



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**

Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

1 December 2017

Ms. Margaret Falsey
Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 A272

Vote 29: Communications, Climate Action and Environment

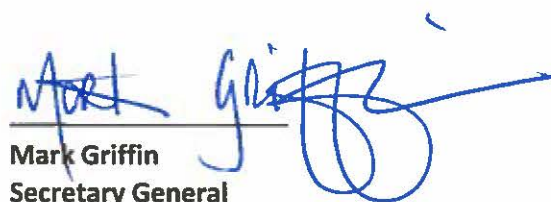
Dear Ms Falsey,

I refer to your letter dated 20 November following my appearance before the Public Accounts Committee in relation to my Department's 2016 Appropriation Account.

I have attached a detailed response in respect of the 16 points outlined in the letter, along with material on other matters raised during the course of the Committee's proceedings.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mark Griffin
Secretary General

Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge

APPENDIX A - LANDFILL REMEDIATION

1. A breakdown between public and private of the 71 landfill sites identified for remediation

Based on the Regional Waste Management Plans, the Table below provides information on the 71 historic landfill Class A/High Risk sites, comprising 10 Private sites and 61 Public sites (the latter includes some privately-owned, but publicly-run landfills.)

Site ID	Local Authority	Site Name	Public/Private
S22-02575	Cavan County Council	Kingscourt dumping ground	Public
S22-02247	Cork City Council	Carrigrohane Road	Public
S22-02170	Cork County Council	Ballymagooley	Public
S22-02324	Cork County Council	Blacksticks	Public
S22-02305	Cork County Council	Clonakilty	Public
S22-02310	Cork County Council	Clountreem	Public
S22-02405	Cork County Council	Kealininge	Public
S22-02321	Cork County Council	Little island	Public
S22-02172	Cork County Council	Sallys cross	Public
S22-02303	Cork County Council	Skibbereen	Public
S22-02354	Donegal County Council	Buncrana town dump	Public
S22-02382	Donegal County Council	Dunkineely town dump	Public
S22-02593	Galway City Council	Southpark	Public
S22-02236	Galway County Council	Gort	Public
S22-02242	Galway County Council	New inn	Public
S22-02244	Galway County Council	Glenamaddy	Public
S22-02246	Galway County Council	Tuam-Rinkippen	Public
S22-02676	Galway County Council	Portumna - Shannon Road	Public
S22-02664	Kerry County Council	Ahascra	Public
S22-02661	Kerry County Council	Caherciveen	Public
S22-02657	Kerry County Council	Coolcaslagh (Killarney)	Public

Site ID	Local Authority	Site Name	Public/Private
S22-02662	Kerry County Council	Dingle	Public
S22-02660	Kerry County Council	Kenmare	Public
S22-02659	Kerry County Council	Milltown	Public
S22-02656	Kerry County Council	Rockfield (Killarney)	Public
S22-02663	Kerry County Council	Tralee	Public
S22-02430	Kildare County Council	Carrigeen, Clane	Public
S22-02443	Kildare County Council	Knocknagarm Refuse Depot, The Curragh	Public
S22-02507	Kildare County Council	Greenhills Refuse Depot, Athy	Public
S22-02508	Kildare County Council	Prusselstown Refuse Depot, Athy	Public
S22-02838	Kildare County Council	Pollardstown (Thomas and Patrick Munnely), The Curragh	Private
S22-02834	Kildare County Council	Wolfestown, Eadestown, Naas	Private
S22-02589	Kilkenny County Council	Shermans	Public
S22-02755	Limerick City & County Council	St. Mary's Park	Public
S22-02465	Limerick City & County Council	Churchtown	Public
S22-02479	Limerick City & County Council	Rathbane south	Public
S22-02487	Longford County Council	Ballymaurice	Public
S22-02489	Longford County Council	Cartron big	Public
S22-02490	Longford County Council	Longford town no. 1	Public
S22-02452	Louth County Council	Carlingford town dump	Public
S22-02198	Meath County Council	Fletcherstown Bog	Public
S22-02296	Monaghan County Council	Killycronaghan county council landfill	Public
S22-02297	Monaghan County Council	Mcnallys site	Private
S22-02455	Monaghan County Council	Coleman island	Private
S22-02524	Monaghan County Council	Carrickmacross town dump - Tiragarvan	Public

Site ID	Local Authority	Site Name	Public/Private
S22-02528	Monaghan County Council	Castleblayney town dump 2	Public
S22-02423	Roscommon County Council	Castlerea landfill site	Public
S22-02623	Sligo County Council	Finisklin	Public
S22-02166	South Dublin County Council	Friarstown	Public
S22-02167	South Dublin County Council	Waterstown	Public
S22-02399	South Dublin County Council	Cruagh, rockbrook	Private
S22-02403	South Dublin County Council	Lucan demesne	Private
S22-02749	South Dublin County Council	Corbally Saggat Paul Joyce	Private
S22-02751	South Dublin County Council	Clondalkin Papermill Map Ref 237	Private
S22-02758	South Dublin County Council	Woodtown Map Ref A 205	Private
S22-02512	Tipperary County Council	Brittas road	Public
S22-02546	Tipperary County Council	Clybanane	Public
S22-02549	Tipperary County Council	Monanearla	Public
S22-02564	Tipperary County Council	Connawarries	Public
S22-02630	Tipperary County Council	Convent Cross, Dundrum	Public
S22-02634	Tipperary County Council	Coole, Knocklofty	Public
S22-02565	Tipperary County Council	Tipperary Town	Public
S22-02444	Waterford City & County Council	Kilbarry	Public
S22-02412	Westmeath County Council	Moate	Public
S22-02417	Westmeath County Council	Marlinstown	Public
S22-02435	Westmeath County Council	Lickbla	Private
S22-02598	Wexford County Council	Ballykeerogue	Public
S22-02555	Wexford County Council	Enniscorthy	Public
S22-02551	Wexford County Council	Gorteen	Public
S22-02633	Wicklow County Council	Fassaroe No.3A	Public
S22-02637	Wicklow County Council	Fassaroe No.3C	Public

Definition of Risk Classes – this is a technical standard devised by the EPA in its Code of Practice for Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites and is based on a scoring

system measured by a technical assessment of the source of the pollution, the pathway of the pollution and the receptor of the pollution. In practice, the elements that normally influence this calculation are risk to water, air, soils and communities from leachate, gas and odour. Any presence of hazardous waste would also impact significantly.

2. The number of landfill sites in use and a note on the status of the former landfill in Galway

There are 4 landfill sites currently in full-time operation in Ireland, namely:

- Kilconnell, Co. Galway.
- Drehid, Co. Kildare
- Knockharley, Co. Meath
- Ballynagran, Co. Wicklow

Information is set out below in relation to the status of former landfill site at the Old Headford Road and Southpark in Galway.

Carrowbrowne, Old Headford Road, Galway

Carrowbrowne is a closed, licensed municipal facility (closed in 2012) where site after-care is managed in compliance with conditions set down in its environmental licence from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

The Local Authority monitors environmental indicators at the site on an ongoing basis. All monitoring results are reported to the EPA. After-care management of closed landfills continues for 30 years after the closure of a site.

Southpark Closed Town Dump

Southpark Town Dump had been classed as a as a high risk or 'A' site, pending appropriate technical investigation in accordance with EPA guidance regarding such landfills. Since the original designation, however, Galway City Council has undertaken a series of site investigations which has ascertained more closely the true environmental profile of the site. A detailed site specific risk assessment was completed by Galway City Council in 2006 and revised in 2014 evaluating the risk posed to human health and the environment. Results indicated a low risk based on the typical use of the site and the identified contaminant concentrations found at the site. Based on these investigations, the Council has proposed to the EPA the reclassification of the site as a low risk or 'C' site and is awaiting a determination from the Agency. The Agency has recently notified the Council that a decision will be made in 2018.

Silvermines remediation

During the period from December 2012 to September 2017, environmental monitoring services in Silvermines were provided under contract to the value of €650,336.

The Department is currently in the process of finalising a new three year contract for the provision of ongoing environmental monitoring services at Silvermines. The value of the contract is €392,911 (inclusive of VAT) and was awarded following a public procurement process. The services contract comprises surface water, groundwater, vegetation, soil and geotechnical monitoring, and includes

checking the condition of security fencing around mine shafts, adits, open pits, etc. and an annual inspection of the Gortmore Tailings Management Facility.

Further analysis must be undertaken by the Department to determine the scope and nature of any further remediation works that will be required at the Silvermines, with a view to establishing a timeline for completion, subject to the availability of funds. The final phase of remediation is a distinct and separate phase to the works already undertaken and is not deemed critical to the overall success of the work completed to date.

APPENDIX B - ENERGY EFFICIENCY

3. Energy efficiency changes made in the department and the results of the changes

The Department's Dublin offices are at 29-31 Adelaide Road (headquarters) with additional space in Beggars Bush and the Custom House. The Department also has offices in Cavan and Wexford towns.

The Department participates actively in the energy management and behavioural change initiative run by the OPW, known as Optimising Power @ Work. Energy consumption in the Adelaide Road building has been impacted positively by the implementation of a number of targeted energy efficiency measures, including:

- introduction of a Building Management System in 2009 which enables better management and monitoring of energy use;
- upgrading of the Adelaide Road heating system in 2015 to allow for zonal targeting and switch off during holiday periods;
- ongoing reviews of the Building Management System;
- rollout of energy efficient networked printers and photocopiers (in turn leading to a reduction in the number of devices);
- upgrading of light switching to more efficient LEDS, where appropriate;
- insulation works in part of Adelaide Road;
- energy awareness days and energy efficiency notices for Departmental staff. (The next energy awareness day, including a Lunch & Learn presentation on energy efficiency, is planned for January 2018).

