



An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta  
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Oifig an Árd Rúnaí | Office of the Secretary General

Committee of Public Accounts

16 OCT 2019

Received

Ms Éilis Fallon  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
Kildare House  
Dublin 2

16 October

REF: PAC32-I-I561

Dear Ms Fallon,

I write regarding your letter of 1 October 2019 to Professor Mark W.J. Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

Prof Ferguson has brought the letter to the attention of this Department. I would like to explain the position regarding the late laying of accounts for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

In preparing to lay the 2018 SFI Annual Report and Accounts before the Oireachtas, it was discovered by my Department that there had been an administrative oversight in respect of the 2015-2017 reports. While those three reports had all been brought to Cabinet and noted, they were not subsequently laid before the Oireachtas using the correct procedure.

This was rectified in July 2019 when the Report and Accounts for the years concerned were all laid before the Oireachtas along with the 2018 report. I would like to apologise for this oversight and assure the Committee that the Department has taken steps to ensure such an oversight should not reoccur in the future.

I would also like to clarify that such matters are the responsibility of this Department, and that SFI had undertaken all the steps required of it in respect of each year.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Orlaigh Quinn

Secretary General