



**An Roinn**  
**Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**

**Department of**  
**Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

**Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí**  
**Office of the Secretary General**

Ref: PAC 32-I-1019

Ms. Margaret Falsey  
 Committee Secretariat  
 Committee of Public Accounts  
 Houses of the Oireachtas  
 Leinster House  
 Dublin 2

28 July 2018

A chara,

I refer to your letter of 18 July 2018 and the requests for updates on the following Departmental activities:

1. The timeline for the post project review in relation to the Galway Art House/Palace Cinema project;
2. A note in relation to any learnings that are being applied to the European Capital of Culture Galway 2020 project.

In relation to point 1, the post project review of the Pálás Cinema project will commence in quarter one of 2019 and will be conducted in accordance with the Public Spending Code. The Code provides that such reviews should be undertaken once sufficient time has elapsed to ensure there is sufficient evidence of the flow of benefits/costs from it. This is essential for the project to be properly evaluated against the objectives set for it at its outset. As the Palas Cinema commenced operation in 2018, it is necessary to wait until 2019 to conduct the review to ensure that there are adequate operational data available for the analysis. It is estimated that the review will be completed within a six month timeframe from its commencement.

In relation to point 2, the Department has been working to ensure robust project management structures are put in place in respect of the European Capital of Culture Galway 2020 project, drawing on both the *ex post* evaluation of the inaugural designation of Limerick as National City of Culture (2014) and the Pálás Cinema project. Delivery of the Galway 2020 Programme will be underpinned by a robust governance and management structure. The Galway Cultural

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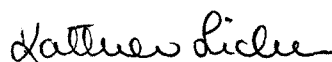
Development and Activity Company Limited by Guarantee, and trading under the name Galway 2020, was incorporated in February 2016 under the Companies Act 2014.

Galway 2020 is led by a Board of Directors comprised of 15 members, with skill sets drawn from the fields of law, governance, audit, marketing and communications, culture, broadcasting, digital and language. The Chief Executives of the City and County, as well as the City Mayor and County Cathaoirleach are numbered amongst these members. The Minister is represented on the Board by Mr Declan McGonagle, an experienced practitioner in cultural programme and project delivery and governance.

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction and the system of internal management and financial controls of Galway 2020. The Board will oversee and direct the work of the Executive Team at Galway 2020, and is fully accountable under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2014. The Executive Team of Galway 2020 is led by Chief Executive, Hannah Kiely. The Executive Team is responsible for implementing the directions of the Board, primarily through the delivery of the Galway 2020 Programme, in compliance with the system of internal controls set down by the Board. The Executive Team reports to the Board on its operations and expenditure.

A performance delivery agreement for the provision of the balance of the grant to be paid to Galway 2020 is currently being drawn up by officials of the Department in consultation with Galway 2020. The performance delivery agreement will address the roles and responsibilities of the Department and Galway 2020 in the provision and expenditure of the grant, as well as the key deliverables and performance indicators attached to the drawdown of the grant, and the monitoring and reporting arrangements in place. It will be a requirement for the drawdown of funding that expenditure will be in compliance with the provisions of Grant Circular 13/2014. The monitoring and reporting arrangements will include regular monitoring meetings with Galway 2020 and the advance submission of progress reports for more detailed discussion at the meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Licken  
Secretary General