In terms of performance metrics, the overall energy consumption in the Adelaide Road building has reduced by 27% since 2007 to date, with electricity and gas consumption reducing by 41% and 6% respectively over the same period. This equates to monetary savings in excess of €420,000 since 2007. In addition, the energy rating of the building has improved from E1 in 2012 to D1 in 2017.

Further energy efficiency opportunities will be identified in the forthcoming energy audit of the Adelaide Road facility and will provide a basis to deliver further tangible energy efficiency improvements.

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy

The Minister published an updated Public Sector Energy Efficiency in January 2017. The Strategy is a key commitment in the White Paper on Energy Policy, Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-30, and the National Mitigation Plan, both of which were published by the Department.

The energy efficiency target for public sector bodies is to achieve 33% improved energy efficiency by end 2020. This can be achieved either by the individual bodies themselves or by the Departmental Group of which they are a member achieving the aggregated 33% group target.

The Strategy introduced new governance arrangements which require leadership from senior managers in all Government Departments and public bodies as Energy Performance Officers. In addition, Energy Performance Officers in each Government Department are providing leadership to those bodies affiliated to their Department to embed energy management as a standard requirement. In this regard the Department, along with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the OPW, have met with Departmental Energy Performance Officers and their energy management teams in each Department to provide tailored advice and support on energy management within their Department and their group.

Energy Efficiency Performance

The Department achieved a 19.9% efficiency improvement, based on the most recent data available from SEAI in the "Annual Report 2017 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance" (which covers the period to end 2016),

Furthermore, the Group which the Department leads – comprising 16 bodies and including the Department itself - is one of the best performing groups, having achieved 31% energy efficiency to end 2016.

An overview of the level of efficiency gains made by 2016 by each Departmental Group as well as individual Departments is set out in the Table below. Furthermore, a copy of Annual Report 2017 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance which can be accessed on SEAI's website, is attached with this correspondence.

2016 Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance - Overview by Department

Departmental group	Group % of PS Energy Consumption Year End 2016	Group 2016 Energy performance result (since baseline)	Individual (Department only) performance (since baseline)
Agriculture, Food & the Marine	3%	● -3%	14.9%
Business, Enterprise & Innovation	<1%	● 37%	36.4%
Children & Youth Affairs	<1%	● 27%	29.1%
Communications, Climate Action & Environment	5%	● 31%	19.9%
Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	1%	● 28%	66.9%
Defence	3%	● 7%	18.2%
Education & Skills	12%	● 25%	24.3%
- Standalone Schools	5%	● 3%	n/a
Employment Affairs & Social Protection	1%	● 24%	24.3%
Finance	2%	● 21%	11.3%
Foreign Affairs & Trade	<1%	● 37%	37.5%
Health	20%	● 17%	19.4%
Housing, Planning & Local Government	12%	● 10%	17.4%
- Local Authorities	13%	● 20%	n/a
Justice & Equality	4%	● 16%	32.9%
Public Expenditure & Reform	1%	● 33%	69.9%
Rural & Community Development	<1%	● 31%	n/a*
Taoiseach	<1%	● 22%	18.2%
Transport, Tourism & Sport	19%	● 26%	17.4%
Total	100%	● 21%	n/a

* New department, figure unavailable

Explanation of coloured dots:

- More efficient than baseline and on track for 2020 target
- More efficient than baseline, but not yet on the path for 2020 target
- Less efficient than baseline

APPENDIX C – INLAND FISHERIES

4. A note on the conservation programme in place in order to help the restock of rivers

Salmon Hardship scheme

The Salmon Hardship Scheme was introduced following a Government decision to cease the commercial salmon mixed stock fishery in the sea for conservation reasons. Under this scheme, €25m was targeted at commercial salmon fishermen who were active in the fishery at the time and who undertook to permanently exit the fishery. Further funding of €5m was provided for community based projects. The scheme was intended as a once off initiative and it closed for applications in December 2007 and was closed in 2008, and all funds were expended.

Payments to individuals were based on verifiable track record and recorded catches in the five years prior to its introduction. The average payment under the scheme was almost €23,000 and the highest payment was over €195,000. Some 1,100 fishermen availed of the initiative.

Currently there are only 110 active commercial salmon licences. Other former licensees could potentially apply for licences and fish if an exploitable quota was available as long as they did not avail of the hardship scheme.

The potential for estuarine fishery to reopen will depend on the abundance of salmon stocks in each of the estuary's contributing rivers. It is considered that individual river stocks would be in a far more perilous state if the closure of mixed stock fisheries had not been implemented.

Eel Hardship Scheme

Ireland's Eel Management Plan under EU Regulation 1100/2007, which included a closure of commercial fishing, was approved by the European Commission in 2009. Ireland's Eel Management Plan and its conservation measures were reviewed in 2012 and in 2015, in accordance with the EU Regulation. Both reviews involved an examination of the latest scientific data and the conservation measures, the results of which were the subject of public consultations.

The difficulty facing eel fishermen is recognised and, notwithstanding that fact that there is no property right attaching to public eel licences, the possibility of implementing support measures for eel fishermen is a matter under consideration.

Given that Ireland's Eel Management Plan (EMP), and the conservation measures it contains, was originally approved by the European Commission under EU Regulation 1100/2007, consultation and discussion with the European Commission would be a key element in the consideration of any potential financial support measure.

The Department has also discussed the issue of eels with ESB Fisheries who are fishery owners in this context.

Salmon and Eel stocking

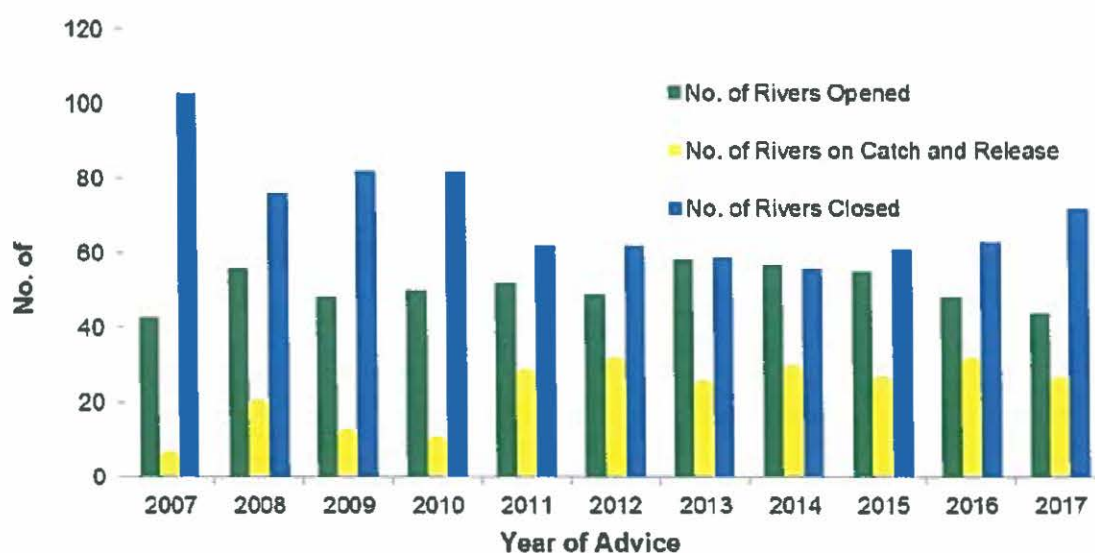
Status of Irish Salmon Stocks

The status of Irish salmon stocks has been assessed on an individual river basis by the Standing Scientific Committee on Salmon (SSCS) since 2007. The latest SSCS advice indicates that despite the considerable reductions in catches, following the closure of the mixed stock fishery at sea in 2007, only 56% of Ireland's assessed salmon rivers are currently estimated to meet biologically based Conservation Limits (CL).

Marine survival (internationally) values in the past 5 years are amongst the lowest recorded since 1980. Changes in oceanic conditions leading to poor recruitment of salmon have been implicated by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) following international investigations into the decline of salmon stocks. Recent stock forecasts from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) for stocks in the southern range of the North East Atlantic, indicate that this low stock situation will prevail.

Poor marine survival of salmon is not confined to Irish stocks. The North-east Atlantic countries in the southern stock complex are France, Ireland, South-west Iceland, and the UK (ICES 2016). Given the current poor survival, the expectation of large catches is unrealistic at present and the SSCS advise that priority should be given to conservation objectives rather than catch increases until there is a noticeable improvement in stock abundance. In this regard, the on-going management policy of adopting the scientific advice to only allow exploitation on stocks above conservation limit is central to aid any potential recovery nationally.

The figure below summarises the status of salmon catchment with respect to potential exploitation from 2007 to 2017.



Salmon Stocking

There are many genetic and ecological concerns when the progeny of wild salmon reared in a hatchery environment are released back into the wild and guidelines have been prepared by the

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) with regard to applying the “Precautionary Approach” to the authorisation and conduct of any stocking of Atlantic salmon into the wild.

Published and peer reviewed Irish scientific research concluded that extensive stocking programmes undertaken in Ireland over recent years have made little real contribution to the productivity of Irish rivers or to the goals of restoring self-sustaining salmon runs. Furthermore, evidence from recent experiments suggesting that artificial introductions are likely to depress rather than enhance the productivity of natural populations, including feral or quasi-wild populations that have been established by hatchery programmes.

This is supported by research in the UK which concluded that little practical benefit had resulted from stocking in England. A further review concludes that a growing and significant amount of evidence now demonstrates that the efficacy of salmon stocking in the majority of circumstances in Scotland is at best largely ineffective, and at worst, can have a damaging effect on existing native populations, through removal of wild broodstock, displacement of existing populations and reduced fitness and reproductive success of any progeny.

