



PAC-R-264

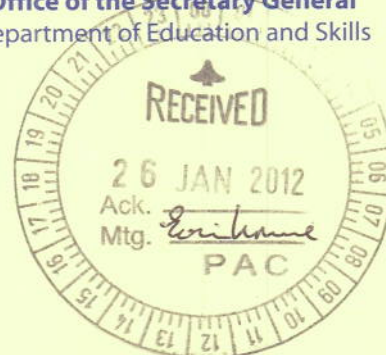
Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Correspondence 3.10
Meeting – 02/02/2012



Office of the Secretary General
Department of Education and Skills

Ms. Eimear Lavelle
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2



25 January 2012

Our Ref: S1109331

Dear Ms. Lavelle,

I refer to your letter of 14 November 2011 regarding correspondence received by the Committee of Public Accounts from an anonymous source, alleging a breach of the Croke Park Agreement in Cork College of Commerce.

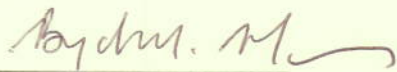
As you are aware, the Government decided to implement a recruitment and promotion moratorium in the public service with effect from 27 March 2009. Since that date, schools and VECs have been prohibited from filling posts of responsibility (Assistant Principal or Special Duties Teacher) by way of promotion or payment of an allowance for the performance of duties at a higher grade. Under the terms of the Croke Park Agreement, school management may reassign post holders to alternative responsibilities as required by the priorities and needs of the school.

City of Cork VEC has informed the Department that, in light of vacancies which had occurred in Assistant Principal posts as a result of the moratorium and in anticipation of the retirement of a number of postholders, the College of Commerce reviewed its post of responsibility structure. Some Assistant Principals were given revised duties (as provided for under the Croke Park Agreement) and a new title of "Department Head". The VEC have confirmed that no additional Assistant Principal posts were filled or created as a result of this review and that no such posts have been filled or created since the moratorium came into effect. The VEC has therefore acted in accordance with the moratorium and the Croke Park Agreement in relation to this issue.

The VEC has confirmed that some Special Duties Teachers received a reduction in teaching hours following the review. The VEC has confirmed that this was managed within their allocation.

My Department is still in discussions with City of Cork VEC in relation to the details and basis of this arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brigid M.' followed by a stylized flourish.

Brigid McManus
Secretary General