

Correspondence 3.17  
Meeting – 15/12/2011



**Vocational Education Committee**

coiste zairmtoeachais chontae an Longfoirt



5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Mr. John McGuinness T.D.  
Chairman  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Dear Chairman

**Headquarter locations for merging Vocational Education Committees**

At a meeting of Co Longford VEC held on 28 November 2011 I was instructed by the Committee to write to you seeking an investigation into the decision made by the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Ruairi Quinn, T.D., regarding the Headquarter location of the Longford and Westmeath new VEC configuration.

At a special meeting of Co Longford VEC on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 the decision was debated at length. The committee is unanimously opposed to the decision to site the location of the Longford and Westmeath new VEC configuration in Mullingar and firmly believe that the Headquarter location should be in Longford.

The committee need to know what criteria was used in reaching this decision taking into account the fact that there is only a nominal rent of €20 per annum paid to the Office of Public Works for the Longford Head Office building compared to the rent paid by Westmeath VEC for their Head Office, which the Committee understands is in the region of €80,000 per annum and also having regard to the investment of almost of €2 million on the campus in Longford by the Department of Education and Skills in recent years.

The Committee is seeking transparency on this issue as it believes that on any reasonable value-for-money criterion the Headquarters should be situated in Longford.

The Committee would appreciate that you investigate this matter and looks forward to hearing from you in relation to this investigation.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Johnston  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Cllr. Alan Mitchell  
Chairperson Co. Longford VEC

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