



6 May 2021

Ms Éilis Fallon
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts

Ref: SO342 PAC33

Dear Ms Fallon,

I refer to your letter of 28 April in relation to a protected disclosure to the University of Limerick including matters relating to evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee. A formal written withdrawal of the protected disclosure was submitted to the second Protected Disclosures Group (PDG) by the individual who made the disclosure. This withdrawal was on the basis that matters contained in the disclosure were now dealt with to the individual's satisfaction following the McKenna Report. As part of their written withdrawal the individual confirmed that they had corrected the evidence given to the PAC in writing and had received an acknowledgement of their correspondence from the PAC.

Based on the foregoing and taking account of separate legal advice, the protected disclosure to which you refer was formally closed by the Protected Disclosures Group (PDG) who determined that:

- There had been a material change in the circumstances whereby the individual who made the disclosure has now withdrawn his disclosure and is of the view that an additional investigation is not required;
- The alleged disclosure, which remains only an allegation relates to an isolated incident and is not on-going in nature in terms of presenting any concern to the University's present or future obligations, and
- The PDG has made an assessment pursuant to Clause 8.1.3 of the Protected Disclosures Policy & Procedures and determined that an investigation should not proceed having considered all the circumstances.

Additionally, it should be noted that the allegation about the evidence to the PAC related to an individual who is no longer an employee of the University. Therefore, it would be difficult to progress the matter further from a University perspective.

The PDG will report on the outcome of its review of this second protected disclosure to the next meeting of the Governing Authority Audit & Risk Committee.

Yours sincerely

Mary Harney
Chancellor

University of Limerick,
Limerick, V94 T9PX,
Ireland.

Ollscoil Luimnigh,
Luimneach,
V94 T9PX, Éire.

+353 (0) 61 202020