of work that will require the cooperation of the local authorities.

### Meetings

Despite the easing of Covid restrictions across Scotland, it remains the position with most Council and Scottish Government staff that meetings take place on Zoom or Teams. The only Parliamentary meeting attended this quarter is the Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness.

**Action: Robert will explore the options for a live conference event in 2023. The Board would like to continue the successful video links or pre-recorded sessions from organisations in other countries.**

## **6. Financial Statement**

The Board noted and approved the Financial Statement. They also noted an amendment to the quarter report for 21/22. They were also encouraged to read a statement from TPT Pension Fund administrators that confirms that the current deficit contributions will cease on 30 September 2022.

## **7. A.O.C.B**

There were no other items of business.

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.