

/bd

12<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Mr. John McGuinness TD  
Chairman  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
DUBLIN 2.

Office of the  
General Secretary  
Joe O'Flynn



Dear Deputy McGuinness,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in response to mine of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 regarding the HSE Skills Training Programme and the "SIPTU National Health and Local Authority Levy Fund Account".

I welcome your assurances that SIPTU will receive a fair hearing at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearing and will get the opportunity to address matters of concern as identified in my letter.

I acknowledge that the Comptroller & Auditor General raised the issue of his involvement in securing information relating to this matter at your meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012. However, that was following my letter to the secretary of the PAC dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 wherein I advised that we would forward the accounts directly to the Comptroller and Auditor General. We subsequently wrote to the Comptroller and Auditor General on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 confirming this position.


As you are aware, detailed accounts are being prepared for the Comptroller and Auditor General and we are confident that the report from that office will more than adequately cover all aspects of the income and expenditure transactions relating to the public monies that went through this account. Inaccurate assertions which pre-judge the outcome of the Comptroller and Auditor General's report, including references to specific amounts as contained in your letter and which have already been disputed are not helpful and, I suggest, should be avoided at this point in time.

I can assure you and the members of the Committee that every assistance will be given to the officials of the Comptroller and Auditor General regarding their enquiries into this matter and any information that SIPTU can provide will be furnished with a view to ensuring full accountability of the public funds involved.

Regarding the Grant Thornton Report, I have advised the secretary of the PAC as to the position in respect of this report as per my letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Notwithstanding this, we have requested Matt Merrigan to co-operate fully with the Comptroller and Auditor General, including providing full access to the Grant Thornton Report.

We welcome the publication of the correspondence between SIPTU and the PAC and confirm that your letter, together with this response, will be circulated within the Union.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joe O'Flynn  
**GENERAL SECRETARY.**

Ceardchumann Seirbhísí, Tionsclaíoch, Gairmiúil agus Teicniúil  
Services Industrial Professional & Technical Union

Office of the General Secretary • Liberty Hall, Dublin 1 • Tel: (353) 01 8586361 • Fax: (353) 01 8749466  
gensec@siptu.ie • www.siptu.ie