



Ms Margaret Falsey  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
DUBLIN 2

17 October 2018

**Ref: PAC 32-I-1070**

Dear Ms Falsey,

I refer to your letter of 4 October 2018 on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee requesting a note on the following items pertaining to Galway European Capital of Culture 2020:

1. The new structures in place
2. What are the plans in place for the money that has been allocated and
3. What service level agreements have been put in place.

### **Galway 2020 Structures**

In relation to point 1, and as outlined in correspondence to the Committee on 28 July last, Galway 2020 is a not-for-profit company led by a Board of Directors that is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the company. The Board of Directors, chaired by Aideen McGinley, meets on a regular basis. An audit committee, chaired by board member, Enda Newton, meets up to eight times each year. The Minister is represented on the Board by Mr Declan McGonagle, who is in regular contact with officials of the Department.

The Executive team is now led by recently appointed Chief Executive, Patricia Philbin, a Director of Service on secondment from Galway City Council. Ms Philbin was Project Manager for Galway during the bid phase. The Chief Executive has in place a senior management team comprised of a Head of Programme, Head of Production, a Director of Communications, a Director of Finance and Operations and Head of Human Resources. The CEO and her team are responsible for the day-to-day running of Galway 2020 and report to the Board.

In relation to the cultural leadership role, the Board has been actively working on filling this position in recent weeks. Both the Board and my Department are acutely aware of the need to have this role filled by the required creative talent as early as possible.

### **Plans for Allocated Money**

The Government has committed €15 million to the delivery of the European Capital of Culture 2020. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provided a first tranche of funding of €250,000 in December 2017 toward certified expenditure already incurred for Galway 2020. The Minister announced last week that an allocation of €6 million will be made available in 2019. The bulk of the remaining commitment will be allocated in 2020, with the residual of the commitment held to 2021 in order to meet costs which will arise towards the end of the year as well as for legacy initiatives, as per the requirements of the EU Expert Monitoring Panel.

The funding is being allocated to support the delivery of projects under the programme and the production costs incurred by Galway 2020 in managing the process to bring the projects to successful completion. The funding will be subject to the terms of a Performance Delivery Agreement with Galway 2020 Company. The terms of the Agreement set out the conditions for the release of funds on a phased basis by the Department, including evidence of adequate progress on the projects under the Programme, payment by Galway 2020 for project milestones met, as well as evidence and assurance on best practice in governance arrangements, risk management and financial management. The Department is currently at an advanced stage of negotiating this Performance Delivery Agreement with Galway 2020.

### **What service level agreements have been put in place**

Service level agreements are in place between Galway 2020 and both Galway City Council and Galway County Council. The plan is to have the Performance Delivery Agreement in place with the Department by the end of October.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Licken

Secretary General