



John Clendennen, T.D.
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12th March 2026

Dear Deputy Clendennen,

Further to Parliamentary Question 2440/26 of 13th January 2026 namely:

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to detail the annual spend on external consultants by her Department and its agencies in each of the past three years; the number of consultancy contracts, the largest individual consultancy engagements by value, and whether internal capacity-building or cost-benefit assessments were undertaken prior to engaging external consultants; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

My Department has maintained a register of contracts since 2021 and an examination of the register has identified the contracts set out in Appendix 1 as consultancies, within the generally accepted definition of the term. Please note that where no spend figure has been indicated in the table, no spend relating to the particular contract concerned has taken place to date.

In terms of capacity building or cost benefit assessments, prior to undertaking procurement for services of this nature, business units in the Department are required to carry out a business analysis, which would examine alternative approaches (such as identifying internal or existing resources or work which could be built upon) prior to taking on external expertise. Approval to proceed would only be given by senior management on foot of such analyses.

My Department is currently undertaking the development of a comprehensive online contracts database, with the work expected to be completed later in April 2026. Once the database goes live we will be gathering data on contract management in far greater granularity, which will greatly aid in meeting queries of this nature in the future.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Norma Foley', is written over a horizontal line.

Norma Foley TD.
Minister for Department of Children, Disability and Equality



Appendix 1

Department of Children, Disability and Equality - Consultancies

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Mazars	€66,450	Review of the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021.	Traveller and Roma, LGBTI+ Policy
CL Consulting	€38,900	Independent evaluation of the Dormant Accounts-funded Education Community Development Worker (ECDW) Scheme.	Traveller and Roma, LGBTI+ Policy
Provision of Policy Development Services	€75,500	An individual with a specialism in policy was needed to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities through the development and implementation of cross-government strategies and policy in furtherance of the UNCRPD. As such, a consultant with a specific background in disability was sought.	Disability and Equality Policy Unit
Bridgecastle Information Management Ltd t/a Castlebridge	€66,555	Data Protection Services to provide guidance to the Department on the application of data protection law to the Department's business practices	Information Management Unit
Trilateral Research Ltd	€80,925	Services to provide guidance to the Department in the form of data protection expertise to support the Department's data protection compliance obligations relating to the ROPA and RRS	Information Management Unit
Datatrails	€18,750	Provision of data protection expertise to support the processing of SARs on the transfer of the database and associated records from the Commission of Investigation.	Information Management Unit