Stocking is not considered an appropriate solution to the causes for the decline of Atlantic salmon populations. International research has also concluded that where a river is at or close to carrying capacity there may be little or no benefit from stocking. NASCO’s Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programmes, divide rivers into three classes with Class 1 Rivers being pristine with regard to previous history of stocking. The NASCO Guidelines state that no Atlantic salmon reared in a fish culture facility should be released into a Class I river. The Guidelines also state that generally, rehabilitation is not necessary in Class I rivers. However, where human-induced or natural events impact on a Class I river, the preferred methods are to improve degraded habitat and to ensure escapement of sufficient spawners through fisheries management.

The scientific advice and management policy in Ireland is to allow salmon stocks to return to individual rivers below conservation without commercial or angling harvest. Harvest of salmon is only permitted in rivers with an identifiable surplus. This policy ensures the best chance of recovery of depleted salmon stocks and allows the continued propagation of genetically distinct populations within each stock. It is important for the long term genetic viability of discrete river populations that selection at spawning time is allowed to take place naturally. It is this natural selection process that has maintained the viability of genetically distinct salmon populations over time.

Eel Stocking

In the past small amounts of glass eel and elver were taken in the Shannon estuary and in neighbouring catchments and these were stocked into the Shannon above Ardnacrusha and Parteen. However in Ireland’s Eel Management Plan, approved by the EU in 2009 under Regulation 1100/2007, it was reported that given the widespread presence of a parasitic nematode and the move towards risk averse management strategies at low recruitment levels, this practice was discontinued. In the event of recovering recruitment, a stocking strategy could be developed by

stocking "surplus" recruits into good quality (e.g. low contaminants) catchments where stocks are identified to be low.

The present situation is that the returning supply of juvenile eel to the coastline of Ireland (and other countries in Europe) has rapidly declined since the 1980's. The stock is "panmithic" – a single stock across the entire continent. The current recruitment to Europe stands at 8.7% of the 1960-1979 reference level according to the international (ICES) scientific advice 2017. This advice states that anthropogenic (man-made) mortality should be kept at or close to zero.

There is no current 'surplus' of juvenile eel in Irish waterways available at present to stock into different catchments. Currently to stock our rivers with eels would mean obtaining elvers from some other European source and re-introducing these eels to rivers in Ireland. There are very considerable difficulties to this:

- the potential for the transmission of disease and parasites when introducing eels from other catchments. There are 3 eel diseases found in European eels, the Herpesvirus, the Eel Virus European (EVE) and Eel Virus European X (EVEX). The Environment Agency in the UK has detected the presence of the Herpesvirus anguillae (HVA) which has been introduced from mainland Europe.
- any estuaries where elvers may be available will be targeted in the first instance by the nation in whose waters the elvers are trapped to ensure that their rivers are populated.
- Elvers are extremely costly and it would be prohibitively expensive to source these elvers competing with both the host nation and other countries for the opportunity to obtain wild elvers for stocking.
- stocking of elvers is a long term conservation measure with no short or even medium term benefit as regards fisheries. In Ireland on average it takes up to two decades for eels to reach maturity.

International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) notes that stocking of eels is a management action in many eel management plans, and that this stocking is reliant on a glass eel fishery catch. There is scientific evidence that translocated and stocked eel can contribute to yellow and silver eel production in recipient waters, but no evidence of contribution to actual spawning. Internationally coordinated research is required to determine the net benefit of restocking on the overall population, including carrying capacity estimates of glass eel source estuaries as well as detailed mortality estimates at each step of the stocking process. This means there needs to be a documented benefit to moving the glass eels to a new location as opposed to leaving them in the waters they migrated to.

A number of long-term studies on the fate of stocked eels are being undertaken internationally to determine the net benefit of stocking to the recovery of the eel. The results of such studies will assist in further determining the efficiency of a stocking programme in Ireland should the recruitment levels increase and a 'surplus' of elvers becomes available in the future.

Galway Fishery

The Board of IFI has examined a number of options for the Galway fishery in the context of ensuring that its operation would, in as far as possible, be self-financing as regards its full costs. The decision of the Board is to explore possibilities to make the fishery self-financing, covering its costs on a fully allocated basis. This decision precludes consideration of any option to sell or lease the fishery.

Pike and Trout

IFI launched policies on brown trout and pike in August 2014. These policies, approved by the Board of IFI, were developed by two working groups which included *inter alia* representatives from the main Trout and Pike Angling Federations.

A review of these policies was scheduled to commence in 2017. However, recognising the views of some stakeholders in relation to elements of the policies, the Board of IFI decided to bring forward the review period and commence the process in 2016 with a public consultation process. The public consultation process was held in November 2016, following which more than 300 submissions were received.

One of the most important issues considered in the previous policies relates to the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries. In late 2016, a Review Group, across all disciplines in IFI, was established to specifically consider this issue. The Review Group met with Pike and Trout representative bodies in January 2017 following which representatives from a number of these organisations were invited to join the Group.

In May 2017, the Group, including the pike and trout angling representatives, met for two information gathering meetings at which a number of expert scientists made presentations. The Review Group adjourned after its meeting in May to provide time to review and assimilate the data and information provided during the two information gathering meetings. The Group reconvened in September. The presentations delivered at the meetings, along with minutes of the previous meetings and the public consultation submissions are publically available on the IFI website: www.fisheriesireland.ie

It should be emphasised that while the policy review is underway, delivery of the current IFI pike management practices have continued in line with the existing policy. Therefore there has been no change to current policy or practice regarding the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries.

IFI have advised that the report of the Review Group is expected to be finalised in 2018. Decisions on any change in the management of Pike and Trout will be made as soon as possible thereafter.

Rivers Suir, Nore and Barrow

Management of salmon stocks is carried out by IFI and is supported by scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and Ireland's independent Standing Scientific Committee (SSC).

The Minister of State gave statutory notice on 15 November 2017 of the draft Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations, 2017 to provide for the management of the wild salmon and sea trout fishery by IFI from 1 January 2018.

A copy of the draft regulations, which are made every year, is available on the Department's website, www.dccae.gov.ie/natural, and is open for public inspection at the offices of the Inland Fisheries Division of the Department in Cavan and also at the offices of IFI around the country. Observations on the draft regulations may be made, via written submission, at any time during the period of 30 days concluding on 14 December, 2017.

The draft regulations provide for an individual management regime for each of Ireland's 147 salmon rivers, river sections and estuaries, including the Suir, Nore and Barrow, based on the conservation imperative for their individual genetic stock. The regulations are based on management advice received from IFI. This advice from IFI is supported by individual stock assessments carried out by the SSC comprising scientists from a range of organisations. It is proposed that the rivers in question will be open on a catch and release basis for the 2018 season.

A detailed response to all submissions received in the process will issue after the period of consultation has closed.

<p><i>6. A note on an Inland Fisheries Ireland guest house in Connemara including its function, process for tender and where it is accounted for</i></p>

Background

Aasleagh Lodge and the Erriff Fishery, acquired by the State in 1982, were initially managed and developed by the Central Fisheries Board and subsequently by the Western Regional Fisheries Board. The Lodge was used to accommodate visiting anglers (domestic and overseas) availing of the fishery and other local amenities. Accommodation was on a B&B or half-board basis.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) succeeded the Fishery Boards in 2010 and as part of a strategic review of both operations and property, it was considered that operating a guesthouse was not part of the organisation's core business.

The assets, which are owned by IFI, are listed in the IFI accounts.

Licensing the Lodge to a Private Operator

The Board of IFI decided in 2014 to seek expressions of interest to manage the facility by an external operator. It was intended that the income derived would contribute to fisheries conservation,

protection and development, while the Lodge (and the Erriff fishery) would remain in State ownership.

Ten expressions of interest were received and eight potential operators presented a business plan for the development of the Aasleagh Lodge. Potential operators were subsequently interviewed.

Following the outcome of the tender process, IFI licensed the running of Aasleagh Lodge and Fishery in 2015 to Delphi Adventure Resort (DAR) Ltd. The agreement provided for a rent designed to secure an income from the fishery and Lodge for IFI over the five year duration of the agreement, without IFI having to manage the visitor accommodation facility on a day-to-day basis, or cover significant outgoings associated with providing guesthouse accommodation in the tourism market.

Since DAR took over the running of the Lodge, DAR paid the first years rent in advance, but subsequently fell into serious default in rent payments. IFI retook possession of the Lodge in 2016 as under the licence agreement, failure to pay the rent can lead to termination of the contract.

Options

Following analysis of a number of options, the Board of IFI recommended to the Minister that they sell the Lodge but retain Erriff Fishery which would remain in State ownership. IFI has also indicated its wish to retain the proceeds of the sale to establish a new operational base and update scientific facilities on adjacent lands which it owns.

The Minister of State is in agreement with the proposal to sell the Lodge. He considers that retention of the Fishery as a State asset is essential since:

- the Fishery is the National Sea Trout Index Catchment on which significant National and International scientific research is based
- it facilitates the provision of angling for Salmon and Sea Trout to domestic and visiting anglers at economic rates
- in commercial terms the Fishery has been valued by IFI's property advisors at some €250,000. However, this does not take account of the scientific, amenity and community value of the Fishery.

The Department will consult the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform before any sale is progressed to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies and other relevant Circulars.

APPENDIX D – RTE

5. An analysis of the €179 million licence fee funding the RTE and a note on the oversight role of the Department

Public Funding of RTE

Under section 123 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 (the Act) (as amended by section 69 of the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) Act 2011), the Department makes a payment to RTÉ from TV licence fees collected. The payment to RTE comprises of the amounts collected by An Post, in its capacity as issuing agent for the TV licence under section 145 (1) of the Act, as well as the amounts paid by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in respect of a portion of 'free TV licences' issued by that Department, net of collection costs, a 7% levy to the Broadcasting Fund and amounts paid to TG4, as determined by the Minister.

