

13<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Mr Richard Pengelly  
Permanent Secretary  
DHSSPSNI

Dear Mr Pengelly,

I refer to the unanswered letter (attached) which I sent to [REDACTED] on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The purpose of the letter was to give [REDACTED] a clear opportunity to prove that the Belfast HSC Trust fully examined the 191 claims issued by [REDACTED] between December 2008 and May 2009.

It has always been my contention that the Trust refused to pay the claims as "payback" for my public criticism of the Trust's prompt payment performance on BBC Radio Ulster on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Indeed when I met [REDACTED] (former Finance Director) on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009, she could barely conceal her anger and contempt for this small business that had dared to challenge the poor payment record of the Trust.

[REDACTED] has been meticulous but equally contemptuous of our most recent claims. My letter was simply to ask why she didn't put the same effort and resources in to examining the original 191 claims. By refusing to answer she is confirming what everyone knows to be the truth. Trust officers including [REDACTED] decided not to pay the 191 claims in contravention of Managing Public Money NI. They clearly subverted the Late Payment legislation, and have used and abused public funds ever since to try and cover their behaviour.

Indeed [REDACTED] colleague Senior Finance Officer [REDACTED] admitted the lack of probity:

**Email of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] (Finance Director).**

*"As I said to you yesterday, we are not testing the interest charges".*

This is the sort of behaviour that the Deputy Secretary [REDACTED] must have been aware of when she gave her "assurance" to the Procurement Board on the 11th June 2014. Is that assurance acceptable to you as the Permanent Secretary of DHSSPS?

Some four months later and there is no sign of the "conclusion" promised by the former Permanent Secretary DFP [REDACTED] in his letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014. [REDACTED] the Chair of Belfast HSC Trust also seems incapable of replying to correspondence given that my letter to him of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (attached) also remains unanswered.

It is a shocking indictment of civil servants and public servants within DHSSPS that almost six years after this saga began no one can be found with the moral integrity and honesty to bring this to the promised conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]