



**Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí**  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna



**Office of the Secretary General**  
Department of Education and Skills

Ms. Margaret Falsey  
Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Our reference: S1511645

23 June, 2015

**Supply of follow-on information arising from PAC hearing of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Dear Ms Falsey,

I refer to your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 concerning information I undertook to supply to the Committee during the course of the hearing on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

**1. Remuneration for the individuals on the selection panel**

An independent selection panel was put in place on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to agree the procedures and carryout the selection process to identify a suitable public body to carry out the administration of student grants on a centralised basis.

The composition of the independent selection panel was as follows:

- i) Mr. Pat McLoughlin (Chair) - Chief Executive of the Irish Payment Services Organisation (former Chief Executive of the Eastern Health Board, chair of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group and a member of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes). Mr. McLoughlin was paid €613 (Gross Pay) plus €83.66 Travel and Subsistence.
- ii) Mr. Jim Duffy - Former Assistant Secretary at the Department of Finance with responsibility for the Centre for Management and Organisation Development (CMOD). Mr. Duffy was paid €1,314.45 (Gross Pay).
- iii) Mr. Gerry Kearney - Former Secretary General of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with significant experience with programme

management and also a former Assistant Secretary of the Revenue Commissioners. Mr. Kearney did not submit a claim and was not paid.

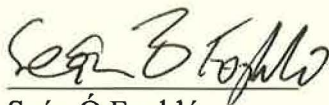
The members of the selection panel were chosen by reference to their relevant knowledge, their significant experience and expertise in the various elements that would be involved in the administration of student grants.

## **2. Average cost of grants for students.**

For the academic year 2014/15, the average maintenance grant paid to students by SUSI was €2,700. If the student contribution and fees (payable to institutions) are added to the maintenance figure, then the average grant paid by SUSI in 2014/15 was €4,300. Both averages have been rounded to the nearest €100.

I would be grateful if the follow-on information requested can be brought to the attention of the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Seán Ó Foghlú  
Secretary General