

Item:	DHI Board Meeting Minutes
Date and Time:	Thursday 19 th February 2026
Location:	Microsoft Teams
Chair:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Petra Wilson (Chair)
Visiting Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Thomas, DHI • Stuart McDowall, City of Glasgow College • Rachel Naysmith, GSA • John Murray, DHI
Present:	<p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof George Crooks OBE (member) Chief Executive Officer, DHI • Moira Mackenzie (member) Deputy CEO/ Director of Innovation, DHI • Jonathan Cameron (member) Deputy Director for Digital Health and Care, Scottish Government • Angus McCann (Member) Non-Exec Director • Flora MacLeod (member) Design Director, IBM UK • Charles Sweeney (member) Non- Exec Director • Prof Gordon Hush (member) Head of The School of Innovation and Technology, GSA • Prof Roma Maguire MBE (member), Deputy Associate Principal & Director Health and Care Futures, UoS <p>Attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janette Hughes (attendee) Head of Performance and Planning, DHI • Prof Duncan Graham (attendee) Associate Principal & Executive Dean of Science, UoS • Colin Brown (attending on behalf of Karen Reid), Head of Strategic Development, NES • Nicola Watt (attendee) Team Leader, Future Industries (Health), Scottish Enterprise • Fiona Bates (attendee) Senior Policy/ Analysis Officer, SFC (MS Teams) • Grant Reilly (attendee) Head of Communications and Marketing, DHI • Fiona Fraser (attendee) Associate Director, Innovation & Workforce Diversification, NES
Apologies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Matheson (member) Non- Exec Director
Board Secretary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley Sharp (attendee) Board Secretary / PA DHI

Item	Topic	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>PW welcomed everyone to today’s meeting and submitted apologies on behalf of John Matheson who was unable to attend. PW announced CB’s departure from the board, with Fiona Fraser stepping in as his replacement representing Karen Reid. CB explained that he is leaving his secondment from the civil service to NES at the end of April, prompting his departure from the Board. He reflected on his long-standing collaboration with the DHI and NES and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the team.</p> <p>Fiona Fraser introduced herself, highlighting her extensive experience with DHI and NES, her involvement in innovation and workforce diversification, and her ongoing projects with JH and MM.</p> <p>Members noted their appreciation of CB and welcomed FF.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Board agreed following the correction of some minor typos, that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate reflection of discussions.</p>	
3.	<p>DHI Action Log /Matters Arising</p> <p>GC indicated that the HIMSS trademark issue would be covered in his update today, and no other significant items were raised for review.</p>	
3.	<p>Chair’s Update</p> <p>PW updated colleagues on a recent visit to Helsinki on behalf of DHI along with JH.</p> <p>PW reported on the prominence of AI in healthcare discussions at the Radical Health event in Helsinki and noted the emergence of new EU legislation, such as the Digital Omnibus, which will impact digital health work.</p> <p>PW described the focus at Digital Health week in Athens on standards and interoperability, including new collaborations among SNOWMED, IHE, and HL7 with further developments expected at the Connectathon meeting in Brussels at the end of March.</p> <p>GC and JC discussed Scotland’s alignment with the European Health Data Space, referencing research on future approaches and the importance of engaging with EU opportunities. PW highlighted the ongoing debate on the multi-annual funding framework for Horizon Successor.</p> <p>JH and GC detailed DHI’s participation in international consortium meetings and knowledge exchange with partners in Canada, US, Middle East and Singapore, as well as the pursuit of EU Horizon opportunities with universities and partners.</p>	
4.	<p>CEO Update</p> <p>GC thanked colleagues for their input to the DHI response to the Consultation document on the merger of NES and NSS into Public Services Delivery. GC invited CB to update colleagues on developments to date.</p>	

	<p>CB explained that the new organisation, Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSDS) will be formed on 1st April 2026, subject to the Scottish Parliament’s consideration of the required Scottish Statutory Instruments being concluded. NES’s functions, duties and staff will transfer to the Common Services Agency operating as PSDS. It is expected that Karen Reid, currently CEO of NES will be confirmed as the inaugural CEO of PSDS (subject to the parliamentary processes referred to above). This follows an appointment process run by the Scottish Government. The transition will include a six-month period of stability, followed by organisational design and transformation.</p> <p>JC described the creation of sub-national groups (West and East) across health boards, each with digital leads and groups, to facilitate local digital health collaboration and engagement.</p> <p>CB and GC emphasised the significance of these changes for governance at national and subnational levels, referencing the Scottish Government guidance and Ministerial Direction referred to at the previous meeting of the DHI board.</p> <p>GC then provided an update on the ongoing trademark discussions with HIMSS regarding the use of the acronym DHI in their service offerings, which in their usage stands for Digital Health Indicator. These are progressing positively, with a coexistence arrangement likely to be agreed upon soon.</p> <p>GC also asked board members if they could provide SS with postal addresses so that the DHI business cards with QR codes could be sent out.</p> <p>GC also advised colleagues on the upcoming Digital Lifelines Scotland event on 18th March at Murrayfield, Edinburgh. Links for registration are provided via SS in today’s chat function.</p>	Board Members
5.	<p>Spotlight Session, Digital Skills and Micro Credentials</p> <p>JH introduced today’s guest attendees who presented on the development and rollout of digital skills and micro-credential modules for the health and care workforce in Moray.</p> <p>Jennifer Thomas, DHI, outlined the objectives of the Moray RC skills work, which include increasing digital skills, developing educational assets, and building a talent pipeline, with collaboration from over 30 organisations and several academic partners.</p> <p>Rachel Naysmith, GSA, described embedding a design innovation skills course, developed with DHI and Glasgow School of Art, which introduces health and social care staff to design innovation concepts through flexible, accessible online modules.</p> <p>Stuart McDowall, City of Glasgow College, presented the digital transformation business case model, which aims to equip staff with the skills to develop and implement digital transformation projects, including workshops, toolkits, and practical resources tailored to varying learner profiles.</p> <p>Discussion ensued and colleagues suggested SMcD incorporate commercial case, benefits language, and governance/sign-off process into the digital transformation business case module. SMcD also invited interested board members and relevant professionals to contribute practical examples and expertise to the digital business transformation business case module workshops. JC confirmed he was happy to contribute.</p>	

