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Ms Eilis Fallon
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

9th March 2021

Ref: **SO215 PAC23**

Dear Ms Fallon

In response to your letter dated 18 February last.

The letter outlines that the Committee has decided to make enquiries on behalf of specific survivors in relation to their cases and request that Caranua provide the Committee with a substantive reply to the issues that have been raised.

From my review of the transcripts provided in your correspondence it appears that the Committee agreed it would query different matters with Caranua than set out in your letter. The Committee agreed that it would seek clarification on the €15,000 limit placed on applications made to Caranua. It was also agreed that the Committee would bring to Caranua's attention that it had obtained the consent of two survivors to raise the issues of their specific cases.

I can confirm that a review of the Caranua application process was completed in 2015 and led to the introduction by the Board of a maximum personal allocation (€15,000) on the value of services that survivors could receive. These changes were necessary to ensure that the Fund would be sustainable and available for all survivors who are eligible to apply for support funding.

The limit imposed by the Board was in keeping with the scope of the legislation and the Board's authority under Section 9 of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Act. The changes came into effect on 1 June 2016 and applied to every application received after this date.

In response to the second query agreed to by the Committee, Caranua accepts that the Committee has obtained the permission of two survivors to discuss their cases, though I would like to state that it was never contended otherwise by me on 17 December 2020. I did however, inform the Committee that I could not discuss individual cases.

I suggested that members of the Committee could discuss matters that were presenting as a concern after the hearing. I have received no request from any member to discuss matters subsequent to my attendance before the Committee. I also note from the transcript on 29 January 2021 that the

Caranua is the name of the
Residential Institutions Statutory Fund
Board: David O'Callaghan (Chair)
Patricia Carey, Damien Casey
Katherine Finn, Frances Harrington
Francis W. Treanor BL, Thomas Daly
Phyllis Morgan Fann, Richard Heeney

Committee had previously agreed that the consents and correspondence received from survivors would be provided to Caranua for a reply. I wish to advise that Caranua has not been provided with a copy of the correspondence referred to.

It is noted that the Committee intends to publish correspondence in respect of this matter. You might please note section 28(6) of the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2002 before any correspondence is published

Yours sincerely



Rachel Downes
Chief Executive Officer