

**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Denis McMahon**

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Our Ref: PSDFI/003/2024

From: Denis McMahon
Date: 10 January 2024
To: Tracey McCavigan

COVID-19 INQUIRY: MINISTERIAL DEVICES

1. You had asked me for a statement as to my recollection of events in relation to Ministerial devices – and specifically when I became aware of an issue in relation to them. You had contacted me knowing that my office keeps detailed timelines of significant issues as they arise. In the absence of a reference to devices, you felt it would be useful for me to produce a statement.
2. Since we spoke, my office has passed you the TEO Covid-19 timeline which we have kept for the purposes of ensuring we have access to the appropriate papers in the event of further enquiries from the Inquiry. You also noted the fact that my office tends to keep detailed records on all potentially significant issues.
3. Having checked the TEO Covid-19 timeline, there does not appear to be a record that could add to my recollections. When we spoke this morning, I said that my best recollection is of being informed of the issue on or around a trip to London to the beginning of the Module 1 Public Hearing. I subsequently checked my diary, and this Hearing happened on 13 June 2023.
4. As I explained, during that period I was very much focused on a forthcoming hearing, at which I would be giving evidence. I believe that I was first informed by the TEO Covid-19 Inquiry Team during that trip. (Subsequent discussions with Jane Holmes and Maria Hannon today, would support this recollection, although it may also have been discussed on another occasion, either shortly before or after that date.)
5. I clearly recall that, when I was informed, it was on the basis that investigations were underway by the TEO Covid-19 Inquiry Team to find out what had happened. Accordingly, I was provided with this information on the basis that,

when the facts had been established, the information would be promulgated as necessary. As the information was still being clarified and would be formally communicated when the facts had been established, I did not write a file note or put it on the TEO Covid-19 timeline.

6. I hope that this is helpful and happy to discuss as appropriate.

Personal Data

DR DENIS McMAHON
Dfl Permanent Secretary