In 2016, €161.5m of licence fee revenue was collected by An Post and paid over to the Department. In addition, just over €52m of licence fee revenue was paid by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection on behalf of individuals eligible for a 'free' television licence (this revenue has been subject to a cap since 2011 and is paid monthly).

A total of €179m was distributed to RTÉ in 2016, further detail of which is set out below.

RTÉ Financial Reporting

Section 109(9) of the Act obliges RTÉ to send to the Minister a statement of the use it has made of the monies paid to it under section 123 in that financial year in pursuance of its public service objects. RTÉ must also send a statement in respect of the total revenue and costs derived in that financial year, distinguishing between monies received or expended on (i) activities in pursuance of its public service objects, and (ii) activities in pursuance of its exploitation of commercial opportunities objects.

Costs and revenues by public service and non-public service activities are set out in Note 2(e) to RTÉ's Group Financial Statements. This provides a comprehensive breakdown of TV licence expenditure and is submitted to Government prior to being laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas and publication, pursuant to section 110 of the Act.

The Act also introduced additional reporting requirements on RTÉ, including:

- following public consultation, RTÉ must prepare a public service statement, every 5 years or as required by the Minister, setting out the principles to be observed and activities to be undertaken by RTÉ in order to fulfil its public service objects;
- RTÉ must prepare and present a statement of strategy every 5 years, setting out the strategy of the RTÉ Board for achieving its objects under the Act;
- RTÉ must prepare an Annual Statement of Performance Commitments which must be aligned with RTÉ's objects, its Statement of Strategy and its Public Service Statement. This sets out the actions and activities that RTÉ will undertake in that year and associated

performance indicators. RTÉ reports each year in its Annual Report on the fulfilment or otherwise of the commitments made.

Each RTÉ service has a detailed service description which clearly defines how the channel or service contributes to the delivery of RTÉ's public service objects.

Licence Fee Allocation

The cost of RTÉ's public service activities is substantially in excess of the amount of public funding received in the form of licence fee revenue. Accordingly, RTÉ also engages in ancillary commercial activities to support its public service activities. These include the sale of advertising and sponsorship, publication of the RTÉ Guide and other broadcast related commercial activities.

In line with common practice among public-service media organisations (PSMs) across the EU, RTÉ attributes public funding to individual services based on the net cost of the public service. Net cost of public service is the gross cost of delivering the public service after deducting the contribution from commercial activities.

Licence fee revenue is firstly attributed to those public service channels and services that have a limited capacity to generate commercial revenue in their own right and therefore are, of necessity, primarily funded by licence fee revenue in order to facilitate continued delivery of the public service. Such services comprise RTÉ Orchestras, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, RTÉ Lyric FM, statutory provision of programming to TG4, supplementary DTT and DAB channels ('other channels'), Corporate HQ and financing costs.

The remaining licence fee is attributed between services with significant commercial revenue potential in proportion to the net cost of the public services. These services include: RTÉ One, RTÉ2, RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ 2fm and online services. No licence fee revenue is attributed to 2rn, the provision of multiplexing services by RTÉ or any costs incurred in the exploitation of commercial opportunities. RTÉ received €179m in TV licence revenue in year ended 31 December 2016, attributed as follows:

	Licence Fee Attribution (€'000)	Licence Fee Attribution (% Total)	Net Cost of Public Service Activity pre-Licence Fee Attribution (€'000)
RTÉ One	62,877	35.1	72,471
RTÉ2	40,080	22.4	46,196
RTÉ Radio 1	17,460	9.7	20,124
RTÉ Orchestras	12,666	7.1	12,666
RTÉ RnaG	11,543	6.4	11,543
TG4 Support	7,656	4.3	7,656
Corporate HQ	6,112	3.4	6,112
RTÉ Lyric FM	6,037	3.4	6,037
RTÉ 2FM	5,097	2.8	5,875
Online Services	4,677	2.6	5,391
Other Channels	4,243	2.4	4,243
DTT Related	633	0.4	633
Total	179,081	100	198,437

Source: Note 2(e), RTÉ Annual Report 2016, p130

The net cost of public service activities before the attribution of the TV Licence in 2016 was €198m, resulting in a subsidisation by commercial activities of c.€19m. It should be noted that tax contributions made by RTÉ in 2016 amounted to €79m or, placed in context, 44% of the licence fee income received by RTÉ in 2016 reverted directly to the State in taxes.

In relation to the request from the Committee for a more detailed breakdown of the licence fee related expenditure in respect of payroll, programming and administration, RTÉ has advised that it is not possible to say how much of individual cost items are funded from licence fee and how much is funded from commercial activities. This is because licence fee revenue is used to support the net cost of services.

RTÉ has confirmed that:-

- programmes are produced, commissioned and acquired to deliver RTÉ's public services. Consequently all programme costs are part-funded by licence fee revenue;
- most Payroll costs are incurred in producing or procuring programmes or supporting programme activity. Such costs and other payroll costs incurred in the delivery of services are part-funded from licence fee. Payroll and other costs incurred in generating a contribution from commercial activities are not funded from licence fee revenue; and
- administrative costs attributable to supporting the delivery of RTÉ public service are part-funded from licence fee revenue. Administrative costs attributable to supporting the generation of contributions from commercial activities are not funded from licence fee revenue.

The RTÉ 2016 Annual Report also includes an analysis of RTÉ's Total Operating Costs (before depreciation, amortisation) of €343,448,000 in Note 3 (Page 133) which are funded by both licence fee and commercial revenue. This details inter alia, employee costs, other personnel related costs, commissioned programme costs (from the Independent sector), acquired programme costs, copyrights and outside broadcast contracts for the year 2016.

Governance Arrangements

RTÉ and TG4 are independent statutory bodies established under the Act. The funding framework agreed with the European Commission in 2008 for the State financing of RTÉ allowed for the establishment of an independent regulatory body, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI), to conduct annual and multiannual funding reviews of the Public Service Broadcasters, RTÉ and TG4. In line with the 2008 commitments and the Communication from the Commission on the application of State Aid Rules to Public Service Broadcasting, the Act established processes designed to strengthen the public accountability of both RTÉ and TG4 and to assess the adequacy of their funding. The Act includes statutory mandates applying to RTÉ and TG4, which are representative of the standard parameters of a Service Level Agreement (SLA), including the establishment of objectives, financial requirements and reporting obligations.

The Act established the BAI as the broadcasting regulator and mandates, pursuant to section 124(5) of the Act, the BAI to conduct the role of supervisory body by annually reviewing the performance of the broadcasters against their stated annual public objects, which RTÉ is required to

make under section 102 of the Act. These reviews examine the extent to which RTÉ has met its stated commitments during the previous financial year and the adequacy of public funding levels.

A more comprehensive five year process, the second of which is now underway, is also undertaken by the BAI under section 124 (8) of the Act. On foot of these reviews, the BAI's recommendations are presented to the Minister. The response of the Minister to these recommendations (and of Government in respect of the five year process) must be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas and published.

The Department has corporate governance responsibility for RTÉ and TG4, and is responsible for ensuring that both bodies comply with their obligations under the Act and under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. In this context, the Department has previously given consideration as to whether a Service Level Agreement (SLA) is appropriate and should be put in place with the public service broadcasters, RTÉ and TG4, particularly given the fact that the Act already includes the standard parameters of a SLA. The Department's view is that the governance provisions in the Act are sufficiently explicit and that a SLA would duplicate the requirements of the legislation and, in particular, the role of the BAI. Furthermore, there is a question as to whether the imposition of a SLA would undermine the independence of the public service broadcasters, provided by section 98 of the Act. For clarity, the advice of the Office of the Attorney General which was sought in the matter in February 2016, supported the view of the Department.

RTÉ and TG4 provide detailed financial analysis to the Department on a monthly basis including revenues, costs and deficit/surplus by channel, service and broadcasting genre and between public-service and non-public service activities. This information is consolidated at year-end and published in the annual reports of both broadcasters. The Department formally meets both RTÉ and TG4 on a quarterly basis to discuss both corporate governance and policy related matters.

Under the Broadcasting Act 2009, both the BAI Chief Executive and the TG4 Director General (DG) can be called before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). While the Act does not specifically refer to the PAC in the context of RTÉ, it does state that the DG can be called before "a Committee appointed by either House of the Oireachtas or jointly by both Houses of the Oireachtas" to give account for the general administration of his or her Corporation. It is understood that RTÉ has appeared before Joint Oireachtas Committees four times since 2015 to date.

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

The 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies was published in August 2016 and applies to all State bodies, including RTÉ and TG4. Following its publication the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform issued a clarification to the effect that State bodies are expected to be in full compliance with the Code at the end of the first full financial year subsequent to the publication of the Code (viz. 31 December 2017 in both cases). The Department has been working with RTÉ and TG4 to ensure full compliance with the Code within the specified deadline.

In line with the requirements of the Code, Oversight Agreements have been drafted, in consultation with RTÉ and TG4, and are expected to be signed by all relevant parties by the end of 2017. The

Oversight Agreement does not include any additional obligations; rather it describes the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the Department, BAI and the broadcasters, as set out in the Act.

Material in response to other matters raised in relation to RTE and future public service broadcasting in the course of the PAC appearance is set out below:-

Presenter Salaries

The previous Director General of RTÉ, Noel Curran, committed to and achieved reductions of 30% in presenters' contracts as they fell to be renewed. It is RTÉ's position that it is often not explained that these presenters bring in income far exceeding their salary and that this additional income is used to support the delivery of RTÉ's public service obligations. Additionally, many of RTÉ's 'top talent' are on a contract with RTÉ and are free to move within the commercial market, if they wish and as they have done in the past.

The salary reduction policy has continued under the current RTÉ Director-General, Dee Forbes. In a press release from August 2017 on the issue of presenters' salaries she stated: "RTÉ maintain our commitment to reduce these earnings by 30% as compared to 2008 levels, while continuing to value the significant contribution our presenters make to public media and to RTÉ's ability to optimise commercial revenue to support our public services."