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Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Dolores Sullivan	€45,375	Provision of expertise in legal research specifically in the context of an investigation under the Commission of Investigations Act 2004	Information Management Unit
Castlebridge	€62,965.31	Provision of data protection expert advice in relation to GDPR, in particular, but not limited to SARs, on receipt of the database and records from the Mother & Baby Home Commission of Inquiry	Information Management Unit
External Quality Audit - Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors	€1,500	Internal Audit Standards require periodic external review of Internal Audit Unit	Internal Audit
Professional Auditing Services - KOSI	€7,252.69	Provision of specialist expertise.	Internal Audit
Provision of Accounting, Audit and Financial Advisory Services - Mazars	€216,339	Provision of specialist expertise and to allow resource flexibility.	Internal Audit
Quality Matters	€25,300	Independent analysis and preparation of report of initial consultation for the National Centre for Research and Remembrance	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Morgane Conaty BL	€6,304	Preparation of report for the National Centre Legal and Legislative subgroup	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Niamh McCullagh	€11,586.83	Specialist Technical Advisor on the Institutional Burials Bill	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Geoffrey Shannon	€10,000	Preparation of report by child law expert about collecting DNA samples from survivors and relatives associated with former Mother and Baby institution in Tuam	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Indecon	€49,500.00	Requirement for an independent analysis	Adoption Policy Unit
Maynooth University, Centre for Effective Services	€110,213.80	Academic review of the provision of home visiting services in Ireland.	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Orla Doyle Research	€3,902.44	Academic research to build an economic case for the investing of home visiting services in Ireland	Parenting Support Policy Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Orla Doyle Research	€3,902.44	Presentations and consultancy on the case for further economic investment of home visiting in Ireland	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Sandra Roe Research	€3,658.55	Research services in relation to consultations with children and young people experiencing kinship care	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Dr Anne Marie Bennet, Triinity College, Dublin	€6,884.55	Research to inform the design of Supporting Parents: A National Policy of Parenting Support Services	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Dr Maria Herron and Deirdre Fulleton	€6,000	Research to inform the design of Supporting Parents: A National Policy of Parenting Support Services	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Sandra Roe Research	€4,959.35	Consultation with children to inform the design of supporting parents a national policy of parenting support services	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Insights health and social research	€3,414.64	A rapid review of national and international parenting support practices to inform the design of supporting parents: a national policy of parenting support services	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Trinity College	€1,299.94	Rapid Review on Effective Mechanisms of Information Delivery to Parents to inform the design of supporting parents: a national policy of parenting support services	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Grainne Hicky and Yvonne Lecky	€14,578.05	Academic review of Irish parents' experiences of support and parenting support service	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Early Intervention Foundation/Foundations UK	€218,346.35	Research and development of the What Works Ireland Evidence Hub	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Centre for Effective Services	€97,520.33	Independent review of the Children and Young People's Service Initiative	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Anthony Douglas Consultancy Ltd	€108,800	Outsourcing was required for consultancy services related to the establishment of the Guardian ad litem National service, including the development of the operating model, workforce strategy, practice guidance, and transition plan for the service, where specific expertise in relation to Guardian ad litem services were needed. Following an open procurement process, Anthony Douglas Ltd was contracted. Anthony	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
		Douglas is the former chief executive of Cafcass UK, the Children and Family Support Service.	
UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, Institute for Life Course and Society, NUI Galway.	€19,856.18	Outsourcing was required for a review of international experiences relating to the implementation and operation of a statutory duty for interagency co-ordination and collaboration to support the protection and welfare of children.	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit
Insights Health and Social Research	€8,200	Outsourcing required for provision of a report into the findings of a consultation with children and young people on their experience of interventions under the Child Care Act 1991; and, a summary desk review of the evaluation of Tusla's Children's Participation Work Package under Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Programme.	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit
Services of HR consultant Sile O'Donnell for the People Strategy Sub Group	€8,085	Expertise and specialist knowledge not available in house	Human Resources
Insights Health and Social Research. 24/02/2021	€3,495.94	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Insights Health and Social Research. Aug/Oct 2021	€15,284.55	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Deirdre Fullerton, Insights Health and Social Research. Nov. 2023	€4,634.15	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Coyne BMA Enterprises Limited t/a Coyne Research. Aug-24	€2,550	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Tilting the Lens Limited. Sept-Nov 2024	€14,700	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Coyne BMA Enterprises Limited t/a Coyne Research. Nov. 2024- Jan. 2025	€3,400	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Contact centre expert to carry out a detailed review of an SRFT specification document for contact centre and business processing services prior to issue to the market	€19,360.55	Contact centre expertise required which was not available internally.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
Contact centre expert contact for the tender evaluation panel of an SRFT, and Programme Board Advice	€29,130.89	Contact centre expertise required which was not available internally.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
IT expert contact for the tender evaluation panel of an SRFT.	€4,750	Internal IT Department did not have resources available for time commitment required.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
Financial Governance Advice and Expertise for MBIPS	€2,725	Independent or specialised advice was required.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
