

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

By email: PAC@oireachtas.ie

Your ref: S1164 PAC33

20 January 2023

Dear Ms Cremin,

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2023 seeking certain information following the meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts on 15 December 2022. I will address each of the Committee's queries in turn.

1. Clarification regarding who requested that the terms of the exit package for the former Chief Executive Officer of the IHRB be kept confidential and subject to a non-disclosure agreement, and the rationale for same;

It was observed at the meeting on 22 September 2022 that non-disclosure agreements are "an absolute standard feature of settlements that are made around termination of employment". In this case, it was mutually agreed between the Board of the IHRB and the former Chief Executive Officer that the terms of the CEO's retirement would be kept confidential in the interests of discretion and in light of the sensitivity of the situation.

2. To continue to provide quarterly updates regarding the installation of CCTV at racecourses;

All the additional civil, ducting, and electrical enabling works required for camera installations have been completed at each of the 25 racecourse stable yards encompassed by the project. There are now 398 cameras installed and working across twenty racecourses and final testing of the systems is currently underway. We anticipate that the remaining five tracks – Roscommon, Kilbeggan, Tipperary, Bellewstown and Listowel – will be completed between now and the end of February.

A small number of racecourses have building works that are either in progress, about to start or are in the planning process. Where CCTV upgrades are required consequently, these will be carried out at a future date when the redevelopments are completed.


3. An information note to include confirmation that CCTV has been and will be installed in stable yards and to provide details of who will have access to recordings and in what circumstances.

The CCTV system has been designed to cover all the stable doors in the stable yards in each of the 25 racecourses in Ireland, as well as inside the veterinary sampling unit. On the day of a race meeting, the IHRB security team will have the ability to view the live video feed from each camera. After a raceday, the recordings will be accessible to the IHRB's Chief Veterinary Officer and the Head of Licensing, Legal and Compliance for review in the event that an incident or allegation requires investigation.

Public information signs are to be erected in prominent locations in the areas covered by the cameras to advise people that a CCTV system is in operation and that the footage is being recorded.

I and my colleagues wish to thank the Committee for their interest in the integrity work of the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board as well as for their ongoing support of the horseracing industry. We look forward to engaging with the Committee further in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Darragh O'Loughlin
Chief Executive Officer