The total top 10 presenter earnings for 2015 represents less than 1% of RTÉ's total operating costs in 2015 and less than 2% of total personnel related operating costs.

Pay Arrangements at RTÉ

In order to carry out its obligations as public service broadcaster, RTÉ enters into a broad range of contracts for the provision of goods and services with service providers. As a dual-funded public service broadcaster, RTÉ is obliged by law to maximise its commercial revenues to support all it does, and to do so it must retain key presenting talent to maintain and grow audiences.

RTÉ is transparent with regard to the fees it pays its top presenters and routinely publishes the fees paid on an annual basis. It does so in arrears to help protect its competitive position. A number of RTÉ's top presenters are not staff but are contracted by the station for their services. Such arrangements between RTÉ and presenters are contractual. The obligation to pay all applicable taxes to the Revenue rests with the contractor and their own financial advisors. RTÉ seeks and retains valid tax clearance certificates for all of its top talent. In the case where companies exist they are registered with the CRO, which has its own disclosure and regulatory requirements for which the company / contractor are responsible. These arrangements are commonplace in media and broadcasting, as they afford RTÉ the ability to refresh on-screen and on-air talent as audience needs and schedules change, the ability to experiment and try new voices and new faces, and the ability to retain talent for particular programmes, events or seasons but not carry costs for the full year.

Future Funding of Public Service Broadcasting

The future funding of public service broadcasting is a matter of concern and debate across all EU Member States. Rapid technological changes, the shifting of advertising revenue to digital and opt out channels, and evasion have all impacted heavily on broadcasting.

The Committee asked specifically about how a possible levy on “opt out” advertising would work. Briefly “opt-out” advertising, is where UK channels set up separate Irish versions of their channels which mirror the content which is available on the UK version but replace the UK advertising with Irish advertising. Approximately 20% of the total Irish TV advertising market of €200-235 million is sold by these channels, of which there are over 40 operating in the Irish market.

The Audiovisual Media Services Directive establishes the minimum requirements for Broadcasting/AV Regulation in the European Union and provides for access to the internal market by audiovisual media services (e.g. broadcasters both linear and non-linear/on demand).

The Directive is currently being revised and while negotiations are still underway, it has been proposed that the revised Directive would enable Member States to levy linear or on-demand service providers that are based in another Member State, but targeting the first Member State’s population.

This is among a number of issues that will be considered in addressing the important role that public service media plays in a democratic society, and the need to ensure that it is adequately resourced if it is to continue to deliver upon its remit. The Minister asked the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Communications, Climate Action & Environment in October 2016 to examine future funding options for public service broadcasting and consider the definition of public service broadcasting in the context of changing media landscape. The Joint Oireachtas Committee held a public consultation between October and February, followed by a very useful consultative forum in July 2017.

The Minister welcomes the publication of the Committee’s Report on 28th November 2017. He will examine the Committee’s recommendations which will help inform future policy options.

The Department engaged independent consultants to review the issue of ‘opt-out’ advertising in Ireland, and its report will be published shortly.

APPENDIX E – Eircodes

7. A note on the use Eircode to the following

- *Usage in the private sector*
- *A breakdown of the State agencies using Eircode*
- *The targets in place to maximise the service.*

Eircodes usage in the private sector

There are currently 800 Eircode Business customers using Eircodes within their business operations across a wide spectrum of sectors, including logistics/deliveries, utilities, hotel, retail, telecommunications, insurance, fast food deliveries, service engineers and property management.

This is a 100% increase in the number of businesses that were licencing the Eircode database in 2016. These organisations have incorporated the Eircode into their business services, and this is growing all the time with new customers. Since its introduction, Eircode has been embraced by many companies including Google, TomTom, Tesco, Fastway Couriers, DHL, CityPost; 123.ie; Irish Red Cross, Trip Advisor, Aviva Insurance Limited, Musgrave, Domino's Pizza, Sky, Nightline Logistics Group, Nike, Specsavers, Curry's PC World, and Virgin Media.

There are over 34 approved Eircode Providers. These are both Irish SME's and international business organisations that develop business solutions and apps utilising Eircodes for their customers in telecommunications, logistics, utilities, retail and financial services.

The Eircode Finder, <https://finder.eircode.ie/#/> is a free to use website that members of the public and businesses use to find Eircodes for addresses and to get directions to address locations i.e. using the Eircode Finder on a mobile device just like a SatNav app. Eircode is available in Google Maps, also helping people and businesses to accurately locate addresses throughout Ireland. TomTom and other satnav providers are currently in the process of integrating Eircodes into their satnav apps and devices for use by consumers and businesses. The timeframe for launching products with Eircodes depends on the individual organisations product development cycle for the Irish market.

Since its launch in July 2015, Eircode usage, as part of an address, continues to grow and is used widely among the public, businesses and public sector. There have been 17.5 million free lookups since July 2015 on the Eircode Finder website with an average of 31,000 lookups per day.

A number of these organisations are both international and Irish SMEs that develop business solutions and apps utilising Eircodes for their customers. We are aware of one such Irish SME that has developed a number of Eircode business solutions currently in use across multiple industries. These include:

- **Free Eircode mobile app** based on Google Maps that is used extensively by courier/delivery drivers who verify, sort and deliver parcels every day with Eircodes. Key usage stats for this app in October are:
 - c.7,500 active courier delivery drivers are using the app. This is up from 6,000 in July;
 - c.100,000 times the app was used to provide sat-nav directions. This is up from just over 74,000 in July and over 600,000 times since launch;

- Since release in May 2016, it has been downloaded 25,000 times up to July; and
 - This app has received positive feedback from delivery drivers from many of the major delivery companies e.g. Nightline Group and CampusOil.ie.
- **Retail eCommerce and mCommerce applications** that simplify buying online for shoppers and the retailers. With 27% of shopping cart abandonment associated with “too long/complicated checkout process^[1]”, these applications can reduce the number of key clicks by up 91% for shoppers by simply autocompleting the address or Eircode. By decreasing the amount of typing for the online shopper it improves their shopping experience with the online site, reduces the likelihood of shopping cart abandonment and for the retailer it speeds up customer address capture while also validating the address at point-of-sale.
 - **Insurance sector** also makes use of Eircodes being a unique location identifier for all properties, especially the 35% of properties in the state that share the same address. Insurance companies are using Eircodes to evaluate risks for underwriting, claims processing, fraud detection and market segmentation. Eircode, along with an address, enables the householder to provide the precise location of their property when seeking insurance.

Also, there are many businesses that use Eircodes free of charge in the services they provide to their customers using the Eircode Finder and a number of free Eircode Finder apps on mobile devices, in-car satnav and personal computers to accurately locate addresses and get directions. While benefiting deliveries of goods and service, Eircodes also simplifies buying online for businesses and shoppers.

A breakdown of the State agencies using Eircodes

Eircodes have been integrated and used by the large public sector bodies, including the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Department of Health, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Passport Office).

State Bodies and Agencies that use Eircodes include the Local Government Management Agency, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Residential Tenancies Board, Property Registration Authority of Ireland, Central Statistics Office, Companies Registration Office, Ordnance Survey Ireland, National Treasury Management Agency, Health Service Executive, Road Safety Authority, An Post, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, Bord na Móna, Commission for Communications Regulation, Environmental Protection Agency, RTÉ, the Office of Public Works, Tusla, Pobal, National Ambulance Service and local authorities. .

Some examples of how the Eircode has been successfully implemented in public sector bodies are described below:

^[1] Source: Baymard Institute, 2017 Reasons for abandonment during check study
(<https://baymard.com/lists/cart-abandonment-rate>)

- Eircodes are in use on this Department's High Speed Broadband Map 2020. Users simply enter the Eircode of the residential or commercial premises and the map indicates whether the premises falls within the Blue, Amber or Light Blue areas. On the day of the launch of the updated National Broadband Plan Map (4 April 2017) over 99% of the 7,000 visitors used their Eircode to determine which area their property falls in;
- National Ambulance Service (NAS) have integrated Eircodes into their Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD) and are currently fitting their ambulances with GPS devices which means that the patient's address and the position of the nearest available ambulance can be accurately pinpointed on a digital map using Eircode, enabling an ambulance to be quickly and accurately routed to someone in need of medical help;
- An Garda Síochána encourage members of the public to mark their property with their Eircode to facilitate speedier recovery of lost or stolen property;
- Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) has integrated Eircodes into its educational grants award system which assists students to apply for the correct rate of grant. Using the Eircode as the unique location identifier and Google maps, SUSI determines the student's distance from the Institution when calculating the grant award. SUSI has processed over 108,000 applications, with in excess of 83,000 student awards granted for the 2015/16 academic year;
- Central Statistics Office (CSO) utilises Eircode as part of their core data and launched the new Residential Property Price Index covering all market purchases of houses and apartments, including in rural Ireland. Eircodes allow the register to measure prices with greater accuracy by using the Eircode Routing Key;
- National Transport Authority (NTA) has incorporated Eircodes within the National Journey Planner app for use by the public. This free app provides door-to-door services for members of the public accessing public transport within rural, urban and city centre locations across the country;
- Waterford City and County Council have incorporated the Eircode into their online customer management systems, used by members of the public to report incidents like dumping, littering, anti-social incidents and similar to the Council;
- The HSE is incorporating Eircodes into a number of their key operational systems including Primary Care Reimbursement Service, Patient Administrative Systems and the Individual Health Identifier (IHI) system as part of the Governments eHealth strategy
- Residential Tenancy Board (RTB) has used the Eircode to identify rent pressure zones and develop the RTB index. Tenants and Landlords in calculating allowable rent increases can now check if their dwelling is in a Rent Pressure Zone by simply typing in the property's Eircode (&/or address) into the RTB Rent Pressure Zone Calculator.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) has issued a circular directing all Government Bodies and their Agencies to:

- store and integrate Eircodes as part of an address whenever it is relevant to the transactions between the Public Service Body and their customers;
- include Eircode as part of the address in all ICT systems and processes currently being developed or upgraded (or those being planned for development), in order to facilitate its recording and utilisation.

