

RehabGroup

Investing in People, Changing Perspectives

Mr Ted McEnery
Clerk
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Wednesday, 09 April 2014

Dear Mr McEnery,

In advance of Rehab's attendance at the Public Accounts Committee tomorrow, Thursday, 10th April, we would like to clarify a number of matters which have been raised by the Committee.

1. Disclosure of the information provided by the HSE to the Clerk of the Committee in respect of salaries in RehabCare.

On 27th February, the HSE provided the Clerk of the Committee with details of returns made by both RehabCare and National Learning Network in respect of staff with salaries above Grade 8 of the Department of Health's consolidated pay scales or equivalent. This information was provided to the HSE for specific validation purposes only under our Service Level Agreement, following receipt of specific permission from the individuals affected.

The permission given extends only to that specific purpose, and we do not have consent for the information to be further distributed. We are, therefore, not in a position to comply with the PAC's request, received on the 14th March, to distribute the information provided by the HSE to the clerk of the Committee.

However, we believe that the HSE, our funders, will confirm that they are satisfied that the information provided is compliant with their guidelines.

On the 11th March 2014, we published details of all salaries within the Rehab Group over €65,000 in bands of €10,000 in line with best practice for charities' reporting in both the UK and Ireland. This demonstrates our commitment to disclosing remuneration details while also protecting the data protection rights of our employees. At the Committee meeting on 10th April we will provide additional information in relation to our plans to implement SORP.

We very much hope that the Committee can understand our position in this regard, and the sincere efforts to which we and our staff have gone to comply with the Committee's requests.

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2. Complete Eco Solutions

At the Public Accounts Committee meeting held on the 13th March, Deputy Simon Harris raised a question in relation to an invoice provided to the Committee, by a third party, which refers to four containers totalling 528 units. He queried the difference between this figure and the figure published in our letter of the 11th March which stated that a delivery of 252 coffins was received.

The figure of 252 units supplied by Rehab to the Committee is the correct figure. We can confirm that it was the original intention to bring in four containers of coffins totaling 528 units. A pro forma invoice was issued by Complete Eco Solutions Ltd . This was the invoice that is in the Committee's possession: Invoice No 4016, dated 4th January 2010 for €211,200 plus VAT of €44,352, totaling €255,552.

Rehab Enterprises Ltd received an initial consignment of two containers, totaling 252 units.

This was the initial delivery, and Rehab Enterprises Ltd management made a decision not to draw down the balance of the order up to a total of 528 units. This decision was made due to a poor performance with pilot business project.

An initial 33% deposit payment of total pro-forma invoice was paid to Complete Eco Solutions Ltd of €85,183. No further payment was ever made due to delays in goods received and non-compliance with specifications.

3. A note on the acceptance of hospitality by the executives of Rehab with specific reference to the use of helicopters

Matters relating to the acceptance of hospitality and the use of helicopters have been referred to in statements made by Mr John Kelly. Given that matters have been referred to An Garda Síochána by the Committee we are not in a position at this point in time to comment on these issues.

4. The management charges received by the Rehab Group from each of its subsidiaries and a breakdown of that charge specifically as regards the amount charged for the salaries of those who provide shared services.

This was requested this morning and is being prepared for provision to the Committee tomorrow.

5. Rehab Group Board minutes of the meeting of the 23 November 2009 and other meetings where Complete Eco Solutions Ltd were discussed.

This was requested this evening and will be provided to the Committee tomorrow.

We will address any further questions the Committee may have at the meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Kerr
Chairman