



22 March 2018

Our Ref: 18/084/MOS

Neil McDonnell
CEO, ISME
17 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Mr McDonnell,

I refer to your letter dated 6th March 2018 in relation to the membership of the Personal Injuries Commission ("PIC"). I note your request for the Department of Finance to appoint a further representative to the PIC.

At the outset, I would like to say that as per the Report on the Cost of Motor Insurance the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation is the responsible body for overseeing the work of the Personal Injuries Commission (PIC) and has provided it with the necessary secretariat and support. The membership of the PIC, which includes representatives from the medical and legal professions, the insurance sector and government stakeholders, was appointed by the then Minister for Business Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD. In making these appointments, Minister O'Connor took great care in appointing a suitably independent minded Chair who was capable of looking impartially at the broad range of perspectives on this matter, thus explaining the appointment in this role of former President of the High Court, Mr Justice Nicholas Kearns. Neither my predecessor, the current Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, nor the Department of Finance had any role in this process.

I also understand that at your meeting with Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Ms Heather Humphreys TD on 22nd February ISME raised the issue of membership of the PIC, and that Minister Humphreys indicated that she is satisfied with the current PIC membership and has every confidence in Chairperson Kearns to consider all aspects of the issues being discussed and to provide an impartial view.

In conclusion, neither I nor the Department are in a position to appoint members to the PIC, which has been operating since January 2017 and is due to publish a second Report in the coming months. Furthermore, I am satisfied that the current makeup of the PIC reflects the interests of policyholders in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Michael D'Arcy TD
Minister of State for Financial Services and Insurance