

Statement by the AHCPS

The Irish civil service is recognised internationally as providing a high quality and dedicated delivery of public service. The mission of our civil service is rooted in principles of integrity, impartiality, effectiveness, equity and accountability – and a shared sense of duty is integral to the work of our members.

Our members are held to account on their performance and effectiveness on a regular basis and they routinely participate in fora such as Joint Oireachtas Committees accounting for how they discharge their duties.

The AHCPS has played an active role in the process of public sector reform and continues to make the case for further recruitment to the service and investment in those functions that are critical to the wellbeing of the State.

In line with the ethos of the public service we are committed to openness and transparency and, if invited to do so, our members will co-operate fully with the Charleton Inquiry.

However, we take issue with any use of broad brush characterisation of the work of the civil service ahead of the Inquiry. It does a huge disservice to the thousands of people who work on a daily basis to support Government, the public and the agencies of the State.

Civil servants are entitled to due process and should not be subjected to a witch hunt or a concerted campaign of denigration ahead of the Inquiry. Nor should they be scapegoated for the purposes of political expediency or in an attempt to overtly simplify complex issues and interactions.

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