Mr Jim Halley- Services in relation to the Collaborative Forum of former residents of Mother and Baby Homes	€11,200	It was required that the services provided were independent of the Department	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Mr George Maybury - Services provided in relation to drafting and editing the Collaborative Forum Evaluation Report Nov 2022	€2,425	The CF Evaluation Report was independent of the Department	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
Ernst and Young Business Advisory Services	€126,332	The terms of reference of the Expert Negotiator with relevant Religious Bodies provided for an independent financial assessment of the resources of each religious body. This was considered to be a crucial element of the negotiations in order to ground any proposed contributions in a transparent and objective assessment process.	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
OAK conflict dynamics ltd	€43,050	An independent consultation with former residents of Mother and Baby Homes and County Homes was required to inform the government Interdepartmental Group IDG to develop detailed and costed proposals for a Restorative Recognition Scheme.	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
Bearing Point - Learning Needs Analysis - Project Charter	€104,900	Provision of L&D Analysis to support staff in the delivery of the department's remit	Learning & Development
Harvest Resources Ltd - Learning and Development Advice	€35,267	Design of Mentoring Programme	Learning & Development
Research Matters	€4,999	Requirement for specialist advice on preparing an RFT for longitudinal research	Adoption and Mother and Baby Homes Research and Evaluation Unit
NALA	€1,800	Requirement for specialist advice on child-friendly wording	Adoption and Mother and Baby Homes Research and Evaluation Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Murray Consultants	€45,582.18	Strategic advice and consultation for managing the Ukraine response.	Communications
TUD		CFT 5939656 Provision of service to review and update Diversity, Equality and Inclusion guidelines, training and resources for Early Childhood Care (ELC), and School Age Childcare (SAC) educators and providers.	Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare - Access and Inclusion
Multi Lot Contract: Lot 1 : Expleo (€400,000x4) Lot 2 : Clarion Consulting (€400,000x4) Lot 3 : SP3 (€200,000x4)		CFT 5637046: The provision of (1) Business Analysis, Optimisation and Testing Services, (2) ICT Project Management Support Services and (3) Project Governance Support and Training Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery
Excello		Financial Modelling for NCS & ECCE EY schemes	Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare - Finance & Compliance
Ernst and Young	€46,010.00	OGP SRFT 6054910 Implementation Support for the Guardian ad litem National Service under Lot 13: Multi-Disciplinary Services Estimated Contract Value equal to or in excess of €140,000, of the Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Business, Management and ICT Consultancy Services RFT 206674 - PAS122F	Guardian ad Litem National Service
Child and Youth Friendly Governance Project		RFQ for the Development of Training Content for an introductory eLearnng course on Children and Young People's rights	Participation, Play and Recreation Unit
Fitzpatrick Associates	€61,807.05	National Centre for Research and Remembrance - the OPW engaged an economist to prepare a business case on behalf of the Department, the spend will be incurred by the Department	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
University College Cork	€48,913.00	Review of Ireland's legislative compliance with the UNCRC	Child Rights Policy Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Derilinx	€59,600.00	External services required to conduct a Data Inventory Assessment and Data Maturity Assessment, to inform direction of Data Strategy.	Data and Analytics Unit
Ernst and Young	€207,561.00	CFT 5184406 Project Plan for the establishment of Guardian ad-litem National Service under OGP Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Business, Management and ICT Consultancy Services RFT 206674 PAS122F Lot 3. It was an SRFT <€140,000 and extended to 50% of original value under section 187 of OGP Goods and Services Guidelines v3. This contract is now exhausted.	Guardian ad Litem National Service
Provision of Policy Development Services (2025)		An individual with a specialism in policy was needed to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities through the development and implementation of cross-government strategies and policy in furtherance of the UNCRPD. As such, a consultant with a specific background in disability was sought.	Disability and Equality Policy Unit
Nexus Research	€23,250.00	Development of a standardised approach to collection of parenting support data nationally	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer (2021)	€14,350.00	Research specialist information in the areas of child protection and welfare and children in care	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer (2022)	€45,339.00	Research specialist information in the areas of child protection and welfare and children in care	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer (2023)	€4,458.75	Research specialist information in the areas of child protection and welfare and children in care	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Harewood Consultancy and University of Lancashire, (Dormant Accounts - currently ongoing)	€49,755.00	Research and summative evaluation of Barnahaus Ireland. Pilot Project Appraisal.	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Bruce Adamson		Independent expert to prepare Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on post COVID-19 wellbeing review project methodology.	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Quality Matters CLG	€0.00	Provision of consultancy services to carry out a review of the operation of the services established by the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022	Adoption Policy Unit
Forvis Mazars	€8,617.74	Provision of data protection expertise and consultancy services	Corporate Governance & Strategic Coordination Unit
Lucy Micheal Research, Training and Consultancy	€37,800.00	Research expertise required to progress an evidence review on international best practice in personal assistance service provision to inform future policy development.	Disability Day Services Unit
Irish Centre for Diversity	€11,500.00	Development of Staff Survey, Analysis Report and EDI Strategy Support	Learning & Development
Eithne Fitzgerald	€94,818.77	Disability Policy Analysis Expertise and Analysis Services	Disability Finance and Reform Unit
SP3 Services (2022-2025)	€49,638.00	ICT Project Management and Support Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery Unit
SP3 Services (2025-)	€38,475.00	ICT Project Management and Support Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery Unit
Baker Tilly - Business Analysis - 2021	€18,000.00	External Review	Strategic Business Change
IPA - Support Consultations on the establishment of Project Management Office - 2024	€600.00	External Experts	Strategic Business Change

