



RE: PAC Follow up

Neil McDermott

to:

PAC@oireachtas.ie

14/07/2017 16:37

Cc:

Andrew Brownlee, Graham Love

Hide Details

From: Neil McDermott <nmcdermott@hea.ie>

To: "PAC@oireachtas.ie" <PAC@oireachtas.ie>,

Cc: Andrew Brownlee <abrownlee@hea.ie>, Graham Love <glove@hea.ie>

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Margaret,

Just getting back to you in relation to the below.

As I mentioned we went out to a few institutions to gauge if the request as set out below was feasible and how long it might take. We got some responses back which outlined some of the difficulties there may be in gathering this information e.g. a lot of information is archived and would have to be retrieved. Much of the detailed information for the earlier years would be held locally on manual records or may not be available at all if the information is no longer required to be retained. In an average-sized university there might be 50,000 individual purchase order lines per annum with 150 individual buyers throughout the organisation initiating individual procurement transactions. As a consequence the scale of such a request might make it extremely difficult to meet and involve very significant resources.

We note that in its recently published report, the Committee recommended (Paragraph 128, p. 40) that "that third-level institutions should report annually to the Higher Education Authority on the engagement and associated costs of external consultancy firms contracted to carry out investigations and enquiries on internal matters".

Based on this recommendation we now propose to ask institutions:

- to report on the engagement and associated costs of all external consultancy firms and consultants appointed to carry out investigations and enquiries on internal matters going back 10 years. This information to include the nature of the work, value of contract, procurement method, etc.
- to report on the engagement and associated costs of legal firms and the nature of such services going back 10 years. This information to include the nature of the work, value of contract, procurement method, etc.

We would hope that this will allow for a detailed and accurate report by each institution on their expenditure on areas that the Committee has queried and challenged them on e.g. internal investigations, legal advice, etc.

In addition, we propose to incorporate the specific recommendation above into our annual governance reporting requirements for the future.

Regards,  
Neil

Neil McDermott  
System Funding

Higher Education Authority

Ph: 01-2317174



Higher Education Authority  
3 Shelbourne Buildings  
Crampton Avenue  
Shelbourne Road  
Dublin 4  
D04 C2Y6

**From:** Margaret Falsey [<mailto:Margaret.Falsey@Oireachtas.ie>] **On Behalf Of** PAC@oireachtas.ie

**Sent:** 28 June 2017 16:57

**To:** Neil McDermott <[nmcdermott@hea.ie](mailto:nmcdermott@hea.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: PAC Follow up

Hi Neil,

Having consulted with Deputy Cullinane, I can confirm that the following is requested

A ten year look back report of all contracts obtained by each Third Level Institution, broken down by service provider, amount of contract and the procurement method ( ie tender process , obtain three quotes)

I understand that this information will take time to collate.

If you require any further information please let me know.

Regards  
Margaret Falsey  
PAC Secretariat  
016183074

PAC32-I-438

Neil McDermott ---28/06/2017 09:17:16---Good morning Margaret, Just acknowledging receipt of your letter. Because we will have to go out to

From: Neil McDermott <[nmcdermott@hea.ie](mailto:nmcdermott@hea.ie)>  
To: "PAC@oireachtas.ie" <[PAC@oireachtas.ie](mailto:PAC@oireachtas.ie)>, Jacintha Healy <[jacintha@hea.ie](mailto:jacintha@hea.ie)>,  
Cc: Graham Love <[glove@hea.ie](mailto:glove@hea.ie)>, Andrew Brownlee <[abrownlee@hea.ie](mailto:abrownlee@hea.ie)>  
Date: 28/06/2017 09:17  
Subject: RE: PAC Follow up

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Good morning Margaret,

Just acknowledging receipt of your letter. Because we will have to go out to the sector to get this information, we won't be able to respond before the 30<sup>th</sup>.

In relation to the consultancy firms, just to avoid any confusion we would propose asking information in respect of the 'big four' consultancy firms i.e. Deloitte, KPMG, EY, PwC. Would this be OK?

Also I forwarded a copy of the procurement report on Friday – it's attached again.

Regards,  
Neil

**From:** Margaret Falsey [<mailto:Margaret.Falsey@Oireachtas.ie>] **On Behalf Of** [PAC@oireachtas.ie](mailto:PAC@oireachtas.ie)  
**Sent:** 27 June 2017 17:26  
**To:** Jacintha Healy <[jacintha@hea.ie](mailto:jacintha@hea.ie)>  
**Cc:** Neil McDermott <[nmcdermott@hea.ie](mailto:nmcdermott@hea.ie)>  
**Subject:** PAC Follow up

Good Afternoon,

I attach a letter outlining the follow up material requested following the PAC metering on 22 June 2017. I also attach the transcript for reference.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards  
Margaret Falsey  
PAC Secretariat  
016183074

*(See attached file: [PAC32-I-432] HEA- follow up meeting 22.06.2017.pdf)*

*(See attached file: Transcript 22.06.2017.pdf)*

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----- 0000+ on Fri, 23 Jun 2017 07:06:36 <[nmcdermott@hea.ie](mailto:nmcdermott@hea.ie)> Message from Neil McDermott -----

<[PAC@oireachtas.ie](mailto:PAC@oireachtas.ie)> "[PAC@oireachtas.ie](mailto:PAC@oireachtas.ie)":**To**

"Deborah Walsh" ,<[glove@hea.ie](mailto:glove@hea.ie)> Graham Love ,<[abrownlee@hea.ie](mailto:abrownlee@hea.ie)> Andrew Brownlee  
<[dwalsh@hea.ie](mailto:dwalsh@hea.ie)>:cc

HEA report on procurement practices in the HE sector: **Subject**

Good morning Margaret,

Please find attached a copy of a report on procurement practices that was commissioned by the HEA. It was mentioned at yesterday's meeting.

As Graham Love mentioned, this report was followed by a Higher Education Procurement Summit that took place on 9 May in Dublin Castle. It brought together key personnel within institutions together with the HEA, the Office of Government Procurement, the Education

Procurement Service and the Department of Education and Skills to share good practice, discuss the issues to be addressed and agree on the future approach to improving procurement practice moving forward.

Regards,  
Neil

Neil McDermott  
System Funding  
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[attachment "HEA Procurement Review Final Report 4 May 2017.pdf" deleted by Margaret Falsey/Staff/Oireachtas]

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