



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Denis McMahon
Accounting Officer
Department for Culture, Arts and Culture

BT4 3SQ

Room 371
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST
BT4 3XX
Tel: (028) 9052 1208
Fax: (028) 9052 0366
E: pac.committee@niassembly.gov.uk

20 October 2015

Dear Denis

Public Accounts Committee Evidence Session – Request for Follow Up Information

I wish to thank you, Mr Paul Sweeney, Mr Carson and Mrs Cynthia Smith for attending the Public Accounts Committee meeting on Wednesday, 7 October 2015. The meeting was extremely beneficial in providing the opportunity to discuss concerns and issues arising from the Audit Office report on the Northern Ireland Events Company (NIEC).

A number of points were raised during the session and I write to request some additional information:

- confirmation of when the Department's whistleblowing guidance was issued to NIEC;
- the tender details in relation to the appointment of Parity in respect of the recruitment of the Chief Executive of NIEC;
- available documentation in relation to the appointment of the Chief Executive of NIEC from the sifting process through to the appointment of the Chief Executive including details of those candidate that met the essential criteria and those that did not;
- clarification on whether candidates that met the essential criteria were 'sifted out' during the sifting stage of the process;
- all correspondence between NIEC and DCAL in relation to the recruitment process;
- the application and CV of Ms Janice McAleece;
- the submission to the Minister in relation to the appointment of the Chief Executive of NIEC;
- the letter of appointment from the Board to DCAL informing the department of the selection of Ms Janice McAleece;
- details on what due diligence checks were undertaken by the former Accounting Officer, Ms Aideen McGinley on Janice McAleece;

- a copy of the letter dated 9 December 2003 to Mr Carl Moore, DCAL from the Chair of NIEC on which candidates had come through the process;
- clarification on whether Ms Aideen McGinley or Mr Nigel Carson knew that Janice McAleece did not meet the essential criteria;
- clarification on whether the Accounting Officer training was a requirement and whether Ms McAleece attended the training; and
- confirmation that DCAL has verified whether Mr Meryvn Elder's signature is on the overdraft approval letter falsely submitted to DCAL and the outcome of this verification.

Please highlight in your response any redactions or restrictions on information that you provide to the Committee as this will be published as part of our inquiry.

If you are responding by email please use the email address above. I would request a response on the above issues by **3 November 2015**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michaela Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michaela Boyle
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee