

CONFIDENTIAL



Monday, July 24, 2017

Mr. Ivar Strand  
Managing Partner  
Abyrint  
and  
Mr. Ian Hawley  
Managing Partner  
Abyrint

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

Dear Mr. Strand and Mr. Hawley,

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. In support of this review, the Defence Committee of Parliament has now established a Special Task Force on Security Sector Payroll Reform.

Pursuant to the Parliamentary review of the SSPR, dismissals of individuals in the Federal Government of Somalia are pending. On June 22, 2017, the CDF-SNA informed Somali Government agencies and the international community that the Adjutant General had been replaced.

Meanwhile, the Federal Parliament is currently considering hearings regarding the SSPR project, as well as ways and means of ensuring mutual accountability of aid projects.

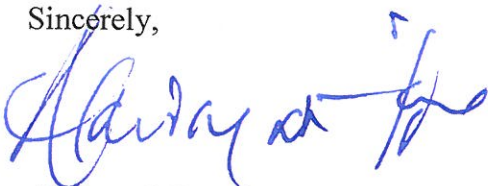
In order to help determine whether there have been any improper practices in the SSPR project, I would like to pose the following questions:

1. Upwards of \$1 million was provided to you by UK DFID and the European Union for the SSPR project in 2016-2017. The only products of this project that I can trace through the Ministries of Finance and Defence, and related agencies, are a series of PowerPoint presentations and broad outlines of payroll reform. According to the 2015 Terms of

- Reference triggering the SSPR project, a contractor was expected to establish a payroll system and undertake an audit of those individuals being paid. It seems that Abyrint has spent upwards of \$1 million generally talking about the issues, but not actually doing anything functional. Can you either point to any concrete reform measures you have helped achieve, or explain why it cost so much to talk about these issues?
2. By this letter, I am formally requesting on behalf of the Parliamentary review, that you provide the Abyrint budgets and actual expenditures for the SSPR project. Can you explain the inconsistency between the amount of donor funds received and the few pages with general and off-the-shelf content that you have provided to the Federal Government of Somalia?
  3. Can you explain why Hodan Osman, in October 2015, was adamant with donors that Abyrint should receive a contract for the SSPR project? What authority had she been given by the Federal Government of Somalia to make such a request? Are you aware of any written document authorizing Hodan Osman to make such a request?
  4. Why were you, Mr. Strand and Mr. Hawley, so confident that Abyrint would receive the SSPR project contract prior to any tendering process? Had you been given an assurance by either Hodan Osman and/or Richard Nash of UK DFID that Abyrint would receive this contract prior to any tendering process?
  5. For the record, did you provide Hodan Osman any material benefit from SSPR project funds, or any other project funds, in the past or since, resulting from her representations to donors on your behalf? How often has Hodan Osman demanded that Abyrint be given contracts from donors?
  6. For the record, did you provide Richard Nash with any material benefit from SSPR project funds?
  7. For the record, have you or any individual directly or indirectly associated with Abyrint provided any inducement, material benefit or benefit in kind to any official of the Federal Government of Somalia?
  8. Are you, Mr. Strand and Mr. Hawley, prepared to voluntarily appear before a Parliamentary hearing to explain any concerns of impropriety in the SSPR project, and specifically provide accounts for Abyrint expenditures?

I will appreciate your responses before the Parliament's extended deadline for this review in August 25, 2017.

Sincerely,



Abdirazak Fartaag  
Chief Executive Officer  
FRC | Fartaag Research & Consulting