



Ms Sarah Cremin
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2 D02 XR20

21 February 2022

Ref: S0753 PAC33

Re: Committee Meeting of Public Accounts on 20 January 2022

Dear Ms Cremin,

I refer to your letter of 07 February 2022 in relation to meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts on 20 January 2022, which considered correspondence dated 23 December 2021 in relation to payments under the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) and the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS).

The TWSS and EWSS were introduced to enable employers who expected to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions to receive support from the State in relation to wage costs. The primary objective of the schemes was to support the continuity of employment relationships over the initial period of Covid-19 related disruption.

The TWSS was provided for in section 28 of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (COVID-19) Act 2020 and expired on 31 August 2020. The TWSS was replaced by EWSS and provided for in section 28B of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (COVID-19) Act 2020, as amended. The EWSS remains in operation until 30 April 2022.

The legislation, introduced by the Minister for Finance, underpinning the schemes provided that they would be funded via the Department of Social Protection but would be administered by the Revenue Commissioners. Any policy decisions in relation to the schemes are a matter for the Minister for Finance and the Board of the Revenue Commissioners.

I rely on letters of assurances requested and received from the Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners that the appropriate controls are exercised in relation to the administration and payments made under both schemes.

I understand that the Revenue Commissioners is responding to you in relation to the administration aspect of TWSS and EWSS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read 'John Mc Keon', written over a horizontal line.

John Mc Keon
Secretary General