Summary

Meeting	Reference
22/01/2026	Medr/26/Min15

Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Board held on 22 January 2026 at the Cardiff and Vale College, Dumballs Road, Cardiff.

Present:
Board members:
Professor Dame Julie Lydon (Chair)
James Owen (Chief Executive)
Professor David Sweeney (Deputy Chair)
Professor Aaqil Ahmed
James Davies
Cerys Furlong
Jeff Greenidge
Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies
Rob Humphreys
Stephen Marston
Professor Chris Millward
Orla Tarn
Jayne Woods

Staff:
Dr Ewen Brierley (Director, Regulation) – item 8 only
Harriet Barnes (Director, Research, Innovation and Skills) – item 9 & 10 only
Rhian Edwards (Executive Director, Policy)
Geoff Hicks (Director, Development, Investment and Performance) – item 9 & 10 only
Francesca Hill (Chief Operating Officer) – items 1-6 only
Gareth Lanagan (Head of Investment and Monitoring) – item 9 & 10 only
Kieron Rees (Director, Learner Experience) – item 8 only
Steven Williams (Head of Board Secretariat and Corporate Planning)

Apologies:
Daniel Beard
Deio Owen
Estelle Hart

1. Welcome and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Interests were noted in addition to those already published on Medr's website.

2. Previous minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 16 October, 13 November and 11 December 2025 were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising and actions

3.1 The Board noted progress against actions arising from the previous meeting. It was agreed that a future session would be scheduled to consider Medr's strategic duty in relation to promoting a civic mission across the tertiary education sector.

Action: Medr Executive to bring forward proposals for a Board discussion on this topic.

4. Chair's report

4.1 The Board received an update from the Chair on external engagement and sector-wide developments. The Board discussed the importance of Medr contributing evidence to inform the future policy context in Wales and emphasised Medr's role in supporting positive outcomes across the tertiary education system.

4.2 The update was noted.

5. Update from Chairs of Committees

5.1 The Board received updates from the Chairs of its advisory committees on recent activity.

- The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee had reviewed the Annual Report and Accounts and considered sector financial issues.
- The People and Culture Committee planned to meet to set priorities for the coming year.
- The Quality Committee had continued discussions on quality frameworks and partnership working.
- The Research and Innovation Committee considered matters relating to the research and innovation landscape.

5.2 These updates were noted.

6. Chief Executive's report

6.1 The Board received the Chief Executive's report and discussed a range of strategic and regulatory matters, including sector sustainability, engagement with stakeholders, and progress on key programmes of work.

6.2 The Board noted the report.

7. New regulatory system

7.1 The Board considered an update on the outcomes of consultation on Medr's new regulatory system, including the proposed regulatory framework and next steps towards implementation.

7.2 The Board agreed an approach to finalising the regulatory system, including further detailed consideration by a sub-group of Board members, ahead of a recommendation being brought back to the Board.

Item exempt from publication - further detail is not published as it relates to information intended for future publication.

8. Advice from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

8.1 The Board considered advice from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, provided in its statutory role in advising Medr on the promotion of tertiary education through the medium of Welsh.

8.2 The Board approved Medr’s proposed response to the advice.

Further detail is not published as it relates to information intended for future publication.

9. Funding policy

9.1 The Board discussed Medr’s proposed approach to developing a future Funding Policy and funding methodology, including proposed governance arrangements and indicative timescales.

9.2 It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group would undertake detailed work and bring forward recommendations to the Board at a future meeting.

Detail is not published as it relates to policy development and future funding decisions.

10. Research and Innovation Funding Terms and Conditions

10.1 The Board approved the proposed approach to developing terms and conditions for research and innovation funding, including the development of additional, tailored provisions for relevant providers.

10.2 Authority was delegated to progress the development of draft terms and conditions for consultation.

10.3 Delegated authority to the Deputy Chair as Chair of the Research and Innovation Committee, Chair of the Regulation Task and Finish Group, and Chief Executive to finalise the draft terms and conditions for consultation.

11. There was no AOB.

12. The next Board meeting – 19 March 2026.

Papers provided for information:

13. The Board received unconfirmed minutes from its Research and Innovation Committee

14. The Board received unconfirmed minutes from its Quality Committee

15. The Board received unconfirmed minutes from its People and Culture Committee.

    The Committees are not public-facing and their minutes are therefore not published.

Afternoon session

16. The Learner Community at Cardiff and Vale College

16.1 The Medr Board attended a session at Cardiff and Vale College where it received a presentation from the College Group Principal, Sharon James-Evans on the diverse learning community at the College.

16.2 The Medr Board also had the opportunity to speak with learners about their experiences of studying in a further education College.

Items Exempt From publication

The Board considered a number of items which are not published as they relate to:

- information intended for future publication,
- live regulatory activity,
- commercially sensitive information, or
- matters where disclosure would not be in the public interest.