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Anna Connolly Work Frontiers - Mentoring Services and Document Review - 2025-2026	€5,400.00	Business Analysis	Strategic Business Change
Dr. Angela Palmer 2021	€15,150.00	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer 2022	€45,338.50	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer 2023	€65,188.32	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer 2024	€71,170.90	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer 2025	€3,473.00	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Satya Brink	€20,540.00	Requirement for specialist expertise on longitudinal research	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Ann Sanson	€7,234.25	Requirement for specialist expertise on longitudinal research	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Institute of Public Administration (IPA)		To provide consultancy services and project management expertise to the GAL Executive Office Project Team	Child Rights Policy Unit
Foroige	€7,013.15	National Youth Assembly consultations for National Strategy for Women and Girls	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
RGH Consulting Ltd.	€2,000.00	Communications advice to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Infopulse Europe GMBH	€14,179.00	Business Process Optimisation process for the development of the gender pay gap portal	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Women's Aid	€124,200.31	Employer supports for Domestic Violence Leave	Equality and Gender Equality Unit

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
IPSOS	€129,211.51	Migrant Integration Strategy and National Women and Girls Strategy Consultancy	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Centre for Effective Studies	€37,150.00	Study to evaluate the implementation of 3 Equality Strategies - final installment (Previous payments made by DoJE prior to ToF)	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
UCC	€49,200.00	Research for workplace supports for pregnancy loss under 24 weeks	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
We The People	€30,750.00	For the development of a comms strategy for Children First Awareness Week (CFAW) and related assets	Child Protection Policy & Legislation Unit
Prof. Nick Frost, Leeds Metropolitan University	€1,200.00	Provide expert advice on drafting of High-Level Policy Statement on Parenting and Family Support over a 3-day period	Child Protection Policy & Legislation Unit
T. Spratt (Trinity College Dublin)	€1,476.00	Provide expert advice on drafting of High-Level Policy Statement on Parenting and Family Support over a 3 day period	Child Protection Policy & Legislation Unit
Maria Corbett	€10,950.00	Research Report on International Child Care Proceedings	Child Protection Policy & Legislation Unit
CD Advocacy Limited	€22,950.87	Requirement for specialist expertise to facilitate the Care Experienced Expert Panel	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Ernst & Young ("EY")	€653,584.40	OGP SRFT 2362975 The Provision of Cyber Security Consultancy & Technical Services	ICT Unit
Indecon International Economic and Strategic Consultants (2020)	€186,100.00	Independent review of ELC-SAC Operating Model	Governance and Systems Development
Indecon International Economic and Strategic Consultants (2023)	€285,450.00	Research and Consultancy Services related to the design and planning for a National ELC Agency	Governance and Systems Development

Consultancy Service	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Indecon International Economic and Strategic Consultants(2023)	€73,000.00	Research and Consultancy Services related to the review of administrative and regulatory requirements linked to publicly funded ELC-SAC schemes/programmes	Governance and Systems Development
IT Executive Focus (2023)	€44,000.00	ICT Consultancy Services to provide independent analysis and advice to support the determination of system requirements for all Childcare Programmes.	Early Years Governance and Systems Development
Bill Maxwell (2024)	€3,325.00	Providing Feedback on reading of draft regulations and associated documentation on the regulation of Childminding.	Quality, Childminding and Early Years Strategy
PFH Technology Group (2024)	€75,600.00	ICT Consultancy Services to provide independent analysis and advice to support the determination of system requirements for all Childcare Programmes.	Early Years Governance and Systems Development
PFH Technology Group (2025)	€75,600.00	ICT Consultancy Services to provide independent analysis and advice to support the determination of the system requirements for all Childcare Programmes.	Early Years Governance and Systems Development
Forvis Mazars (2025)	€32,000.00	Compliance Terminology and Check review	Finance & Compliance
Mazars (2025)	€30,000.00	Compliance Sampling & Coverage Review	Finance and Compliance
	Total Spend		
	€4,821,339.23		

