

Sir Derek Jones KCB
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Dear Nick,

2nd February 2017

I wrote to you on 21 November 2016 undertaking to update the Committee on the outcome of the management action taken in respect of the £1.25m fruitless payment recorded in the 2015-16 Annual Accounts.

You will recall that, in accordance with employment law advice, the members of staff on the evaluation panel and members of staff in the management chain (who had responsibility for ensuring that this procurement exercise was run in accordance with the standards expected) were formally interviewed by the Deputy Director, HR and the Director of Governance to establish whether further action should be instigated, on an individual basis, in accordance with the Welsh Government's HR policies and procedures.

This process has now concluded and identified a number of collective and individual failings. These centre around poor information management and a lack of oversight which, ultimately, weakened the position of the Welsh Government not only in terms of public perception of the robustness and transparency of the procurement process, but at the point where the Welsh Government was required to defend itself in subsequent litigation proceedings. The Committee will wish to note that there is no evidence that anyone received personal gain from the procurement exercise.

Whilst you will understand that I am unable to comment on matters involving individual members of staff, I can inform the Committee that formal management action is now being progressed in relation to the staff members involved in accordance with employment law advice.

Yours,
Derek



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding