



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Office of the Secretary General

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Ms Niamh Maguire

Committee Secretariat

Committee of Public Accounts

Leinster House

Dublin 2



29 January 2014

Dear Ms Maguire,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 3rd January 2014, together with enclosures, and to respond to the issues raised.

The concerns raised in the correspondence addressed to the Committee, centre principally, on the decision to agree to extend the term of office of the former CEO of Bord na gCon, Mr Adrian Neilan, by two years.

Mr Neilan was employed by Bord na gCon under a contract covering the period January 2007 – January 2014. The clause from Mr Neilan's contract which is quoted by Mr. Dillon, protected the Board against the possibility that its CEO might rely on any provision of the existing contract to claim an entitlement to an extension of that contract.

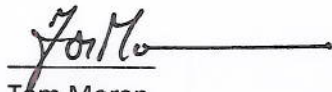
However, prior to the expiry of that contract, the Board of Bord na gCon submitted a business case to the Department seeking an extension of Mr Neilan's term as CEO for a period of two years on the basis of exceptional circumstances. These included, *inter alia*, implementation of Bord na gCon's Strategic Plan. The Board contended that the implementation of the plan required a level of continuity at the highest level in the organisation and that the knowledge, experience and skills of Adrian Neilan were crucial to effect these changes.

On that basis, and being mindful that the Department had announced its intention to undertake a review of certain matters relating to Bord na gCon, the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, agreed that the Board could offer Mr. Neilan a new contract. That contract was subject to new terms and conditions and was intended to cover a period of two years from the date of expiry of the previous contract. Ultimately Mr Neilan decided not to avail of this option and he departed from Bord na gCon on the expiry of his contract, 10th January 2014.

Finally, Mr Dillon requested a copy of the 2012 Bord na gCon Annual Report and Accounts. These accounts were received by the Department 10th December, 2013. It is anticipated that the Minister will present these accounts to Government in the near future, after which they will be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas and then published.

I trust I have clarified the matter raised by Mr Dillon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Moran', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Moran
Secretary General