

Royal Irish Academy of Music

Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer
Chief Executive's Department
Dublin City Council
Civic Offices
Wood Quay
Dublin 8



12th September 2017

Dear Deirdre,

Many thanks to yourself and Mayor Mac Donncha for meeting with Chair of the Board of Governors of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), Dr. Dennis Jennings, and the Director, Deborah Kelleher earlier this month. I would be grateful if you could put the following proposal to your Protocol Committee for consideration.

At present, the RIAM Board has a membership of 24. Dublin City Council has six representatives, being the Lord Mayor and five Councillors, each Councillor nominated for a two-year term.

We are currently working with the Department of Education and Skills on compliance with the 2016 Code of Governance for State Bodies. We are out of step with best practice in the areas of board size, duration of Governors' appointments and recommended skillset. Additionally, we aspire to form a Board whose members engage actively in sub-committees and become more 'hands on' as regards involvement in progressing the ambitions of the RIAM.

The Academy is of the view that its current Board is too large and unwieldy and not in keeping with current corporate governance standards. The Board proposes to address this matter by a reduction in the number of representatives in some constituencies. In the case of Dublin City Council, the Board feels that a reduced representation of three members would be appropriate, being the Lord Mayor and two further representatives.

We value our link to Dublin City Council very much, and in keeping with our new plans for governance, we would like to have two DCC members who will bring expertise to their roles, keep lines of communication open between our institution and DCC, and be available to act on sub-committees to the Board. We would further like the Lord Mayor to become a 'Patron' of the RIAM and to consider special events such as 'Lord Mayor's Concerts' to celebrate the connection and emphasise Dublin's great musical history.

Ceol Acadamh
Ríoga na hÉireann

36-38 Westland Row,
Dublin 2

Tel: + 353-1-632 5300
Fax: + 353-1-662 2798
Email: info@riam.ie
Web: www.riam.ie

Once passed at a special meeting of the Board of Governors and a special meeting of members, application can then be made to the Charities Regulatory Authority for alteration to the constitution, as set out in clause 51. The constitution has been altered 13 times since 1889, and two of those alterations relate to Board membership, allowing for the Director and staff representatives to serve on the Board. Consequently, we do not anticipate any difficulty in amending the constitution, once agreement has been reached with all constituencies.

We hope the protocol committee might consider this. The RIAM has ambitious plans that includes a major new development and the eventual doubling of its student body with related outreach projects. Such substantial change needs a Board of Governors that can offer skills and availability to help the institution thrive.

If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Kelleher
RIAM Secretary