



Bord Altranais agus
Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann
Nursing and Midwifery
Board of Ireland

Being A Board Member

Contents

1. About the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland	2
2. What is the Board of the NMBI?	2
3. What are the Committees of the Board of the NMBI?	3
4. What are the functions of the Board?	3
5. What is the term of office?	4
6. What skills do you need to be a member of the Board?	4
7. What is the time commitment?	5
8. Is the role voluntary?	5
9. Is training provided?	5
10. Further information	6

1. About the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI), formerly called An Bord Altranais, has two main objectives:

- To protect the public.
- To protect the integrity of the practice of nursing and midwifery.

NMBI is the statutory body which sets the standards for the education, registration and professional conduct of nurses and midwives. We advise on how nurses and midwives should provide care to patients, their families and society.

Our functions in safeguarding the public involve establishing and maintaining the Register of Nurses and Midwives. We also establish procedures and criteria for assessment and registration. Additionally, we approve education programmes and further education programmes.

NMBI sets standards of practice and provides support for registered nurses and midwives. This includes developing, publishing and reviewing:

- A code of professional conduct and ethics.
- Guidance on professional conduct.
- Guidance on maintaining professional competence.

Through our fitness to practise functions, NMBI is responsible for considering complaints against nurses and midwives.

2. What is the Board of the NMBI?

The Board of NMBI comprises 23 members, with 12 members who are not, and have never been, registered nurses or midwives. Of the remaining 11 members, eight are registered nurses and midwives elected by the professions. The elected members represent the general, children's, psychiatric, intellectual disability, public health and midwifery disciplines. A further three nurses and midwives are appointed by the Minister for Health.

All Board members act in a non-executive capacity.

There are a number of committees which report to the Board and support the activities of the Board in the governance of its functions.

The Board has a 'lay majority' (a majority of members who have never been registered as nurse or midwife). This is viewed internationally as one of the best ways of making sure the public interest is at the centre of all that we do.

3. What are the Committees of the Board of the NMBI?

The Board has established three statutory committees in addition to a number of other committees. These committees assist the Board in the performance of its functions. Each committee is supported by an NMBI officer of relevant expertise.

The statutory committees are:

- Midwives Committee.
- Preliminary Proceedings Committee.
- Fitness to Practise Committee.

The non – statutory committees are:

- Audit and Risk Committee.
- Business, Strategy and Finance Committee.
- Registration Committee.
- Education, Training and Standards Committee.

Members of the Fitness to Practise Committee (FTPC) and Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC) are paid €300 a day (before tax). Payments to FTPC and PPC members are subject to the "one person one salary" (OPOS) principle, as recommended by the Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Sector in 1972. The OPOS principle provides that, as a general rule, public servants and public sector employees should not receive additional remuneration for undertaking any other duties with another public sector body.

4. What are the functions of the Board?

The Board is responsible for overseeing the governance and strategy of NMBI (including finance and risk); staffing; legal decisions and strategic planning.

In addition to corporate governance, the main functions of the Board are to:

- Establish and maintain the Register of Nurses and Midwives and the Candidate Register.
- Establish procedures and criteria for the assessment and registration of nurses and midwives and the Candidate Register.
- Issue certificates of registration and renewal of registration.
- Act as the competent authority for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications of nurses and midwives awarded in or recognised by Member States (EU & EEA).
- Approve programmes of education and further education for registration purposes and keep these programmes under review.
- Specify standards of practice for registered nurses and midwives including the establishment, publication, maintenance and review of appropriate guidance on:
 - Professional conduct and ethics for registered nurses and registered midwives;
 - Professional competence of registered nurses and registered midwives;
 - A code of professional conduct for registered nurses and registered midwives.

- Specify criteria for specialist nursing and midwifery posts.
- Establish committees to inquire into complaints.
- Make decisions and give directions relating to the imposition of sanctions on registered nurses and registered midwives.

5. What is the term of office?

Members of the Board hold office for a term of up to four years from the date of their formal appointment by the Minister for Health. No person may hold office as a member the Board for more than two consecutive terms. This is in keeping with the Annex to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published in September 2020 which states that: *'The State Board or, where necessary, the relevant Government Department should vary the terms of Board appointments to between three and five years. A period of appointment may be renewed for a further period, to a maximum of eight years in total.'*

6. What skills do you need to be a member of the Board?

The variety of issues to be dealt with will require Board members that can add value through knowledge, experience or expertise gained in their current or previous roles. Members are expected to bring their professional experience and skills to bear in order make sound decisions and to provide leadership.

This will involve the ability to balance a strategic view of key decisions with a specialist or expert perspective, while being committed to the principle of collective decision making. A patient/service user focus is essential as our mandate is to protect the public.

Membership also requires understanding and experience of what it takes to develop a well-run, responsive and high performing public sector organisation.

All Board members should be committed to public service. They will be expected to act with integrity and the highest professional standard and to promote fairness, transparency and accountability.

Board members should ideally:

- Have a track record of effective judgement, decision making, initiative and analytical thought.
- Demonstrate experience in identifying solutions to complex issues and understanding their impact and implications.
- Possess excellent interpersonal and teambuilding skills with proven ability to build relationships with many different stakeholders.
- Display excellent oral and written communication skills, with the ability to negotiate and challenge when necessary.
- Possess a strong sense of ethics, integrity and probity.
- Have the ability to bring objectivity and scrutiny to the governance of the organisation.

In addition, members should:

- Be familiar with the business and regulatory environment in which NMBI operates.
- Have experience of Board membership and/or public administration experience.

7. What is the time commitment?

Membership of the NMBI Board requires a high level of engagement. Two-day meetings are held every second month (Jan, March etc). Single day meetings may be convened in the intervening months (Feb, April, etc) as required. Board members are required to sit on a minimum of one and a maximum of three committees. In addition, special meetings may be convened from time to time to deal with fitness to practise matters.

Members will be required to devote as much time as necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of their duties. Members can expect to dedicate 3-4 days per month to NMBI work, including preparation and attendance at Board and committee meetings, stakeholder events and other ad hoc meetings as required. As a member, it is assumed that you can meet this time commitment.

Members are obliged to comply with the relevant provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). This Code includes a description of the role and responsibilities of board members.

8. Is the role voluntary?

Board members serve on a part-time basis and there is no remuneration for those employed in the public or civil service.

Members can claim travel and subsistence allowances in accordance with approved public sector rates. These will be paid in respect of journeys undertaken to attend meetings or to transact Board business and in accordance with Circular 05/2015. Circular 15/2015 sets out the financial procedures to be followed when an employee of one public service body incurs expenses arising from work undertaken by another public service body. Under this circular any such employees must claim any expenses incurred directly from their public service employer and not from NMBI.

Meetings are usually held in the NMBI offices in Blackrock, Co Dublin but some meetings may be held remotely with the prior agreement of the Chair of the meeting. Most communication with the Board is electronic and members must be willing to accept communications through electronic means.

9. Is training provided?

Appropriate training is provided to all members.

10. Further information

Stateboards.ie has prepared a self-assessment questionnaire to help you decide if joining a State Board is for you. To access, click [here](#).

For more information on NMBI and our work, please visit our website www.nmbi.ie.

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