

Éilis Fallon
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

17 June 2021

Ref: S0355 PAC33

Dear Ms Fallon,

With reference to correspondence from the Committee of Public Accounts, Ref: S0355 PAC33, requesting a response to the matters raised by an individual with regard to a contract between UCD and Tullow Oil, for the provision of short courses 'for the professional development of academics or technical professionals employed by the state, state related entities or regulatory bodies in the oil and gas industry'.

We note that assurances are sought that any partnerships, grants, funding or similar arrangements between publicly funded higher education institutions and third parties do not proceed counter the public interest, and the interests of institutions' students and staff, by contributing to the climate and biodiversity crises.

While it is a matter for the higher education institutions (HEIs) to ensure that they are conducting their activities consistent with statutory requirements, institutional statutes and the Codes of Governance, the HEA will write to UCD, and the HEIs generally, seeking confirmation that these governance requirements continue to be satisfied in the context of any associations with third parties and receipts of non-exchequer funding, specifically as these relate to climate change concerns. We will report back to the Committee with their responses.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Alan Wall
Chief Executive