



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Office of the Secretary General

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30th January 2023

Ms Catherine Smyth,  
Committee Secretariat,  
Dáil Committee of Public Accounts,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.  
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Ref: S1525 PAC33

Dear Catherine,

I refer to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in relation issues raised at the meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts on 30 November 2023 regarding an update in relation to Recommendation 2 of the Committee's report, "*Examination of the 2019 and 2020 Financial Statements for Horse Racing Ireland, and related financial matters*".

I wish to inform the Committee that the procurement process for a consultancy service to carry out an external review of this Department's governance of the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund, has been initiated. As per the aforementioned Recommendation this review will include whether the use of the fund to subsidise prize funds represents best value for money and the efficacy of the fund in ensuring the highest levels of animal welfare standards. It is anticipated that the review will commence shortly.

In relation to the first point of the Recommendation "*the social and economic impact of the fund, including its efficacy in supporting the development of both sectors, the broadest cohort of those involved in both sectors, and rural communities*" it was stated in the Minute from the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform submitted to the Public Accounts Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 that: "*the recommendation outlined in the above bullet point with regard to thoroughbred racing has been addressed via a recently published report commissioned by HRI Horse Racing Ireland's Social & Economic Impact Report 2023 ([hri.ie](http://hri.ie)) and the Economic and Financial Significance of the Greyhound Industry Report*

*produced in July 2021 by Jim Power Economics for Rásaíocht Con Éireann addresses this matter with regard to the greyhound industry."*

Yours sincerely,

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

Brendan Gleeson,

Secretary General/Accounting Officer