



Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.
Cathaoirleach
Committee of Public Accounts
PAC@oireachtas.ie

Ref: S0383 PAC33

28 May 2021

Dear Cathaoirleach,

I refer to your correspondence of 24 May 2021 to Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Justice.

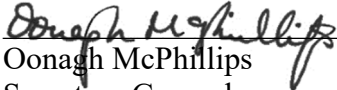
I can confirm that an independent company has been appointed to carry out an independent review of the operations of the Voluntary Mess Committees (VMC) in the Prisons. The work will commence shortly and is expected to take in the region of five to six months to complete.

The following matters will be examined as part of the review:

- VMC accounts including expenditure derived from the VMCs,
- Potential cross-subsidisation of catering goods between the main prisoner canteen /prison stores and the VMCs,
- Review the VMC financial processes and procedures and
- Review the system of governance for VMCs.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,


Oonagh McPhillips
Secretary General