Targets in place to maximise the service

Under the contract with Capita, there are targets that ensure Eircodes are implemented across the State efficiently and effectively. These include the following:

- At the end of Years 4, 7 and 10 at least 70%, 80% and 90% respectively shall know their Eircode. As part of its National Media Campaign at launch, Eircode carried out a nationally representative survey on 13 July 2015 which showed that over 60% of the general public knew their Eircode. A further nationally representative survey will be undertaken by the end of this year to determine if 70% of general public know their Eircode, in line with the Year 4 target.
- At least 99% of new addresses are allocated a postcode within 7 weeks ; this is being achieved.
- At least 99% of requests for existing addresses are answered within 5 days; this is being achieved.

APPENDIX F – Shared Services

8. A note on the savings made following the Department's move to shared service and comparing the cost of this with in house provisions.

The Department uses shared services in respect of payroll processing, human resources transactional responsibilities and a range of ICT services. The total estimated annual savings from the use of these services is just over €600k due to a reduced staffing requirement of 13.2 full-time equivalent posts.

ICT Shared Services

The Department entered into a shared services arrangement with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in February 2011 for the provision of a range of ICT services. The services provided under the agreement include the following:

- Networks Security;
- Identity management;
- Procurement, installation and maintenance of PCs;
- Server operating systems and hosting;
- Multi-tier application services;
- User/business services including email, security patching, file and print and storage management

The implementation of the agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding is monitored by a joint departmental project team. The agreement is currently being reviewed by both Departments with a view to continuing with the shared service arrangement into the future.

Payroll Shared Service Centre

The Department transferred its payroll function to the Department of Finance in 2011 which was subsequently transferred to the PSSC together with responsibility for the processing of travel and subsistence claims in 2014.

Human Resources Shared Services

The Department transferred its human resource (HR) transactional responsibilities to PeoplePoint shared services in November 2014 as part of a civil service-wide initiative. The services which transferred and continue to be provided by PeoplePoint/National Shared Services Office include:

1. HR Employee service delivery in the following areas :
 - a) Leave Administration
 - b) Absenteeism Administration
 - c) Employee Data Administration
 - d) Pension Administration
 - e) Work Sharing Administration
 - f) Pay & Remuneration Administration

- g) Employee Scheme Administration
- h) Exit Administration
- i) Organisation Structures
- j) HR Reporting

2. Provision of management information in areas of parliamentary question information, freedom of information data requests and overall management reporting on HR transactional matters
3. Statutory returns and obligations including Revenue and payroll records, pensions and public financial procedures and overpayments
4. Customer service for employees and managers providing support on HR and pensions areas in line with good practice and Data Protection guidelines.

The shared services arrangement between the Department and the National Shared Services Office (ie Peoplepoint and PSSC) is governed by an annual Employee Services Management Agreement. The Agreement sets down for both parties their respective responsibilities in ensuring the efficient processing and payment of salaries, pensions and HR administration and documents the responsibilities, scope of activities, quality of service provision and performance measures to be provided by the NSSO.

The Agreement is monitored by monthly key performance indicator reports and bi-annual meetings between the parties.

APPENDIX G – An Post & Prize bonds

9. A note on An Post subsidiaries including SLAs in place and whether An Post staff are shareholders in any of the subsidiary company

Details of subsidiaries of An Post are set out in the Tables below. An Post has confirmed that no staff members are shareholders in any of the subsidiary companies.

The companies are legal entities and any trade between them and An Post is on commercial terms, as it would be with third parties. There are no SLAs in place in respect of the subsidiaries and the trade between the subsidiaries is conducted on an arm's length basis.

Subsidiary undertakings held directly by the Company

Name	Nature of Business	% Holding
Postpoint Services Limited	Mobile top ups	100%
Printpost Limited	High volume printing	100%
An Post Billpost Processing Service Limited	Bill payment processing	100%
An Post GeoDirectory DAC	Database services	51%
Precision Marketing Information Limited trading as Data Ireland	Provision of marketing data, database services and business directories	100%
Arcade Property Company Limited	Property development and letting	100%
Prince's Street Property Company Limited	Dormant	100%
Post Consult International Limited	Computer software services	100%
Post.Trust Limited	Digital certification and Security Service	100%
Transpost Limited	Courier and distribution	100%
Kompass Ireland Publishers Limited	Dormant	100%
An Post (NI) Limited	Holding Company	100%
TSC Ventures DAC	Holding Company	53.6%

Subsidiary undertakings held indirectly through a subsidiary undertaking

Name	Nature of Business	% Holding
Air Business Limited	Distribution and magazine subscription services	100%
GVS Gift Voucher Shop DAC	Retail gift vouchers	53.6%
The Gift Voucher Shop Limited	Retail gift vouchers	53.6%
GVS Prepaid Limited	Retail gift cards	53.6%
One Direct (Ireland) Limited trading as Post Insurance	Insurance Broker	100%

Joint ventures held directly by the Company

Name	Nature of Business	% Holding
The Prize Bond Company DAC	Administration of the Prize Bond Scheme	50%

10. A note on prize bonds including the amount of prize money awarded since the start of the year and a breakdown by county where the money was won.

Prize Bonds are an integral part of the wider range of State Savings products offered to retail customers by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). Prize Bonds are offered by An Post and The Prize Bond Company Limited, acting as agents of the NTMA.

Details of prizes awarded since the start of 2017 to mid November are set out in the Table below.

<u>COUNTY/COUNTRY</u>	<u>NO OF PRIZES</u>	<u>VALUE OF PRIZES</u>
CO. ANTRIM	195	9,750
CO. ARMAGH	104	5,200
CO. CARLOW	2,589	134,500
CO. CAVAN	2,170	161,700
CO. CLARE	6,154	376,550
CO. CORK	30,485	1,845,350
CO. DERRY	122	7,050
CO. DONEGAL	3,934	354,500
CO. DOWN	266	16,100
CO. DUBLIN	111,953	8,003,900
CO. FERMANAGH	153	8,600
CO. GALWAY	10,798	568,300
CO. KERRY	9,807	511,750
CO. KILDARE	11,536	701,450
CO. KILKENNY	3,964	203,300
CO. LAOIS	2,982	157,450
CO. LEITRIM	1,243	65,450
CO. LIMERICK	9,958	564,900
CO. LONGFORD	1,068	107,100
CO. LOUTH	3,574	184,350
CO. MAYO	4,396	236,750
CO. MEATH	9,050	680,350
CO. MONAGHAN	1,572	82,400
CO. OFFALY	2,675	140,250
CO. ROSCOMMON	2,387	125,900
CO. SLIGO	3,337	221,450
CO. TIPPERARY	7,010	366,800
O. TYRONE	307	15,350
CO. WATERFORD	7,006	364,850
CO. WESTMEATH	3,768	195,800
CO. WEXFORD	7,418	1,443,800
CO. WICKLOW	10,854	616,000
Other Countries	4,129	212,950
Total	276,964	€18,689,900

APPENDIX H – Environment Fund

11. A note on the spend under the nuclear safety subhead of the Environment Fund in 2016.

The Government formally adopted a national policy on radioactive waste management for Ireland in late 2010. In this regard, one of its key initiatives is the reduction of Ireland's inventory of disused radioactive waste sources held by licensees at multiple locations throughout the country through a phased Inventory Reduction Programme.

Under this programme, the Department maintains an annual contingency fund of €50,000 to dispose of radioactive orphan sources which represent a danger to public health and the environment. These are radioactive sources which are reported to the EPA and do not have an identifiable owner, or in many circumstances, were owned by a company which has been since wound up.

Spend is contingent on the detection of orphan sources, in years where no such sources are reported/detected there is no commensurate spend. For instance, there was no spend in 2015 or 2017 as no sources were disposed of. The spend in 2016 of €14,755 relates to the collection and recovery of a Lightning Preventor Head for disposal by Rilta Environmental Ltd. A spend in 2018 is anticipated as a number of sources have been reported to the EPA and will be subject to negotiation which the contractor for the recovery and disposal of the sources.

13. A breakdown of funding to BirdWatch Ireland for 2014 to present and the reasons that there was no funding in 2015

In 2014, funding of €32,550 was provided for BirdWatch Ireland to complete a survey. Wildlife issues, including those related to birds, fall under the remit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG). While DCCAE does not directly fund such projects, under an inter-departmental agreement, DCHG receives 10% of the overall annual Environment Fund allocation. In addition, as a member of the Irish Environment Network (IEN), Birdwatch Ireland still receives core funding from DCCAE (over €14,000 in 2016). This funding is provided by the Department through the IEN to improve civil society participation in environmental policy.

Other Environment Fund matters

In the years prior to 2011 the Environment Fund (EF) had built up a surplus due to strong Landfill Levy (LL) and Plastic Bag Levy (PBL) receipts. However, from 2011, a number of expenditure areas including, *inter alia*, Met Eireann and EPA non-pay, previously funded directly from the Exchequer, were moved to the EF due to reductions in direct Exchequer funding. As a result of moving these commitments to the EF, allocations exceeded revenue and the EF surplus was exhausted by 2013. From 2013, it was, therefore, necessary to

ensure that relevant allocations were matched to projected income as the surplus had been exhausted. EF Allocations since 2011 were reduced as demonstrated in the table below:

Env Fund Allocations	€m	% Change vs Previous Year
2011	99.65	+33%
2012	78.78	-21%
2013	60.15	-24%
2014	49.62	-18%
2015	44.00	-11%
2016	40.54	-8%
2017	38.76	-4.4%

In recent years, up to 2015, there was a significant decline in the amount of leviable waste deposited at landfill, which in turn led to a significant decline in revenue to the EF from LL. Income from the PBL also trended downward, but not as significantly as the LL. In 2016, the decline in LL was temporarily reversed and LL revenue amounted to €47.24m compared to the original projection of €27m.

