



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí  
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath, DO2 WK12.  
Office of the Secretary General  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin, DO2 WK12.

**R1768 (ii) PAC33**

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᳚᳚<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Your Ref: **S01188 PAC33**

Dear Sam,

I refer to your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in relation to the meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts on Thursday 10 November 2022 at which the Rásaíocht Con Éireann (Greyhound Racing Ireland) Financial Statements 2021 were discussed.

During the meeting a number of issues were raised as set out in the questions below. Answers and information are provided immediately below the questions.

- 1. Information on dates and attendees of all meetings between the Department and Rásaíocht Con Éireann and how often they have discussed welfare at their Management Board meetings since the current Government came into office, and copies of any Management Board minutes relating to welfare within the greyhound industry (pg. 37).**

Please see below in tabular form details of all meetings between the Department and Rásaíocht Con Éireann from 2020 to date.

### Record of DAFM and RCÉ Meetings from 2020

<b>Ministerial Meetings with Rásaíocht Con Éireann</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
1 October 2020	Minister, Principal Officer. RCÉ: CEO, Chairperson
17 June 2021	Minister, Assistant Secretary General, Principal Officer. RCÉ: CEO, Chairperson
1 October 2021	Minister, Assistant Secretary General, Principal Officer RCÉ: CEO (interim), CFO, Chairperson
20 September 2022	Minister, Principal Officer. RCÉ: CEO (interim), Chairperson

<b>Sec Gen and Assist Sec Gen Meetings with Rásaíocht Con Éireann</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
7 February 2022	Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, Principal Officer RCÉ: CEO, Chairperson
7 November 2022	Assistant Secretary General, Principal Officer RCÉ: CEO (interim), Chairperson

<b>Liaison Meetings with Rásaíocht Con Éireann</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
10 June 2021 (Virtual)	DAFM: Principal Officer (PO), Assistant Principal Officer (AP), Higher Executive Officer (HEO), Executive Officer (EO) RCÉ: CEO, Deputy CEO, Veterinary Director, Director of Regulation, Director of Racing.
30 November 2021 (Virtual)	DAFM: PO, AP, HEO, EO (2) RCÉ: CEO (interim), CFO, Veterinary Director, Director of Regulation, Director of Racing
21 June 2022 (Headquarters Limerick)	DAFM: PO, AP, HEO, EO RCÉ: CEO, CFO, Director of Regulation, Director of Racing, Head of Compliance & Data Protection

1 February 2023 (Headquarters Limerick)	DAFM: PO, AP, HEO, EO RCÉ: CEO (interim), Director of Regulation, Director of Racing, Veterinary Director, Chief Commercial Officer, Interim Chief Financial Officer.
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**Discussion of welfare at DAFM Management Board meetings since the current Government came into office**

The matter of greyhound welfare was not an agenda item at the Management Board meetings or Minister Management Board meetings for any of the years referenced in your query.

Greyhound welfare was discussed at each of the meetings listed above.

**2. The last time any plans to change the stud book or its ownership were discussed by the Department (pgs. 50-51).**

This Department does not have any records of any discussions on this matter.

**3. A copy of the Attorney General's advice to the Department in relation to the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund (pg. 51).**

The advice referred to on p51 of the transcript was advice provided to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform by the Office of the Attorney General in September 2020 and forwarded to officials in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for their information. While this advice is privileged and cannot be released, the advice received indicated that if the intention of the Government is to provide financial support to the horse and greyhound sector, then the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund is the appropriate mechanism as mandated by the Oireachtas by way the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001.

I trust that this clarifies the matters raised in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Gleeson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brendan Gleeson  
Secretary General