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Mr John McGuinness T.D.
Chair,
Dáil Committee of Public Accounts,
Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9/1/12

Re: Dublin Fire Brigade Ambulance Service.

Dear Sir,

Our correspondence dated 1/12/10 & 7/10/11 as well as correspondence from the HSE dated 13/12/12 refers.

Having read the response from the HSE we are none the wiser as to any explanation to the inaccuracies that was in their presentation to the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) as well as the Public Accounts Committee itself. To explain, we set out below the points raised by us which in our opinion have not been addressed;

- The Dublin Ambulance Service Review (carried out by the HSE and Dublin City Council) referred to as not working in the CAG report (Sep 2009) was not given to the Unions until December 2009, so this point is inaccurate. Remember only the HSE briefed the CAG.
- The HSE by way of the Accounting Officer claimed that they had 10 stations of which only 4 are in the Dublin area; again you will recall that the report is on the Dublin Ambulance service and not Leinster so the point of 10 stations is disingenuous. Again an example of an inaccuracy in what was presented to your committee.
- The HSE claimed that they had 19 ambulances when another document states 14, another inaccuracy.

- Why did only one side of the provision of the ambulance service in Dublin give 'evidence' to the CAG, i.e. the HSE and not the The Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) as well.
- Why is the tax payer being asked to make payment for another *Advanced Medical Priority System*, which the HSE say will be a 'core change' to the ambulance service? The DFB has such a system for the ambulance service and they are accredited for this system which is in use every day of the week. Where's the core change?
- Why have no stakeholders taken part in any talks about a new control room? In December last the HSE organised a piece on the RTE 6pm news about the new control room, it was certainly news to the providers of the ambulance service in Dublin, i.e. members of the DFB.
- The Government policy is that of the 1993 Ambulance Review, who has changed this?
- Why have the recommendations in the HSE/DCC report not been (a) negotiated and (b) implemented?
- The 25% performance for ambulances responding within 8 minutes is for Leinster, what is the true figure for Dublin where the DFB respond, after all the report is about the Dublin Ambulance Service. The CAG report of 1997 stated the DFB were by far the best at responding.
- The HSE or indeed the DFB cannot use the previously used excuse of *Public Service Dispute* as preventing talks, as none exists.
- There have been several documents released by the HSE to its staff mentioning new work practices, yet no talks have occurred to date with the DFB (although we are referred to in these documents). The only feedback to date has been the RTE news which is alarming.
- Most importantly of all, will the tax payer be asked to recruit and train new staff for this HSE control room when in excess of 100 ambulance controllers are in the Dublin Fire Brigade presently - working in a state of the art control room. What will happen to these highly trained DFB personnel?

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony McDonnell
John Kidd