

8th December 2017

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

Dear Ms Falsey

Re: Tipperary ETB 2015 Financial Statements

I refer to your letter of 28th November requesting some information following on from our attendance at the Committee on 16th November last.

I am responding to each query as listed in your letter of 28th November:

1. Details of fees, travel and subsistence paid to all Board Members, Chief Executives and Directors have been supplied to the Department of Education and Skills. Our understanding is that the Department is compiling a response to this for the ETB Sector.
Please note that neither the Chief Executive nor the Directors are in receipt of any fees for interview attendance.
2. In relation to Ferryhouse School in Clonmel please note that this school operates within a residential campus run by TUSLA and the running costs of the school are paid by TUSLA. Tipperary ETB employs the staff in the school (teachers and SNA's) and pays the staff salaries and travel and subsistence. The total costs incurred by TETB in relation to Ferryhouse for the last full financial year (2016) were €828,627.
3. The matter of the savings made since the amalgamation of VEC's is being dealt with by the Department of Education and Skills.
4. While all ETB's have a number of performance measurements in place, these are not explicitly stated in terms of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). The Department of Education and Skills is currently working with ETBI to develop a number of KPI's for the sector.
5. To clarify in relation to the building in Thurles, this will be a Further Education and Training Centre for the county and is funded by SOLAS. This centre is being established in a leased premises at an annual rent of €345,000, including maintenance charges.

Fit-out costs will also be incurred to make the building suitable for the apprenticeship courses planned for the centre.

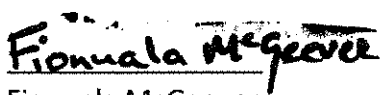
Currently, the estimated cost of the fit-out is €1.8m. The rent and fit-out costs are being funded by SOLAS.

The Board of TETB passed a resolution at its meeting on 4th April 2017 to enter this lease. The lease was also approved by the Department of Education and Skills on 18th July 2017.

6. Details of the Corporate Governance training provided to staff and to the Committee members is outlined in the attached appendix.

I trust that this addresses all of the additional information that you require. If you have any further queries do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fionuala McGeever". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Fionuala McGeever

Chief Executive

Appendix – Tipperary Education and Training Board

Corporate Governance Training and Conferences

- 14/04/2015 – Presentation on the implementation of the Code of Governance at ETB meeting.
- 23 & 24/09/2015 – ETBI Congress – covering workshops and presentations on Corporate Governance
- 30/09/2015 – Audit and Finance Committee inaugural meetings – training provided on the role of the Audit and Finance Committees by Mr. Matthew Ryan, IAU Auditor
- 12/10/2015 – ETB Members as Board of Management Chairpersons training in Horse & Jockey delivered by Clodagh Geraghty.
- 18/11/2015 – All ETB members plus BOM members training in Horse & Jockey – training delivered by Ms. Mary Finnegan Burke, Ms Eileen Condon, Mr. Kevin Langton, Mr. Damien Kennedy and Ms Bernie Harty who had completed the ETBI Board of Management 'Train the Trainer' course.
- 17/06/2016 – Competency Based Interviewing Training delivered by Barbara Gilligan
- 06/09/2016 – Code of Governance Audit Analysis at ETB meeting
- 21 & 22/09/2016 – ETBI Congress – including workshops and presentations on Corporate Governance
- 22/11/2016 – Audit and Finance Committee Training by Mr. Michael Mullarkey, IAU.
- 16/02/2017 – Audit and Finance Committee National Training event organised by DES/ETBI and hosted by LCETB
- 20/06/2017 - Audit and Finance Committee training by Ms Maureen Mulligan, Comptroller & Auditor General Office
- 28/07/2017 – Competency Based Interviewing Training delivered by Barbara Gilligan
- 20 & 21/09/2017 – ETBI Congress – including workshops and presentations on Corporate Governance