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Our Ref: TO'B/AOH
DG Ref: 440326

Mr. Sean Fleming TD
Chairperson
Committee of Public Accounts
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Fleming,

Thank you for your letter of 21 April 2017 with its enclosures.

As you clearly state there is no legal responsibility on the HSE in this matter. It is therefore not open to me or the HSE to discharge liabilities that do not legally arise.

To do so would have widespread implications and I do not contemplate that this position will change.

The issues that arose in Console were attributable to poor internal governance and financial controls.

Console was a private organisation with a wide range of activities that were not the subject of funding from the HSE and the HSE's responsibilities and powers in relation to the body were limited to the provision of funding in support of the delivery of agreed services. It is a matter of record that the HSE's internal audit processes played a central role in bringing issues to light. In any event, according to the law the resolution of liabilities is now a matter solely for the liquidator appointed by the Courts.

Yours sincerely,



Tony O'Brien
Director General