	<p>JT and JH explained that all modules will include feedback and evaluation mechanisms, with plans to baseline skills and track progress, and that discussions are underway to make the courses available nationally via platforms like Turas.</p> <p>CB and AMcC discussed the importance of integrating these modules into NES's broader workforce development strategy, including in relation to the rural and islands workforce, ensuring alignment with career development pathways and organisational needs. JT agreed to coordinate with Sanna Rimpilainen and Sarah-Anne Munoz from NES to include all developed digital skills modules on the Turas platform for wider access by health and care staff.</p>	JH/JT/SR
6.	<p>Innovate UK Weight Management Programme Submissions</p> <p>John Murray attended today's meeting and provided a comprehensive update on the Pan-Scottish submissions to the Innovate UK Obesity Pathway Programme.</p> <p>JM explained the three streams of the Innovate UK call, the mandatory inclusion of weight loss drugs and wraparound services, and the focus on digital enablement, behavioural support, and evaluation.</p> <p>JM advised that 4 proposals were submitted: North Lanarkshire (improving in-house capabilities and digital interventions), Grampian (primary care-based obesity medicine models with machine learning evaluation), Lothian (in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, focussing on both civilian and military populations), Ayrshire and Arran (community and primary care-based pathways with sustainability planning).</p> <p>JM presented possible funding outcomes for DHI, ranging from no awards to all four bids being successful, with potential additional income between £2.7m and £9.1m, depending on the scenario.</p> <p>FF and JM discussed the alignment with the national diabetes prevention initiatives, the need for clear navigation of available options, and the possibility of leveraging Innovate UK funding for a national approach if multiple bids are successful.</p>	
7.	<p>Life Sciences Strategy Update</p> <p>MM provided an in-depth update on the DHI's involvement in Scotland's national innovation cluster development and the refresh of Scotland's Life Sciences Strategy.</p> <p>MM described the establishment of the Strategic Industry Cluster Group (SICG), the development of a cluster policy blueprint led by Scottish Enterprise, and the identification of health and life sciences as a priority area with digital health as a recognised sub-sector.</p> <p>DHI was recognised as a de facto Cluster Management Organisation for digital health, participating in policy development, cluster accreditation (EUCLES), and the creation of resources such as the Clusters Scotland website and playbook.</p> <p>DHI has also contributed to the refresh of Scotland's Life Sciences Strategy through facilitating participatory design workshops, with the strategy now clarifying the relevant 7 sub-sectors including digital health, MedTech, pharmaceuticals, and the 'three As' (animal health, aggrotech and aquaculture). MM and other board members discussed the anticipated launch of the Scottish Clusters Scheme in 2026/2027, the potential for DHI to formally apply as the Digital Health CMO, and the importance of shared learning and collaboration with other clusters and industry.</p>	

	Standing Items – by exception only	
8.	<p>Finance and Governance Update MM presented the current financial position.</p> <p>MM reported a positive core balance, significant additionally funded income, and the current growth fund position, which is being held to underwrite fixed-term staff contracts pending grant awards.</p>	
9.	<p>Priority Action Areas – Introduction and Highlight Reports JH summarised progress on DHI’s priority action areas.</p> <p>JH confirmed that five priority action areas are on track, with one area (PAA5) on amber due to funding constraints, and highlighted the successful delivery of scholarships, research reports and international engagement activities. It was noted that although PAA6 is reported as amber, this is a reporting error as is reflecting maturing of the activity rather than issues.</p> <p>JH advised that recent project highlights include the launch of the Health Frontiers Technology Innovation Centre in partnership with Ulster University (Lead) and UHI, and DHI’s support for NHS 24’s business planning and roadmap for NHS Inform.</p>	
10.	<p>Corporate Risks and Issues Risk Register and Issues GC noted the closure of risks related to organisational structure and financial management, and the addition of new risks concerning the sustainability of the Moray Growth Deal and the impact fiscal challenges are having on university and college engagement.</p> <p>DG and FB provided context on the wider financial challenges facing universities and colleges, with the assurances from the SFC of ongoing support for DHI, recognising the challenges being encountered engaging some universities in significant funding opportunities due to current risk appetite levels.</p>	
11.	<p>AoB GC advised on the inclusion of the NHS Delivery consultation response and update for noting.</p>	
12.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 28th of May and will be held in Inovo Building, 121 George Street, Glasgow. Microsoft Teams will also be available for those unable to attend in person.</p> <p>JC and MM submitted apologies in advance of the next meeting as they will be on leave.</p>	