

An Roinn Caiteachais
Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public
Expenditure and Reform



Ref: S0195 PAC33

17 February, 2021

Mr. Brian Stanley, T.D.,
Chairman,
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
D02 XR20

Dear Chairman

I refer to your correspondence (ref. above) of 9 February, 2021 addressed to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath, T.D., and copied to me concerning the post of Secretary General of the Department of Health.

As set out in my letter to you of 1 February, 2021, the selection process to recommend prospective candidates to Government for this post is being undertaken by the Top Level Appointments Committee (TLAC). The Government has a policy of open recruitment and the role of TLAC, as an independent body, is to support that and ensure that the recruitment and selection process for senior Civil Service posts is accessible to the widest pool of qualified candidates.

As set out in the earlier correspondence, the post of Secretary General of the Department of Health is a highly complex one with a very challenging brief, particularly so in the midst of a global pandemic. The open recruitment process has been underway since early January, following a Government decision, and it is essential that this is allowed to conclude in order to fill this post of strategic importance for the Government.

I would again take this opportunity to highlight that commentary on this matter should be cognisant of the fact that this recruitment process is ongoing and care must be taken to ensure that any commentary is not prejudicial to the outcome.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

David Moloney
Acting Secretary General