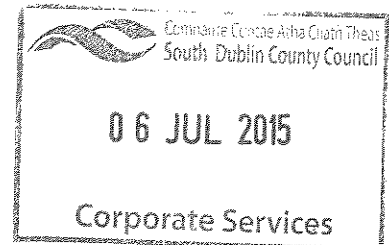


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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

Mr. Tom O'Neill
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Reference: M23/0615
Minister Reference: 0616161713

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald T.D., to refer to your letter dated 10th June 2015 regarding the mechanism established for the independent review of certain allegations of Garda misconduct, or inadequacies in the investigation of such allegations.

A panel consisting of two Senior and five Junior Counsel was established for the purpose. The counsel appointed to the panel were all selected on the basis of their experience of the criminal justice system.

The independent review is at an advanced stage and 320 cases have been referred to them. It was originally considered that counsel would complete their work in about ten to twelve weeks. However, a number of factors have contributed to the process taking longer than had been anticipated. In the first place the number of cases actually referred to the panel is more than had originally been anticipated. Furthermore, many of the cases have proved to be quite complex and require considerably more time to complete.

While the volume and complexity of cases has led to the review taking longer than originally anticipated, every reasonable effort is being made to respond to queries from individual complainants. It should also be noted that the process was the subject of regular debate in the Dáil and newspaper reporting.

The current position is that a significant number of recommendations have now been returned to the Department and the Minister wishes to start the process of writing to everyone concerned as soon as possible. In communicating with individuals, the Minister is anxious not only to set out the recommendation of counsel and her decision on it, but to outline as far as possible the reasons for the recommendation, subject to any legal constraints there may be.

In order to ensure that the independent nature of the review is maintained throughout, a former judicial figure will advise on the preparation of these letters. Retired High Court Judge Mr. Justice Roderick Murphy has agreed to undertake this task.

Your sincerely,



Chris Quattrociocchi
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice and Equality

02 July, 2015