# Annex I: Template for letter of endorsement

[Header]

[Name of institution e.g. national competent authority]

[Date]

[Addressee (i.e. the applicant)]

This letter of endorsement is provided to the above-mentioned addressee (i.e. applicant) in accordance with the requirements of the “Call for applications for designation of an EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for public health in the field of <field>” (ref: EURL-PH-2023-xx), hereafter referred to as “the Invitation”.

I, undersigned, as representative of the national competent authority [name of national competent authority] of [name of country], confirm endorsement of the applicant [name of the applicant] submitting an application for EURL for public health in the field of <topic>.

By ticking the boxes below, I specifically confirm that the applicant:

Is based in an EU Member State or an EEA county

Plays an active role in a national public health microbiology system

Is impartial, free from any conflict of interest, and, in particular, not in a situation which may, directly or indirectly, affect the impartiality of their professional conduct as regards the exercise of their tasks as an EU reference laboratory;

Has, or has contractual access to, suitably qualified staff with adequate training in their area of competence;

Possesses, or has access to, the infrastructure, equipment and products necessary to carry out the tasks assigned to them;

Ensures that their staff and any contractually engaged staff have good knowledge of international standards and practices, and that the latest developments in research at national, Union and international levels are taken into account in their work;

Is equipped, or has access to, the necessary equipment to perform their tasks in emergency situations; and

Where relevant, is equipped to comply with relevant biosecurity standards.

[Signature, name(s) and function(s) of signatory, name of national competent authority represented]