

Received via F&P public email on 08 October 2015 from Dr Dara O'Hagan

At the committee meeting on the 23 September 2015 reference was made to an e-mail I had been sent in my role as a Special Advisor to the deputy First Minister.

On checking through my records I can confirm that I received an email and an attachment from the Permanent Private Secretary to the First Minister, David McCreedy, on December 19, 2013.

I am attaching, for your information, the email and I am happy also to send you the attachment once I have a view from the NCA that they are content that this does not impact on their investigation.

The attachment was a draft letter from a third party. I spoke to a second advisor, Vincent Parker, and then forwarded the email and attachment to Mr. Parker on December 20, 2013. Our assessment was that if there was any proposal to formally pursue this approach, the deputy First Minister could not support it. No such proposal was made and no further action was taken.

Protocol dictates that any formal processing would require the submission of an Executive paper by DFP to OFMdFM for consideration by the Executive. This did not happen. No such submission was made.

Had such a submission been received, I would have brought the paper to the deputy First Minister's attention with a background briefing and a recommendation not to support it. This staged approach is standard procedure within the office of the deputy First Minister to ensure the best use of the deputy First Minister's time. This is a key element in the role of a Special Advisor given the volume of material that comes to the office. As DFP did not submit a formal paper for Executive consideration it was not necessary to bring this issue to the attention of the deputy First Minister.

I should point out that the draft document which I received is not the same document which is in the public domain as having been sent by the First Minister's office to NAMA on January 20, 2014.

For the information of the Committee, my only subsequent involvement with this issue was an information request I submitted at the request of the deputy First Minister to the DFP Minister on June 4 this year asking for details on how Cerberus was engaging with local businesses and whether the Executive could take steps to regulate or control the approach of Cerberus. This was in response to concerns which were being raised publicly about the approach of Cerberus.

Minister Foster responded to this request on 29 June in a written reply to the deputy First Minister.

I am also copying this letter to the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Dr. Dara O'Hagan

Dickson, Anne

From: McCreedy, David (OFMDFM)
Sent: 19 December 2013 16:47
To: Bullick, Richard; O'Hagan, Dara
Subject: NAMA Document
Attachments: 20131219165322017.pdf

NAMA doc, as discussed.

D.

DAVID McCREEDY
First Minister's Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast
BT4 3TT

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED][@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)