Appendix 1

Department of Children, Disability and Equality - Consultancies

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
NALA	€1,800.00	€1,800	€1,800					Requirement for specialist advice on child-friendly wording	Adoption and Mother and Baby Homes Research and Evaluation Unit
Indecon	€49,500.00	€49,500.00				€49,500.00		Requirement for an independent analysis	Adoption Policy Unit
Quality Matters CLG	€116,125.00	€0.00						Provision of consultancy services to carry out a review of the operation of the services established by the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022	Adoption Policy Unit
Dr. Angela Palmer (2021)	€70,000.00	€64,147.75	€14,350.00	€45,339.00	€4,458.75			Research specialist information in the areas of child protection and welfare and children in care	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Harewood Consultancy and University of Lancashire, <i>(Dormant Accounts - currently ongoing)</i>	€49,755.00	€49,755.00					€49,755.00	Research and summative evaluation of Barnahaus Ireland. Pilot Project Appraisal.	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
Bruce Adamson	€1,950.00	Nil (Project just started)						Independent expert to prepare Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on post COVID-19 wellbeing review project methodology.	Child Protection Operations and Performance Unit
We The People	€20,000.00	€25,000.00					€25,000.00	For the development of a comms strategy for Children First Awareness Week	Child Protection Policy & Legislation Unit

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
								(CFAW) and related assets	
Anthony Douglas Consultancy Ltd	€83,300.00	€108,800				€108,800		Outsourcing was required for consultancy services related to the establishment of the Guardian ad litem National service, including the development of the operating model, workforce strategy, practice guidance, and transition plan for the service, where specific expertise in relation to Guardian ad litem services were needed. Following an open procurement process, Anthony Douglas Ltd was contracted. Anthony Douglas is the former chief executive of Cafcass UK, the Children and Family Support Service.	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit
UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, Institute for Life Course and Society, NUI Galway.	€19,910.00	€19,910.00	€19,910.00					Outsourcing was required for a review of international experiences relating to the implementation and operation of a statutory duty for interagency co-ordination and collaboration to support the protection	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
								and welfare of children.	
Insights Health and Social Research	€4,100.00	€4,100	€4,100					Outsourcing required for provision of a report into the findings of a consultation with children and young people on their experience of interventions under the Child Care Act 1991; and, a summary desk review of the evaluation of Tusla's Children's Participation Work Package under Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Programme.	Child Protection Policy and Legislation Unit
Insights Health and Social Research. 24/02/2021	€3,495.94	€3,495.94	€3,495.94					Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Insights Health and Social Research. Aug/Oct 2021	€15,284.55	€15,284.55	€15,284.55					Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Deirdre Fullerton, Insights Health and Social Research. Nov. 2023	€4,634.15	€4,634.15			€4,634.15			Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Coyne BMA Enterprises Limited t/a Coyne Research. Aug-24	€2,550.00	€2,550				€2,550		Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Tilting the Lens Limited. Sept-Nov 2024	€14,700.00	€14,700				€14,700		Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit
Coyne BMA Enterprises Limited t/a Coyne	€2,975.00	€3,400					€3,400	Expertise not available internally	Child Rights Policy Unit

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
Research. Nov. 2024-Jan. 2025									
University College Cork	€48,913.00	€48,913.00				€44,021.70	€4,891.30	Review of Ireland's legislative compliance with the UNCRC	Child Rights Policy Unit
Institute of Public Administration (IPA)	€9,500.00							To provide consultancy services and project management expertise to the GAL Executive Office Project Team	Child Rights Policy Unit
Murray Consultants	€45,582.18	€45,582.18		€45,582.18				Strategic advice and consultation for managing the Ukraine response.	Communications
Forvis Mazars	€160,000.00	€8,617.74					€8,617.74	Provision of data protection expertise and consultancy services	Corporate Governance & Strategic Coordination Unit
Derilinx	€59,600.00	€59,600.00					€59,600.00	External services required to conduct a Data Inventory Assessment and Data Maturity Assessment, to inform direction of Data Strategy.	Data and Analytics Unit
Multi Lot Contract: Lot 1 : Expleo (€400,000x4) Lot 2 : Clarion Consulting (€400,000x4) Lot 3 : SP3 (€200,000x4)	€4,000,000.00							CFT 5637046: The provision of (1) Business Analysis, Optimisation and Testing Services, (2) ICT Project Management Support Services and (3) Project Governance Support and Training Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
SP3 Services (2022-2025)	€50,000.00	€49,638.00			€10,450.00	€33,963.00	€5,225.00	ICT Project Management and Support Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery Unit
SP3 Services (2025-)	€50,000.00	€38,475.00					€38,475.00	ICT Project Management and Support Services	Digital Strategy and Delivery Unit
Provision of Policy Development Services (08/2023 - 08/2024)	€38,000.00	€38,000				€38,000		An individual with a specialism in policy was needed to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities through the development and implementation of cross-government strategies and policy in furtherance of the UNCRPD. As such, a consultant with a specific background in disability was sought.	Disability and Equality Policy Unit
Provision of Policy Development Services (08/2024 - 08/2025)	€37,500.00	€37,500.00					€37,500.00	An individual with a specialism in policy was needed to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities through the development and implementation of cross-government strategies and policy in furtherance of the UNCRPD. As such, a consultant with a specific background in disability was sought.	Disability and Equality Policy Unit
Provision of Policy Development Services (08/2025 - 08/2026)	€37,500.00							An individual with a specialism in policy was needed to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities through the development and	Disability and Equality Policy Unit

