

Law and Justice Committee hearing - Monday August 24

Response to Questions on Notice - Mr Mark Lennon

1. The decision by the Board to seek an increase in premiums was made before or after the impact of Covid 19 on the scheme was known?

The decision to increase premiums was made by management before COVID-19. The proposed premium filing for FY 2020/21 was submitted by icare to SIRA on 23 December 2019.

Management provided an update to the Board on the FY2020/21 premium filing submitted to SIRA in December 2019 at the Board meeting on 27 March 2020. On 1 May 2020, the Board received an update from management that SIRA had formally advised that the NI Premium Filing for FY2020/21 had not been rejected.

2. Once the government advised that it did not wish to proceed with the premium increase did the Board reverse its decision to seek an increase?

On 30 April 2020, management submitted a brief to the Treasurer to provide an update on the FY2020/21 NI Premium Filing submitted to SIRA. On 15 May 2020, the Treasurer signed the price increase briefing and hand wrote the following: *“Government has deferred and waived numerous taxes, levies, and fees. icare should do the same”*.

The Board was briefed later that day, by way of an out of session paper, of management’s intent to defer the filing. SIRA was advised in writing on 19 May 2020 – SIRA confirmed the pricing deferral on 29 June 2020.

3. Who was the external investigator that icare engaged to assist with the Project Stanley matter?

Gilbert and Tobin was the external investigator engaged by icare to assist with the Project Stanley matter.