



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Office of the Secretary General
Department of Education and Skills

Ms Éilis Fallon
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Ref: PAC32-I-1344

20th March 2019

Dear Ms. Fallon

Your letter dated 27th February 2019 refers.

KWETB sought permission from the Department to enter into a lease to rent Block E, Bray Civic Centre. As part of the Department's consideration of the matter it obtained advice of the Office of Public Works in relation to benchmarking rent amounts as the OPW had provided assistance to other State tenants in relation to renting other properties in the same complex. The Department was also aware that the rent being sought was discounted to reflect the fit-out costs of the building and that the landlord was providing a 6 month rent free period while the fit-out works were taking place. Based on this information the Department gave permission to KWETB to enter into a lease.

Please see attached as requested for the information of the Committee a copy of the Department's file in relation to the rental of Block E, Bray Civic Centre, Bray Co. Wicklow by Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB).

In relation to the information requested regarding leases, I understand that Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) will be providing the Committee with a list of all properties and land which the ETB is currently leasing and which the ETB has owned and sold as well as list of all leases and contracts which have been signed without Board approval.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify for the Committee that in a response to a question from Deputy Kate O'Connell I informed the Deputy that it would cost €3.2m to buy out the lease on Block E, Bray Civic Centre. The €3.2m was the cost of the fit-out of the building and the ETB have the option to buy the building outright for €4.5m at the end of year five of the lease.

Yours sincerely

Seán Ó Foghlú
Secretary General