

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, Thursday 31 July 2014 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Anthony Cronin, Rhona Clarke, Seoirse Bodley, Mary FitzGerald, Brian Lynch, Shelley McNamara, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Jane O'Leary, Vivienne Roche.

Apologies: Brian Maguire

In attendance: Liz Powell, Registrar

Members noted with great sadness the death of Louis Lentin, an artist of integrity and passion whose influence will be felt for many years.

Minutes and notes of the previous meetings

Minutes of 1 July were taken as accurate and were proposed by VR and seconded by JO'L.

Saoithe nominations

SMN withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this discussion.

The Toscaireacht considered nominations for two candidates for the position of Saoi. It was noted that the nominations had been made according to rule and could be presented to the membership for voting.

It was agreed that an information sheet should be sent to members outlining details of the procedure and nominators in advance of the issuing of ballot sheets. It was also agreed that a memo and separate ballot sheets would be sent to all members.

Artists' Exemption

The Arts Council's Director, Orlaith McBride, joined the meeting.

Members of the Toscaireacht outlined the belief that the current Artists' Exemption definitions do not accurately reflect contemporary arts practice and were concerned that members may have negative determinations made against them on the basis of these definitions. Members asked if the Arts Council would be in a position to clarify on the matter. The Director outlined that it would be difficult to progress the conversation without having concrete examples, but understood that Toscairí had not been given the authority to provide individual information. The Director agreed to try to set up a meeting with Revenue on the matter. The Director then left the meeting.

Communications with membership

It was agreed that a communications memo should be sent to the members. Topics include:

- a) A note that private business of the 2015 General Assembly is to be suspended
- b) Proposed new voting procedure for 2015 General Assembly
- c) A reminder that minutes of all Toscaireacht meetings are available on the Aosdána website

Correspondence

It was agreed that MF would write on behalf of the Toscaireacht to the new Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht congratulating her on her position.

Correspondence from Paul Mosse was considered. It was agreed that MF would respond

The meeting ended