

22 March, 2012

Mr John McGuinness
Chairman
Public Accounts Committee
Houses of the Oireachtas
Leinster House
Dublin 2



**Re: 2010 Annual Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Appropriation Accounts:
Vote 25 Environment Heritage and Local Government - examined before the Public Accounts
Committee on Thursday, 15th March, 2012**

Dear Mr McGuinness

You requested clarification in regard to the costs of the Mahon Tribunal; specifically the salaries of the three judges on the Tribunal.

The Department of Public Expenditure & Reform can confirm that the salaries of the judges are paid from the Central Fund. Each of the three judges of the Tribunal is a Circuit Court Judge and receives a salary of €156,248 (reduced from €177,554 since 1 Jan 12) plus a special allowance, untaxed, of €9,058. The total amount paid in salary/allowances to the three judges since their appointments to the Tribunal on 24 October, 2002 to 15 March 2012 is €4,598,091.42.

The Tribunal commenced as a Sole Member Tribunal which was established by resolution of Dáil Éireann and appointed by Instrument of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government dated the 4th of November, 1997.

The composition of the Tribunal was altered to three members by statutory instrument dated the 24th October 2002 and Judges Alan P Mahon, Gerald B Keyes and Mary Faherty have served since then.

Marie McLaughlin
Principal Officer
Expenditure Policy Evaluation & Management