



17 February 2012

Mr Ted Mc Enery,
Clerk to the Committee,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: Chapter 37 of the Comptroller & Auditor General's 2009 Annual Report (SKILL Programme) and Chapter 41 of the 2010 Annual Report (Partnership Arrangements in the Health Service)

Dear Mr Mc Enery

I refer to your letters of 11 and 13 January 2012 about the above.

I note you are writing separately to Mr Cathal Magee, CEO of the HSE, about the two payments in respect of the "Front Line Supervisors Programme" which were sanctioned by the Department of Health in July 2001 and April 2002 for the Office of Health Management on the basis that the funding would be provided through the Midland Health Board.

The Department has previously provided HSE internal audit with such papers as we have been able to locate on these sanctions. We will continue to give whatever support we can to the HSE to help it provide the necessary clarification to the Committee as soon as possible.

I am also enclosing for the information of the Committee a note outlining the funding system for health boards prior to 2005 along with copies of the letters of determination for the Midland Health Board for 2002 and 2003 and the papers we located on the July 2001 and April 2002 sanctions. Our papers show the relevant amounts were allocated by the Department to the Midland Health Board but, as the note explains, it would not be possible to identify the sums in question in any specific cash draw down because of the way health boards were funded.

I am also enclosing as requested further details about the overseas visits by officials of this Department which were arranged by a SIPTU official.

The first schedule summarises the visits by official (a total of eight officials) including five visits involving four officials in respect of which the Department received no claims.

The second schedule summarises each visit (a total of ten visits) including destination, purpose and outline of itinerary. I am also including additional documentation which the Department has in respect of each visit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'elkan', followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Michael Scanlan
Secretary General