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29 July 2010

Mr Colm McCarthy
Chair of Review Group on State Assets and Liabilities
Department of Finance
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Dear Colm

I refer to your letter of 23rd July in relation to the Review Group on State Assets and Liabilities.

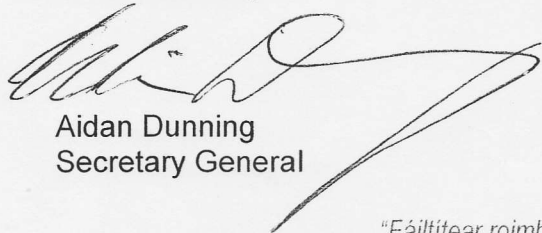
I note that you have written separately to the Commercial State Bodies under the aegis of this Department as listed in the appendix. For the record, the National Oil Reserves Agency should be excluded from this exercise as it is not a Commercial State Body.

More generally, I have discussed the contents of your letter with the Minister. He expects that all submissions by Commercial State Bodies in the context of the work of the Review Group should also be transmitted to this Department. The Department will be writing to the relevant state bodies to this effect. The Department will of course also make a submission in the matter as requested in your letter. In relation to other assets under the aegis of this Department, we will also address issues such as Spectrum, exploration and mining licences and inland fishery fees.

More generally the Minister has asked me to indicate that in his view there must be a strategic policy context which must inform the work and conclusions of the Group. This is particularly important in the Energy area. The Minister is also anxious to leverage the existence of the Group to advance potential synergies that are a priority to him, in particular in the development of bio-energy resources which has particular implications for Bord na Móna and Coillte.

Finally given the need to consult widely, prepare submissions and the wide scope of the terms of reference, we are of the view that 10th September is an extremely tight deadline for receipt of all submissions. The Department will work to meet this deadline but some latitude may be necessary.

Yours sincerely



Aidan Dunning
Secretary General

"Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge"