

Response to PAC Query - Reference S1513 PAC33

The evidence as supplied by Mr Kelly does not change anything that I have said on the record. Throughout all committee hearings and in any other questioning, I have consistently said that I do not recall the detail who came up with the term “consultancy services” for the invoices that were raised through Astus. There were numerous conversations around the issue of raising the invoices, both internally with the Director General and with my assistant who was the main liaison with Astus in relation to raising of invoices, and externally with Noel Kelly. I cannot recollect the specific details of each individual conversation, including where the decision to use the term “consultancy services” was agreed.

As per the transcript supplied, Noel Kelly’s recollection is that it was me who advised him to put that particular wording on the invoices. I am not in a position to confirm or deny as I do not recollect the specific conversation to which he refers. To repeat, there were a number of conversations with him around this time.

Separately, in response to comments made by Deputy Catherine Murphy at the Public Accounts Committee on 12/10/2023, I would like to reiterate that the first time I was made aware that there was an issue in relation to the invoices was in March 2023 when the CFO advised me that they had been queried by the external auditors. I had previously explained to him that these invoices had been raised at the request of the DG and related to Ryan Tubridy. I advised him to talk to the DG if he required more information as to the context. No concerns were raised with me prior to the external audit.

Geraldine O’Leary - December 2023