



PAC-R-239

**Correspondence 3.9
Meeting – 19/01/2012**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



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13th January 2012

Ms. Eimear Lavelle,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Dear Eimear,

I refer to correspondence dated the 5th December 2011 from John MacLoone concerning an article in the Irish Examiner which was forwarded to the HSE to prepare a note on the issues therein. I would first like to apologise to the Committee for the delay in responding to same. The following is a response from our Human Resources Directorate on the matters raised:-

The article contains an error in relation to the payments made to Mr. Pat Harvey. The Internal Audit report shows that €145,126 was paid to his company, Harwyn, and he received an additional €13,343 in travel and subsistence payments.

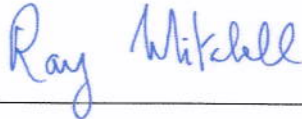
Mr. John Cooney, former CEO of the South Eastern Health Board, received €168,607 (not Mr. Harvey as stated in the article). This payment to Mr. Cooney relates to his participation on a panel of mediators / adjudicators which deal with grievances and disputes relating to terms and conditions of employment which arise between health service employers and hospital consultants as provided for under the Consultants Contract.

Following a review of the file in relation to the project on Managing Violence and Aggression, I wish to advise as follows: The Working Group on Managing Violence and Aggression in the Workplace was established in order to develop a standard policy for the HSE on managing violence in the workplace. While initially the Group was chaired by Mr. Brendan Mulligan, former Head of Industrial Relations in the HSE, the dynamic of the Group's work changed when two nurses were seriously assaulted in a knife attack in the mental health unit of Naas General Hospital. The issue of violence against health service staff attracted significant media attention following this incident. As a result of this near fatal attack it was decided that a greater focus and profile was required to oversee implementation of this important agenda. Accordingly Mr. Pat Harvey, retired CEO of the former North Western Health Board, was appointed as chair of the Group. The appointment of Mr. Harvey, who was mutually acceptable to both the HSE and the trade unions and he had the requisite knowledge and understanding of the health service

environment, went a considerable way towards demonstrating the seriousness with which management were taking the issue of tackling violence against staff in the health service and to restore public confidence in the capacity of the HSE to responds to such incidents. For the foregoing reasons, tenders were not sought and there is no evidence of any conflict of interest in Mr. Harvey's appointment to chair the Group.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Mitchell
Assistant National Director
Parliamentary & Regulatory Affairs Division