

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. Richard Nash Governance Adviser—DFID Somalia British High Commission Nairobi

Subject: Parliamentary Review of the Security Sector Payroll Reform (SSPR) Project

Dear Richard,

The Federal Parliament of Somalia's Budget, Finance, Planning and Overview Committee has requested that Fartaag Research & Consulting review the Security Sector Payroll Reform (SSPR) project, including determining whether there has been any impropriety. As you know, the Somali Government feels strongly that this project has contributed to conflict within the Government, in part because the Government has largely been excluded from all aspects of the project's development and execution.

Consequently, after having reviewed the project deliverables, I would like to pose the following questions:

Questions of Impropriety

- 1. For the record, have you, Richard, ever personally benefitted materially or otherwise from the SSPR project?
- 2. Do you, Richard, have any knowledge or information pertaining to any material benefit received by Hodan Osman directly or indirectly from the SSPR project?
- 3. Did you, Richard, as the responsible programme officer, ever ensure that Dfid audited the expenditures and disbursements of Abyrint to safeguard that all taxpayer funds were spent on legitimate project costs?
- 4. Did you, Richard, authorize, approve or facilitate any payments to officials of the Federal Government of Somalia? If so, who were these individuals, what was the justification for the payments, and who provided you with the names of these individuals for payment?
- 5. Was Abyrint a privileged contractor on an irregular basis for the SSPR project? If so, who supported the contracting of Abyrint prior to any procurement procedure?

Questions of Government Exclusion

- 6. Who in the Federal Government of Somalia were you, Richard, talking to in order to obtain the Government's explicit support for the SSPR project? Were you talking to any authorized official of the Government? Was there any kind of letter of support for the SSPR project from the Government that you are able to provide?
- 7. Given the disagreements between Federal ministries that emerged over the SSPR project, did you, Richard, ever obtain the broad agreement of the stakeholders to be affected by the project? Did you, Richard, concede to taking sides in any internal disagreement within the Government?
- 8. What were the formal coordination procedures for the relevant ministries and security agencies that ensured the continued support of these stakeholders during the course of the SSPR project?
- 9. Since the deliverables of the SSPR project do not appear to include inputs from the Somali security sector, what steps were taken to account for the Government's views?
- 10. Were the terms of reference for the SSPR project drafted by an authorized official of the Government? Who was this person and on what basis were they representing the Government?
- 11. What measures were taken to ensure cooperation with other actors involved in payments to the security sector, including UNOPS, the UAE and Turkey, to avoid duplication?
- 12. Apparently, the stated objectives of the SSPR project were to establish a new payment system for the security sector and to verify who should be paid by that system. In your estimation, Richard, did the SSPR project achieve these objectives? If not, was Abyrint still paid the full project costs, amounting to upwards of \$1 million?

I will appreciate your responses before the Parliament's deadline for this review in July 2017.

Sincerely,

Abdirazak Fartaag

Chief Executive Officer

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