Consultancy Service	Contracted Value (€) ex. VAT	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT Total	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2021	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2022	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2023	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2024	Actual Spend (€) ex. VAT 2025	Services Required and Reason for Outsourcing	Business Unit
								implementation of cross-government strategies and policy in furtherance of the UNCRPD. As such, a consultant with a specific background in disability was sought.	
Lucy Micheal Research, Training and Consultancy	€18,900.00	€18,900.00					€18,900.00	Research expertise required to progress an evidence review on international best practice in personal assistance service provision to inform future policy development.	Disability Day Services Unit
Eithne Fitzgerald	€100,000.00	€94,818.77			€35,793.26	€29,050.00	€29,975.51	Disability Policy Analysis Expertise and Analysis Services	Disability Finance and Reform Unit
TUD	€145,000.00							CFT 5939656 Provision of service to review and update Diversity, Equality and Inclusion guidelines, training and resources for Early Childhood Care (ELC), and School Age Childcare (SAC) educators and providers.	Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare - Access and Inclusion
Excello	€39,000.00							Financial Modelling for NCS & ECCE EY schemes	Early Learning and Care and School-age Childcare - Finance & Compliance

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IT Executive Focus (2023)	€44,000.00	€44,000.00		€44,000.00	€44,000.00			ICT Consultancy Services to provide independent analysis and advice to support the determination of system requirements for all Childcare Programmes.	Early Years Governance and Systems Development
PFH Technology Group (2024)	€151,200.00	€151,200.00				€75,600.00	€75,600.00	ICT Consultancy Services to provide independent analysis and advice to support the determination of system requirements for all Childcare Programmes.	Early Years Governance and Systems Development
Foroige	€7,013.15	€7,013.15				€7,013.15		National Youth Assembly consultations for National Strategy for Women and Girls	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
RGH Consulting Ltd.	€2,000.00	€2,000.00				€2,000.00		Communications advice to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Infopulse Europe GMBH	€14,179.00	€14,179.00					€14,179.00	Business Process Optimisation process for the development of the gender pay gap portal	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Women's Aid	€124,200.31	€124,200.31				€124,200.31		Employer supports for Domestic Violence Leave	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
IPSOS	€105,050.00	€129,211.51			€71,066.33	€58,145.18		Migrant Integration Strategy and National Women and Girls Strategy Consultancy	Equality and Gender Equality Unit

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Centre for Effective Studies	€37,150.00	€37,150.00			€37,150.00			Study to evaluate the implementation of 3 Equality Strategies - final installment (Previous payments made by DoJE prior to ToF)	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
UCC	€39,999.93	€49,200.00			€49,200.00			Research for workplace supports for pregnancy loss under 24 weeks	Equality and Gender Equality Unit
Forvis Mazars (2025)	€32,000.00	€32,000.00					€32,000.00	Compliance Terminology and Check review	Finance & Compliance
Mazars (2025)	€30,000.00	€30,000.00					€30,000.00	Compliance Sampling & Coverage Review	Finance and Compliance
Indecon International Economic and Strategic Consultants (2023)	€285,450.00	€285,450.00			€285,450.00			Research and Consultancy Services related to the design and planning for a National ELC Agency	Governance and Systems Development
Indecon International Economic and Strategic Consultants(2023)	€73,000.00	€73,000.00			€73,000.00			Research and Consultancy Services related to the review of administrative and regulatory requirements linked to publicly funded ELC-SAC schemes/programmes	Governance and Systems Development
Ernst and Young	€1,000,000.00	€46,010.00					€46,010.00	OGP SRFT 6054910 Implementation Support for the Guardian ad litem National Service under Lot 13: Multi-Disciplinary Services Estimated Contract Value equal to or in excess of €140,000, of the Multi Supplier Framework Agreement	Guardian ad Litem National Service

