I refer to the letter of 7th July from the Secretary General of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to the Secretary General of this Department seeking views on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport’s Statement of Strategy 2016 - 2019 and our response of 09/08/2016.

The Department of Justice and Equality has the following further observations to make:

"Gender Mainstreaming" has been embraced by both the European Union and the Council of Europe as a means towards realising gender equality. It involves a gender perspective to be integrated into all policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes from the preparation, design and implementation to the monitoring and evaluation with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination. This includes the collection of data broken down by gender (gender-disaggregated data) and monitored on an ongoing basis in order to inform future policy and bring about a fair and equal society. We would request that the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport incorporate this measure into their strategy statement.

The Department of Justice and Equality is a contributing Department to developing the process of budget and policy proofing as a means of advancing equality, reducing poverty and strengthening economic and
social rights. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform will ensure the institutional arrangements are in place to support equality and gender proofing in the independent fiscal and budget office and within key government departments and to draw on the expertise of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to support the proofing process. For Budget 2017 the Budget and Finance Committee will be tasked with looking at gender and equality proofing budget submissions and proposals with independent expertise (including the IHREC) to assist where necessary. We would request that as a key government department the Department of Tourism, Transport & Sport Strategy Statement will support this equality and gender proofing process.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation seeks to promote increased female representation on State Boards to 40%. We would request that due regard be given to this Government commitment by the Department of Tourism, Transport & Sport.

Regards,

John

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