

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Ms Sarah Cremin
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House

Ref: S1169 PAC33

09 February 2023

Dear Ms Cremin

I refer to your letter of 27th January to Secretary General Gleeson, requesting an information note on arrangements for the transfer of pension liabilities in cases where staff in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine transfer to a semi-state body, for example, Coillte.

I wish to inform the Committee that Section 4 of the Superannuation and Pensions Act, 1963 provides for the transfer of pensionable service in the case of staff transfers between the Civil Service and “approved organisations”. This transfer of pensionable service between pre-existing public service pension schemes is generally facilitated through the Public Sector Transfer Network (PSTN) and is subject to a set of rules and eligibility criteria, primarily set out in Department of Finance Letter to Personnel Officers [24 April 1979](#) *Draft Transfer Scheme* and the Letter to Personnel Officers [30 January 1981](#) *Transfer of Service for Superannuation Purposes*.

The document [Public Sector Transfer Network \(PSTN\) List of Participants](#) provides a list of organisations designated as “approved organisations”. Coillte among many other public sector bodies is listed as an such an organisation. Thus, a person who is currently employed in a pensionable capacity in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine may transfer their pensionable service to Coillte when they move.

An Teach Talmhaíochta, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WK12
Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12



I hope this answers the Committee's question but please feel free to contact me if further clarification is required. I also include a link to the Public Service Pensions: [Useful Links](#) Section on www.gov.ie which contains further documentation on the transfer of pensionable service which I hope is of assistance to Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Padraig McMahon
Príomhoifigeach, Oifigeach Pearsanra
Principal Officer, Personnel Officer