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								for the Provision of Business, Management and ICT Consultancy Services RFT 206674 - PAS122F	
Ernst and Young	€139,999.00	€207,561.00					€207,561.00	CFT 5184406 Project Plan for the establishment of Guardian ad-litem National Service under OGP Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Business, Management and ICT Consultancy Services RFT 206674 PAS122F Lot 3. It was an SRFT <€140,000 and extended to 50% of original value under section 187 of OGP Goods and Services Guidelines v3. This contract is now exhausted.	Guardian ad Litem National Service
Services of HR consultant Sile O'Donnell for the People Strategy Sub Group	€8,085.00	€8,085				€8,085		Expertise and specialist knowledge not available in house	Human Resources
Ernst & Young ("EY")	€600,000.00	€653,584.40				€156,450.40	€497,134.00	OGP SRFT 2362975 The Provision of Cyber Security Consultancy & Technical Services	ICT Unit
Bridgecastle Information Management Ltd t/a Castlebridge	€100,000.00	€64,048	€47,596	€12,656	€3,797			Data Protection Services to provide guidance to the Department on the application of data protection law to the	Information Management Unit

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								Department's business practices	
Trilateral Research Ltd	€100,000.00	€80,925			€80,925			Services to provide guidance to the Department in the form of data protection expertise to support the Department's data protection compliance obligations relating to the ROPA and RRS	Information Management Unit
Datatrails	€25,000.00	€18,750	€18,750					Provision of data protection expertise to support the processing of SARs on the transfer of the database and associated records from the Commission of Investigation.	Information Management Unit
Dolores Sullivan	€30,000.00	€45,375	€29,700	€15,675				Provision of expertise in legal research specifically in the context of an investigation under the Commission of Investigations Act 2004	Information Management Unit
Castlebridge	€120,000.00	€66,073.30			€34,580.80	€31,492.50		Provision of data protection expert advice in relation to GDPR, in particular, but not limited to SARs, on receipt of the database and records from the Mother & Baby Home Commission of Inquiry	Information Management Unit

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External Quality Audit - Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors	€1,500.00	€1,500	€1,500					Internal Audit Standards require periodic external review of Internal Audit Unit	Internal Audit
Professional Auditing Services - KOSI	€7,252.69	€7,252.69	€7,252.69					Provision of specialist expertise.	Internal Audit
Provision of Accounting, Audit and Financial Advisory Services - Mazars	€260,000.00	€216,339	€49,075	€108,764	€58,500			Provision of specialist expertise and to allow resource flexibility.	Internal Audit
Bearing Point - Learning Needs Analysis - Project Charter	€144,000.00	€104,900		€78,675	€26,225			Provision of L&D Analysis to support staff in the delivery of the department's remit	Learning & Development
Harvest Resources Ltd - Learning and Development Advice	€50,000.00	€35,267				€18,400	€16,867	Design of Mentoring Programme	Learning & Development
Irish Centre for Diversity	€50,000.00	€11,500.00					€11,500.00	Development of Staff Survey, Analysis Report and EDI Strategy Support	Learning & Development
Dr. Angela Palmer 2021	€279,338.50	€200,320.72	€15,150.00	€45,338.50	€65,188.32	€71,170.90	€3,473.00	Requirement for specialist knowledge and expertise to work on the Care Experiences Programme	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Satya Brink	€20,540.00	€20,540.00	€20,540.00					Requirement for specialist expertise on longitudinal research	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
Ann Sanson	€7,234.25	€7,234.25	€7,234.25					Requirement for specialist expertise on longitudinal research	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit
CD Advocacy Limited	€22,950.87	€22,950.87					€22,950.87	Requirement for specialist expertise to facilitate the Care Experienced Expert Panel	MBH Research & Evaluation Unit

