



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Correspondence 3A.6
Meeting – 20/09/2012



PAC-R-592

Oifig an Ard Rúnaí
Office of the Secretary General

18 July 2012

Mr. Ted McEnery,
Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.



Dear Mr. McEnery,

I refer to your letter of 15 June 2012 in relation to the proposed Waste to Energy facility at Poolbeg.

The Committee raised three specific points in relation to this matter.

Firstly, regarding the value of the Compulsory Purchase Orders, the details available to me in respect of the CPO process and land acquisition are as set out in my letter and accompanying table supplied to the Committee on 30 May 2012, and are those provided by the Dublin City Manager to the elected members of Dublin City Council in March. Under the CPO process, the value of land compulsorily acquired is the valuation as at the date of service of the notice to treat; where this valuation cannot be agreed, a process of arbitration can be entered into leading to a final determination. In the table provided with my letter of 30 May, a total of €43,785,135 is indicated in respect of "Land Acquisition" expenditure and this includes land purchases and associated costs. In this regard, the Committee may wish to note that the City Manager, in March this year, advised Councillors that while the Notices to Treat in relation to Shelly Banks Road site were issued in 2007, the arbitration process had not been finalised in one case, but it was expected to be concluded this year.

Secondly, in relation to a more detailed breakdown of the costs, the only further breakdown available to me relates to those costs which were funded through this Department. As set out in a briefing note I provided to the Committee last October, €7,561,841 was paid to the City Council in respect of planning and procurement costs associated with the facility. The funding concerned, which was provided over the period August 2001 to December 2005, related to client representative costs and fell under 2 categories; Procurement Process and Public Information Strategy. A total of €6,423,856 was paid to the Council in respect of the Procurement Process, which included activity such as analysis of existing data, workshops, preparation of an EIS scoping report and tendering/awarding of the contract. A total of €1,137,985



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was paid in respect of the Public Information Strategy, including the provision of a communications strategy and local communications coordinator as part of the engagement with the community.

Finally, in relation to the Local Government Audit Service report on the project, I have been advised by the Director of Audit that work is progressing as speedily as possible on this. While I understand that the volume of material relating to the project means that it would be very challenging for the Service to finalise the report as part of its audit of the Council's accounts by September, I wish to again emphasise to the Committee that I have been assured by the Director of Audit of his Service's commitment to the completion of the report at the earliest possible date.

It is my understanding, based on the current timeline associated with the facility, that a further report will be made by the City Manager to the elected members of Dublin City Council in September. I will ensure that this is then also made available to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Tallon
Accounting Officer