OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
The Office of Public Works

Mr. Pat Fannin,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: Update requested by the Public Accounts Committee

Dear Mr. Fannin,

I refer to your email requesting an update for the PAC on *"the examination of the issue regarding a lease based in Galway that was entered into in 2006 and which resulted in an overpayment"*. My response is outlined below.

The Commissioners have re-examined their files on the taking of the lease of a premises in Fairgreen, Galway for the Revenue Commissioners in 2006. It is apparent that the measurement used to calculate the annual rent was agreed by the then Commissioner Mr. David Byers. The annual rent being paid reflects the final agreement reached between the OPW and the Landlord and therefore the OPW are satisfied that an overpayment of rent has not occurred.

It should be noted that it is not uncommon to find the gross internal area measurement being used as the basis for the calculation of rent for lettings outside of Dublin.

Notwithstanding this, to ensure there is greater clarity around these issues in future the OPW are updating their Property Management Procedures to improve and strengthen them as necessary. This will ensure that all procedures are fit-for-purpose in relation to the new organisational structure, corporate governance, the approvals process and decision points and supported by key documentation. Consultation with the relevant internal stakeholders is ongoing in this regard.

As clarified by phone, information has already been supplied to the Committee which addresses the other items raised in your query.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Buckley,
Chairman

1 March 2019