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Quality Matters	€25,197.15	€25,300			€15,950	€9,350		Independent analysis and preparation of report of initial consultation for the National Centre for Research and Remembrance	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Morgane Conaty BL	€20,821.14	€6,304				€6,304		Preparation of report for the National Centre Legal and Legislative subgroup	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Niamh McCullagh	€23,640.00	€11,586.83		€11,586.83				Specialist Technical Advisor on the Institutional Burials Bill	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Fitzpatrick Associates	€50,249.63	€50,249.63			€50,249.63			National Centre for Research and Remembrance - the OPW engaged an economist to prepare a business case on behalf of the Department, the spend will be incurred by the Department	Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit
Mr Jim Halley- Services in relation to the Collaborative Forum of former residents of Mother and Baby Homes	(€850 Per Day)	€11,200	€11,200					It was required that the services provided were independent of the Department	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
Mr George Maybury - Services provided in relation to drafting and editing the Collaborative Forum Evaluation Report Nov 2022	€4,850.00	€2,425		€2,425				The CF Evaluation Report was independent of the Department	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
Ernst and Young Business Advisory Services	€117,000.00	€126,332				€110,867	€15,465	The terms of reference of the Expert Negotiator with relevant Religious Bodies provided for an independent financial assessment of the	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit

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								resources of each religious body. This was considered to be a crucial element of the negotiations in order to ground any proposed contributions in a transparent and objective assessment process.	
OAK conflict dynamics ltd	€19,980.00	€35,355	€35,355					An independent consultation with former residents of Mother and Baby Homes and County Homes was required to inform the government Interdepartmental Group IDG to develop detailed and costed proposals for a Restorative Recognition Scheme.	Mother and Baby Homes Action Plan Unit
Maynooth University, Centre for Effective Services	€110,213.80	€110,213.80		€55,105.00	€44,084.00	€11,021.00		Academic review of the provision of home visiting services in Ireland.	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Orla Doyle Research	€3,902.44	€3,902.44				€3,902.44		Academic research to build an economic case for the investing of home visiting services in Ireland	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Orla Doyle Research	€3,902.44	€3,902.44				€3,902.44		Presentations and consultancy on the case for further economic investment of home visiting in Ireland	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Sandra Roe Research	€3,658.55	€3,658.55	€3,658.55					Research services in relation to consultations with	Parenting Support Policy Unit

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								children and young people experiencing kinship care	
Early Intervention Foundation/Foundations UK	€218,346.35	€218,346.35			€218,346.35			Research and development of the What Works Ireland Evidence Hub	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Centre for Effective Services	€97,520.33	€97,520.33		€97,520.33				Independent review of the Children and Young People's Service Initiative	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Nexus Research	€46,500.00	€23,250.00					€23,250.00	Development of a standardised approach to collection of parenting support data nationally	Parenting Support Policy Unit
Child and Youth Friendly Governance Project	€43,200.00							RFQ for the Development of Training Content for an introductory eLearning course on Children and Young People's rights	Participation, Play and Recreation Unit
Contact centre expert to carry out a detailed review of an SRFT specification document for contact centre and business processing services prior to issue to the market	€50,000.00	€24,811.34			€15,360.94	€9,450.40		Contact centre expertise required which was not available internally.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
Contact centre expert contact for the tender evaluation panel of an SRFT, and Programme Board Advice	€50,000.00	€23,680.16			€22,776.10	€904.06		Contact centre expertise required which was not available internally.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
IT expert contact for the tender evaluation panel of an SRFT.	€5,000.00	€4,750				€4,750		Internal IT Department did not have resources available for time commitment required.	Payment Scheme Executive Office
Financial Governance Advice and Expertise for MBIPS	€7,000.00	€2,725				€2,725		Independent or specialised advice was required.	Payment Scheme Executive Office

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Bill Maxwell (2024)	€3,325.00	€3,325.00				€3,325.00		Providing Feedback on reading of draft regulations and associated documentation on the regulation of Childminding.	Quality, Childminding and Early Years Strategy
Baker Tilly - Business Analysis - 2021	€18,000.00	€18,000.00	€18,000.00					External Review	Strategic Business Change
IPA - Support Consultations on the establishment of Project Management Office - 2024	€600.00	€600.00				€600.00		External Experts	Strategic Business Change
Anna Connolly Work Frontiers - Mentoring Services and Document Review - 2025-2026	€10,800.00	€5,400.00					€5,400.00	Business Analysis	Strategic Business Change
Mazars	€60,600.00	€66,450			€20,200	€46,250		Review of the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021.	Traveller and Roma, LGBTI+ Policy
CL Consulting	€33,700.00	€38,900				€16,850	€22,050	Independent evaluation of the Dormant Accounts-funded Education Community Development Worker (ECDW) Scheme.	Traveller and Roma, LGBTI+ Policy
Contracts Total		€4,522,130.15							