Notwithstanding the decline in EF allocations, it should be noted that the **overall allocations** made to environmental initiatives in 2017, from both the EF and direct Exchequer funding from the Vote (i.e. any such programmes previously funded from the EF), **exceeds what was allocated in 2016 by €11.3m.** (See table below). The allocation to environmental initiatives from the Vote and EF in 2016 was €82.36m compared to €79.036M for 2015, an increase of €3.324m

Illegal Dumping

In 2017, a new anti-dumping initiative was launched by the Minister. €1.3m was allocated to this initiative in 2017 and it is anticipated that at least the same funding will be made available for 2018.

The Local Authority Anti-Litter Awareness Grant

The Department has co-funded grants for local authority anti-litter awareness and education initiatives, amounting to over €15m since 1997 (including the 2017 allocation of €885,000). Local authorities select suitable projects for funding and deciding on individual

grant allocations. The Scheme requires that projects selected should promote greater public awareness and education in relation to litter, and since 2008, graffiti. Projects should also, where possible, focus on voluntary initiatives by community and environmental groups and involve schools and young people in anti-litter and anti-graffiti action.

ALAGS Allocations 2012 – 2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Euro	Euro	Euro	Euro	Euro
Litter Awareness Grants	876,296	841,700	677,362	684,840	865,071

As noted above, under the Environment Fund heading, due to pressure on the Environment Fund, revenue from Landfill and Plastic Bag levies trended downwards in from 2011 to 2015. Accordingly, it was necessary for a new approach to the 2015 and 2016 Environment Fund allocations. This resulted in some reduction in funding made available for ALAGS. However, in 2016, with the short-term reversal in the decline of the Fund as noted above, and noting the importance of the ALAGS, it was possible to increase funding. The 2017 provision of €885,000 represents an increase of 28% to each local authority on the sum allocated in 2016 (€690,000) and the level of 2017 ALAGS funding is comparable with 2013-2014 funding.

Full Allocations from Environment Fund and **Vote** by Subhead*

*Lines highlighted yellow are Vote subheads

EF/Vote Subhead	2016 Final Allocation	2017 Allocations
VOTE F.10 WASTE CAMPAIGN	0	1,600,000
VOTE F.6 LANDFILL REMEDIATION	8,500,000	11,000,000
EF1 WASTE POLICY/ENVIRONMENT POLICY	4,370,000	6,976,000
EF1.3 NATIONAL PROGRAMMES	3,895,000	6,506,000
EF1.3.1 National Waste Prevention Programme	2,805,000	2,945,000
EF1.3.2 Market Development Programme	20,000	1,000
EF1.3.5 Biodegradable Waste Strategy	250,000	350,000
EF1.3.6 Regional Waste Management Planning (New in 2015)	300,000	300,000
EF1.3.7 Household Waste Collection Education and Awareness Campaign (New in 2015)	200,000	Nil – Met From Vote F.10 in 2017
EF1.3.8 Nation Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) Annual Returns Database (New in 2015)	50,000	Nil - Project concluded in 2016
EF1.3.9 Implementation of Pay-by-Weight at Civic Amenity Facilities (New in 2016)	20,000	2,000,000
EF 1.3.10 NWCPO - National Waste Database - Households (new in 2016)	150,000	200,000
EF1.3.11 Hazardous Waste - One day collections from households and small businesses (New in 2016)	100,000	100,000
EF 1.3.12 Uniform rebranding of Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Banks (New in 2017)	0	110,000
EF 1.3.13 Waste Capacity Contingency (New in 2017)	0	500,000
EF1.4 PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES	75,000	70,000
EF1.4.10 Producer Responsibility Review	75,000	70,000
EF1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY COLLECTION COSTS	400,000	400,000

EF1.5.2 Revenue Charges for the collection of Environmental Levies	400,000	400,000
EF2 WASTE POLICY	10,400,000	9,550,000
EF2.2 RECYCLING OPERATIONAL COSTS	1,500,000	0
EF2.2.1 Subvention of Recycling Costs	1,500,000	Nil – Programme concluded in 2016
EF2.3 ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES	8,900,000	9,350,000
EF2.3.1 Enforcement Initiatives (Capital)	100,000	200,000
EF2.3.2 Enforcement Initiatives (Current - includes illegal dumping initiative) (New in 2017)	8,200,000	9,150,000
EF2.3.3 LA Enforcement Initiatives -Pilots	0	0
EF2.3.4 North/South Waste Repatriation	600,000	Nil – Met from Vote F.6 in 2017
EF2.5 OPERATIONAL COSTS	0	200,000
EF2.5.2 Consultancies	0	200,000
EF3 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	1,909,000	1,693,000
EF3.1 OPERATIONAL COSTS	262,000	12,000
EF3.1.1 Printing and Publishing	310	310
EF3.1.3 Advertising	6,690	6,690
EF3.1.6 Ballymun LIFE/WISER LIFE	250,000	Nil – Project concluded in 2016
EF3.1.4 External Campaign Costs	5,000	5,000
EF3.2 GRANT ASSISTANCE	1,647,000	1,681,000
EF3.2.2 Grant Assistance (Current)	1,452,000	

		1,486,000
EF3.2.3 Green Schools	195,000	195,000
VOTE F.4 CARBON FUND	470,000	800,000
VOTE F.5 INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS	2,000,000	2,500,000
VOTE F.7 TECHNICAL RESEARCH & MODELLING	1,250,000	1,750,000
VOTE F.8 INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,000,000	3,000,000
VOTE F.9 NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE	0	350,000
EF4 AIR/CLIMATE	359,550	1,701,000
EF4.1.2 AIR QUALITY/NOISE	197,050	301,000
EF4.1.2.1 Air Quality/Noise (Capital)	0	0
EF4.1.2.2 Air Quality/Noise (Current)	197,050	301,000
EF4.1.3 CLIMATE CHANGE	162,500	1,400,000
EF4.1.3.1 Climate Change	162,500	1,400,000
EF4.2.2.3 Trust Fund for the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Convention	0	0
EF5 ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL & SUST DEV	67,000	147,000
EF5.1 NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	5,000	5,000
EF5.1.1 Waste Management	5,000	5,000
EF5.2 EU LIFE FUNDING PROGRAMME	0	80,000
EF5.2.1 Life Grant Scheme (New in 2017)	0	75,000
EF5.2.2 EU Promotion of Life Applications (New in 2017)	0	5,000
EF5.6 SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES	62,000	62,000
EF5.6.1 Sustainability Initiatives	62,000	62,000
VOTE F.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	20,534,000	26,932,000

EF6 ENVIRONMENT POLICY/WASTE POLICY	11,774,000	8,512,500
EF6.1 LITTER INITIATIVE	1,045,500	1,345,000
EF6.1.1 Grants to Local Authorities	780,000	1,000,000
EF6.1.2 National Spring Clean (An Taisce)	168,000	225,000
EF6.1.3.1 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System	57,500	80,000
EF6.1.4 IBAL (Irish Businesses against Litter)	40,000	40,000
EF 6.2 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT	2,220,000	2,220,000
EF6.2.1 Office of Environmental Enforcement	2,220,000	2,220,000
EF6.3 EPA	8,502,000	4,900,000
EF6.3.1 EPA R&D	3,602,000	Nil – Met from Vote F.3 in 2017
EF6.3.5 Environmental Protection Agency - Non Pay	4,900,000	4,900,000
EF6.5 AARHUS	6,500	47,500
EF6.5.2 Aarhus Awareness	6,500	47,500
EF13 HERITAGE	4,381,060	3,875,631
EF13.7 RECOUP TO DAHRRGA	4,381,060	3,875,631
EF13.7.1 Recoup to DAHRRGA (Current)	3,381,060	2,875,631
EF13.7.2 Recoup to DAHRRGA (Capital)	1,000,000	1,000,000 ¹
EF15 NUCLEAR SAFETY	1,650,000	1,435,000
EF15.1 Nuclear Safety	50,000	50,000
EF15.3 Subscriptions to International Organisations - Env Rad Policy	1,600,000	1,385,000
EF16 SEA LETTUCE INTERVENTION	30,000	30,000

¹ DAHRRGA receive 10% of total EF allocations on foot of an agreement between then DECLG and DAHG when heritage functions moved to the former DAHG – the capital/ current breakdown is estimated based on previous expenditure.

EF16.1 Sea Lettuce Intervention	30,000	30,000
EF17 TIDY TOWNS	65,000	0
EF17.1.1 Tidy Towns	65,000	Nil – Will be met from DAHRRGA Vote in 2017
EF18 MET ÉIREANN	5,450,000	4,736,176
EF18.1.1 Subscriptions to International Meteorological Organisations	5,450,000	4,736,176
EF19 NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (NESC)	80,000	100,000
EF19.1.1 National Economic and Social Council (NESC)	80,000	100,000
VOTE F.1 ADMINISTRATION PAY	3,843,000	4,345,000
VOTE F.2 ADMINISTRATION NON-PAY	2,183,000	2,112,000
VOTE F.11 OTHER SERVICES	47,000	547,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION	82,362,610	93,692,307

APPENDIX I– Emergency Call Answering Services

12. A comparative note on the cost of the emergency call answering service at present with the cost prior to outsourcing

Background

Prior to the current concession agreement, 112/999 calls were answered by eir (formerly eircom) and its predecessors. In December 2003, eir advised the Department that it could not continue to provide this service free of charge. It indicated that the majority of emergency calls were originating on mobile networks and argued that eir was subsidising the cost of the provision of the service for other telecommunications operators.

