



12 August 2019

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

Dear Éilis,

With regard to your letter concerning the gender balance of the Health Budget Oversight group (PAC32-I-1513), it is important to note that there is a distinction between the official membership of the Budget Oversight Group and the wider group of officials who attend monthly Budget Oversight meetings. The Group itself is appointed *ex officio*, and the membership has been determined to ensure the essential senior posts from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Department of Health and the HSE are reflected in the membership of the Group. However, a number of other relevant officials from the HSE, Department of Health and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform attend and actively participate in the Budget Oversight meetings.

As per the full list of attendees at the six Budget Oversight Group meetings held between January and July 2019 (Appendix 1), there has consistently been a female participation rate of between 39% and 53%, with an average of 44%. This ensures that the essential balance of perspectives on budget oversight is present and informs the work of the Group.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is committed to championing an inclusive and diverse workforce that reflects modern Ireland and the people we serve. We strive to create a culture where all staff have equal access to opportunity and gender diversity is reflected at all levels. At present, females represent 51% of DPER's workforce and 46% of the senior management cohort (Assistant Principal and above). We will continue to support gender equality in our workplace to harness diverse perspectives and enhance creative problem solving.

I hope that this letter provides clarity to the Committee and reassures them that the attendance of, and participation in, the Budget Oversight meetings are almost at a level of gender parity.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Watt,
Secretary General

Appendix 1: Attendance of Budget Oversight Group Meetings, January to July 2019

31 January 2019 (43% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Liam Woods, Rosarii Mannion
D/ Health: Fiona Prendergast, Eoin Dunleavy, Colm O'Reardan
D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: David Moloney, Colin Menton, Barry O'Brien, Marie Mulvihill, Terry Jennings, Jessica Lawless, Niamh Duff, Áine Mannion

28 February 2019 (53% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Rosarii Mannion
D/ Health: Fiona Prendergast, Eoin Dunleavy, Colm O'Reardan, Colm Desmond
D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: David Moloney, Colin Menton, Barry O'Brien, Marie Mulvihill, Terry Jennings, Jessica Lawless, Niamh Duff, Áine Mannion, Deirdre Collins, Albert Morris

20 March 2019 (40% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Rosarii Mannion, Angela Fitzgerald
D/ Health: Colm O'Reardan, Colm Desmond, John O'Callaghan
D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: David Moloney, Colin Menton, Barry O'Brien, Marie Mulvihill, Terry Jennings, Niamh Duff, Áine Mannion, Deirdre Collins, Albert Morris

18 April 2019 (47% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Rosarii Mannion, Angela Fitzgerald, Colm Maddox
D/ Health: Colm O'Reardan, Colm Desmond, John O'Callaghan, Fiona Prendergast, Louise Carrigan,
D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: Ronnie Downes, Barry O'Brien, Marie Mulvihill, Áine Mannion, Deirdre Collins, Seán Prior, Albert Morris

27 May 2019 (44% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Rosarii Mannion, Angela Fitzgerald, Colm Maddox, Liam Woods
D/ Health: Colm O'Reardan, Colm Desmond, John O'Callaghan, Fiona Prendergast, Louise Carrigan,
D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: Ronnie Downes, Colin Menton Marie Mulvihill, Terry Jennings, Jessica Lawless, Deirdre Collins, Seán Prior, Albert Morris

2 July 2019 (39% Female Participation)

Health Service Executive: Stephen Mulvany, Rosarii Mannion, Angela Fitzgerald, Colm Maddox, David Walsh, Anne O'Connor

D/ Health: Colm O'Reardan, Colm Desmond, John O'Callaghan, Louise Carrigan

D/ Public Expenditure & Reform: Ronnie Downes, Marie Mulvihill, Terry Jennings, Jessica Lawless, Robert Scott, Deirdre Collins, Seán Prior, Albert Morris, Cian McCarthy.