



Office of the

**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**

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Mr Daithi McKay
Chair
Committee for Finance and Personnel
Parliament Buildings
Belfast BT4 3XX

8 October 2015

Dear Daithi

Further to your letter of 24 September 2015, I am pleased to provide further information on the two points you raised.

Regarding the email alluded to by Mr Wells during his evidence from Mr David McCreedy to Dr Dara O'Hagan, I can confirm an email has been located. This was sent from Mr McCreedy to Mr Richard Bullick, Special Adviser to the First Minister as well as to Dr O'Hagan, and included an attachment which was marked 'strictly private and confidential'.

In the search of records I can confirm that Dr O'Hagan then forwarded this email to Mr Vincent Parker who was, at the time, another of my Special Advisers.

In the absence of any discussion or any official proposal relating to a possible draft Memorandum of Understanding on this issue from either the First Minister or Finance Minister, neither Dr O'Hagan nor Mr Parker had any reason to, and did not, bring it to my attention. This is why it did not appear in a search of the official documentation held by my office relating to NAMA.

Both emails have been provided to the Head of the Civil Service as part of his compilation of records held by Department on this issue which is, I understand, the subject of separate correspondence with your Committee.

Regarding communication relating to a meeting between the First Minister, the then Minister of Finance and Personnel, Simon Hamilton, and Minister Michael Noonan TD on 27 September 2013, my office has been unable to locate any records in relation to such a meeting. We have located an email from the Director of the CBI to Dr O'Hagan and Mr Bullick informing them Minister Noonan would be the guest speaker at the CBI's annual

lunch on 27 September, extending an invite to Ministers or Advisers to attend the lunch and hear the keynote address. It does not mention a meeting with the First and deputy First Ministers. I did not attend the lunch.

There is no record of an invitation to meet Mr Noonan being received by my office, and no advice or briefing was sought from officials by Private Office in relation to such a meeting. Mr Girvan alluded to a text message during our exchange at the Committee. Text messages are not recorded by my staff, but an invitation to me to participate in a meeting with a Minister from the Irish Government would have been subject to a paper trail recorded by my office.

I hope this provides sufficient clarification on the issues you raised.

I am copying this correspondence to the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister, to the First Minister and to the Head of the Civil Service.

Yours sincerely



MARTIN McGUINNESS MLA
deputy First Minister