Eir estimated that the volume of emergency calls was between 4.5 million and 5 million annually and that the cost of the service amounted to approximately €6 million per annum. Eir agreed to continue the provision of the services until such time as an operator was selected to act as concessionaire.

Legislation and funding

The legal basis for the Emergency Call Answering Service (ECAS) is set out in the Communications Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007. It provides for the establishment and operation of ECAS and enables the Minister to go to tender for the identification of an undertaking for the provision of the service.

The Department issued an invitation to tender for a concessionaire to operate the ECAS in September 2007. BT Ireland was successful in this tender and was appointed as operator of the service. The concession agreement was signed with BT Ireland on 12 February 2009 and commenced operation on 14 July 2010.

The average annual cost of running the service under the concession agreement has been approximately €7.5m. Emergency calls are free of charge to the caller on all telecommunications networks. There is no cost to the Exchequer for the provision of ECAS, since the legislation provides that the service is funded through a Call Handling Fee (CHF) where a charge for every emergency call is imposed on the telecommunications provider on whose network the call originates.

The Act obliges and empowers ComReg to review the reasonable costs of operating the service, both capital and annual running expenses, and to determine the maximum permitted CHF to ensure that the reasonable costs are recovered by the ECAS Operator.

The volume of calls has declined from 3.23m in 2010 to 1.76m in 2016 due in large part to remedial work by eircom on faulty lines that were generating a high number of false emergency calls and, more recently, new Smartphone design which has reduced the volume of accidental 112/999 calls.

APPENDIX J - Waste Management <i>the number of households that pay for waste collection and recycling each week</i>
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The CSO Quarterly National Household Survey (Environment Module) in Q 2 2014 indicates that the number of households on wheelie bin or bag service (including sharing with neighbour/relative/friend) was 88% which equates to 1,688,215 homes. This is the most recent information available.

APPENDIX K - Carbon Levy Fund

15. An information note on the carbon levy fund

Background

Large Energy User (LEU) Rebates

Rebates were given to all electricity consumers, including Large Energy Users (LEUs), for the year 2008/2009, (when electricity prices were still regulated) to mitigate against high prices driven by international factors and the impact of the significant economic downturn. The Government decided to maintain, for a temporary period, specific rebates for LEU's only because of its concerns about LEUs energy competitiveness, given their substantial employment, and having regard to the continuing economic crisis. These specific temporary LEU rebates were to be maintained in existence for three years on a declining basis to provide LEUs with a gradual transition over a three-year period from the 2008/9 rebate to a zero rebate. The rebates ended on 30th September 2012.

Following the first year of the specific LEU rebate (2009/2010) having been funded from once off revenues accruing to ESB and held in an ESB account established for that purpose, the Carbon Revenue Levy was established under legislation in September 2010 to provide funds for the payment of the balance of the LEU rebates, i.e. for the subsequent two years until 30 September 2012.

Carbon Revenue Levy

The Carbon Revenue Levy recovered a substantial proportion of the gains of electricity generators from the treatment of carbon in the All-Island Single Electricity Market (or SEM) , by way of a levy on these generators' revenues. These gains arose because generators were allowed to receive, as part of their revenues from the SEM, the open-market cost of carbon, even though they would have incurred little or no cost acquiring the carbon allowances because of the free allowances allocated to them under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Originally, the Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (Carbon Revenue Levy) Act 2010 provided that the Carbon Revenue Levy would end on the 31st December 2012, in line with the ending of free ETS allowances. However, the Electricity Regulation (Carbon Revenue Levy) (Amendment) Act 2012 brought forward the last date for collection of the levy from December 2012 to May 2012. The 2012 legislation ending the levy was enacted following a Supreme Court ruling in February 2012, which quashed the prohibition on the levy being included in the wholesale electricity price bids in the SEM.

Carbon Revenue Levy Account: Levy receipts and LEU payments

In September 2010, the Carbon Revenue Levy Account was established by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) (formerly Commission for Energy Regulation), as provided for under the 2010 Act. The sum remaining in the ESB's account, from which the first year of the LEU rebate had been paid, together with levy monies collected from generators were added to the Carbon Revenue Levy Account. The specific LEU rebates for the second and third years were paid out from this Account, in line with the Government Decision, and with the consent of the Minister for Finance. The LEU rebate ended on 30th September 2012, in line with the original Government decision, as

there were sufficient funds available in this Account to continue payment of the rebates, despite the “early” ending of collection of the levy in May 2012.

Presentation of the Report and Accounts by the CRU

Under the 2010 Act, the CRU is obliged to present the audited Carbon Revenue Levy Accounts to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The audited accounts for year ended 31 December 2012 & Cessation Accounts for the period 1 January 2013 – 31 March 2014 were duly submitted by the CRU in accordance with Act. Under the Act, the Minister is required to cause copies of the accounts together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the accounts, to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas. The Carbon Revenue Levy Report and Accounts for 2012 and the Cessation Accounts for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014 incorporating the Report of the Comptroller Auditor General on the Report and Accounts were laid before the Oireachtas on 3 July 2015.

The 2012 accounts opened with a balance of €64,239,215. Total income for that year was in the sum of €18,149,239. Total expenditure was in the sum of €37,720,255. Expenditure for that period comprised of the LEU customer credits. The accounts for the period 1 January 2013 – 31 March 2014 opened with a balance of €44,668,199. Total income for that period was in the sum of €85,282. Total expenditure was in the sum of €260,366. Expenditure comprised of monies paid into the Public Service Energy Campaign. There was a net surplus of €44,500,000 available at the end of March 2014. **Disbursement of the remaining funds**

Government had previously agreed to use the remaining monies in the Carbon Revenue Levy Account to create an Energy Efficiency National Fund (the “Fund”) to underpin the National Energy Performance Contracting Policy Framework (the “Framework”). The Fund is to assist in stimulating energy efficiency upgrades in the commercial and public sectors and provide initial finance to test new mechanisms for delivering the estimated public sector funding requirement of €1 billion. The net surplus of €44.5m available was disbursed to the Fund and the Exchequer in March 2014 - €35 million was invested in the Energy Efficiency Fund and the remaining funds were allocated to the OPW to establish the Optimising Power@Work to promote more energy efficient behaviour in the public sector.

As at 31 March 2014, the only remaining balances on the accounts related to the cash left available for the payment of €15,465 of audit fees to the C&AG. The Carbon Revenue Levy Account therefore had net assets of zero within the accounts, as at 31st March 2014.

Formal closure of Carbon Revenue Levy Account

Section 13 of the Energy Act provides for the formal closure of the account by amendment to existing text of section 40 of the Electricity Regulation Act of 1999.

APPENDIX L - Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce

16. A note on the status of the pilot programme between local authorities and mobile phone operators to identify black spots in mobile phone signal

The Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce has identified two measures to be actioned by the Department and the Department of Rural and Community Development to deal with the issue of mobile coverage blackspots. These are:

- Action 17: Telecommunications operators should identify, in consultation with local communities where appropriate, optimal locations/areas in which they require additional infrastructure to improve coverage prior to engaging with local authorities and non-commercial State bodies. Industry will then engage with the single point of contact to scope and manage any issues and risks associated with site selection.
- Action 40: A review will be undertaken to address the issue of blackspots to include recommendations on initiatives to address the issue, taking account of the various innovative options available.

Telecommunications operators are actively engaging in respect of these Actions, on both a formal and informal basis with Broadband Officers in all the Local Authorities and have reported that they are acting as a valuable liaison between industry and the local community. Operators have provided the Broadband Officers with nominated points of contact in their organisations in order to streamline engagement. In addition, mobile network operators and ComReg have provided mobile phone coverage maps.

The Departments worked with a pilot group of Local Authorities to identify the issues associated with mapping local blackspots. The pilot exercise has since been completed. All Local Authorities have now been asked to map local blackspots and identify infrastructure that could potentially be used to provide additional coverage on an economic basis.

Telecommunications operators will continue to engage with Local Authorities through the two Regional Action Groups established by the Department of Department of Rural and Community Development and via the Broadband Officers. A subgroup of the Regional Action Groups is also focusing on developing a protocol to guide the engagement with industry.

The information received from the mapping of local mobile phone blackspots by Local Authorities will be collated and used as a basis for further engagement with the mobile operators. In addition, a focus group will examine the issue of coverage and coverage expectations and will assist in identifying specific categories of locations where high quality mobile coverage should be available.

APPENDIX M – Other Matters

Ocean Energy Research - Prototype Development Fund

The Department's multi-annual ocean energy development budget supports the development of the world class (marine energy) test facilities in counties Mayo, Galway and Cork, and the Prototype Development Fund operated by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The Prototype Development Fund supports innovation by providing funding to offshore renewable energy development projects - ranging from desk based studies to the development and testing of scaled prototypes.

Since 2009, the Prototype Development Fund has supported 101 projects.

- In 2016 22 projects, 17 of which were new, were funded at a cost of €1.3m
- SEAI anticipate a spend of €1.9 million in 2017 in respect of 24 active projects, 14 of which have been newly approved
- 11 applications have already been received for 2018. A further €4.75 million has been allocated to Ocean Energy development in 2018.

Renewable Energy PSO

Year	PSO funding for Renewables (€ Million)
2017/18	375.7
2016/17	277.9
2015/16	156.3
2014/15	93.1

The table above shows the renewables component of the Public Service Obligation in the period from 2014 to 2017. This illustrates the cost to consumers of funding renewable electricity to meet demand that would otherwise have to be met by electricity from fossil fuel imports.

While remuneration of renewable electricity generation adds to the PSO levy and customer bills, it should be noted that wind generation tends to reduce the wholesale price of electricity. This is because the operating cost of wind power is close to zero when the wind blows, thereby displacing fossil fuel generation. This is especially the case when fossil prices are high and associated fossil fuel plants are expensive to run.