



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

PAC-R-270

Correspondence 3.16  
Meeting – 02/02/2012

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31<sup>st</sup> January 2012

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



Dear Eimear,

I refer to correspondence of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in relation to our attendance at the recent committee meeting on the Skill Programme and your request for a follow up information note on the learning and experienced achieved by those who travelled abroad on the SIPTU arranged trips.

The HSE commissioned Mr Turlough O'Sullivan to investigate the extent of foreign trips undertaken by HSE employees. In his report entitled "Matters related to foreign travel undertaken by HSE Employees and miscellaneous other governance issues – November 2010", which HSE submitted to the Committee as part of a range of documents in relation to the SKILL Programme Mr Turlough O Sullivan stated that "*from the evidence provided directly by those interviewed, the study visits seems to have been comprehensive and worthwhile*" and he was "*provided with itineraries covering the content of most of the trips and these seems comprehensive and business-like. These itineraries were in many cases organised by the trade union but in others there was collaboration between the unions with HSNPF and various government departments in organising content and personnel involvement.*"

This is the only information that the HSE holds in relation to the learning and experience achieved from these trips.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Mitchell  
Assistant National Director  
Parliamentary & Regulatory Affairs Division