



Ms. Sarah Cremin,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2,
D02XR20.

23 November, 2022

Your Ref: S1053 PAC33

Dear Ms. Cremin,

I refer to your letter of 9 November, 2022, concerning correspondence received from an individual dated 20 September, 2022, in relation to compliance with Circulars regarding diplomatic postings at Irish Embassies.

I note that similar correspondence has been sent by the individual to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Department of Agriculture and the Marine, the Minister for Housing, and the Attorney General's Office. Responses are being issued via the ministerial correspondence system. The Department of Foreign Affairs is also in the process of addressing a Freedom of Information request from the individual on the same topic.

Due to related family law matters, the Department of Foreign Affairs would request that the Committee of Public Accounts does not publish the correspondence received from the individual.

For the information of the Committee of Public Accounts, it should be noted that the Department of Foreign Affairs facilitates the assignment of officers from other Government Departments to Ireland's diplomatic missions abroad as secondments. During the period of secondment to the Department of Foreign Affairs, officers from other Government Departments are treated in the same manner and receive the same supports as officers directly employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs, while also maintaining a connection with their parent, or originating, Department.

As with all assignments to Ireland's overseas missions, secondments are finite in duration and, on completion of such assignments, all obligations pertaining to seconded officers are re-assumed by their parent Department.

In addition, individuals may separately apply to work in international institutions abroad. In such cases, their parent Department may grant the individual special leave or a career break for the duration of their assignment to that international body. In such cases the



individual would not be subject to the procedures that would apply to diplomatic postings as they would not be working at Irish Embassies for the duration of their special leave or career break in that international body.

I confirm that this Department complies with HR processes and procedures in relation to the posting of diplomatic officers, including secondees, to Irish Embassies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Joe Hackett'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Hackett
Secretary General