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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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24th January 2014

Ms. Niamh Maguire,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Dear Niamh,

I refer to recent correspondence from the Committee to Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director General and a copy of an attached anonymous letter concerning Stewarts Hospital Palmerstown.

Please find attached for the Committees attention a brief note from the Regional Director of Performance & Integration on the matter as requested.

If any further information is required please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Mitchell

Ray Mitchell
Assistant National Director
Parliamentary & Regulatory Affairs Division

Encl.

Briefing Note to Public Accounts Committee:

Reference: Anonymous correspondence regarding Stewarts Hospital

Response:-

BACKGROUND

With regard to Section 38 Providers, the HSE Director General (DG) last month called in the Chairpersons of all these providers to discuss, in general, various matters in relation to governance, and remuneration of senior staff within their organisations. As a follow on to this meeting, standard draft Compliance Statement/Corporate Governance documentation was issued to all Section 38 Providers and furthermore each HSE Regional Director of Performance & Integration was also requested to individually meet the Chairpersons of certain Providers. This was the beginning of a process with these Providers which is currently ongoing in each Region. Stewarts Hospital is a Section 38 Provider which is located in and funded by HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster. Accordingly, I have been in correspondence with them regarding this anonymous letter and I have met with them as part of the aforementioned process.

MATTERS RAISED IN THE ANONYMOUS LETTER

(1) CLINICAL DIRECTOR

The position of Medical Superintendent, as mentioned in the letter is taken to mean the current position of Clinical Director.

- **Allowances**

  The matter of all allowances that were paid to Senior Staff (including the Clinical Director) in Stewarts is being examined under the current process (see above) involving all relevant Section 38 Providers.

(2) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

- **Former CEO - Allowances**

  The matter of allowances paid to the former CEO is also being examined under the current process (as above) involving all relevant Section 38 Providers.

- **Former CEO - Consultancy Work**

  The present CEO of Stewarts has confirmed that while the possibility of recruiting the services of the former CEO on a consultancy basis was discussed and agreed by the Board of Stewarts, it did not go ahead. We have informed the present CEO that should any such proposals be mooted at some stage in the future in respect of the procurement of consultancy services, it must be done so in compliance with Public Procurement Law, Instructions, etc. in all respects.

▪ Current CEO - Appointment

At a meeting on 9th January 2014 with Stewarts, it was confirmed by Stewarts that it had no approval, and had not requested one, to fill the position of CEO. It also confirmed it did not have approval to fill this position at a specific rate of pay. Accordingly, the Chairperson has committed to making an application to the local HSE Area Manager in accordance with HSE HR Circular 1/2010 for approval, which is the correct procedure to be followed in these circumstances.

HSE DML will continue to work with Stewarts until all matters, including those indicated in the anonymous letter are satisfactorily resolved.

David Walsh
Regional Director of Performance & Integration
HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster

ENDS