

Ref: PAC32-I-1094

17 October 2018

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

Dear Ms Falsey

I refer to your letter dated 10 October 2018 requesting an information note regarding the costs incurred by the State for the recent visit by Pope Francis to Ireland.

I understand that the bulk of the costs in relation to the visit was incurred by the Office of Public Works (OPW) and An Garda Síochána (AGS). OPW have advised that expenditure incurred to date on the Papal Visit is €14.1m and that the final cost will be no greater than the €20m budget approved for the visit.

The Department of Justice and Equality have advised that costs processed to date in relation to AGS in respect of the Papal visit are in the region of €5.2 million with overtime accounting for almost €4 million of this cost. They have indicated that not all costs have been claimed/processed as yet but the figure for costs to date of €5.2 million is likely to reflect most of the cost.

Responsibility for the above spending is a matter for the relevant Accounting Officers of these Departments/Offices and they should be in a position to confirm the level of expenditure that may have been incurred in relation to the Papal visit. If any further detail is required by the Committee these Departments/Offices may be in a position to provide same directly to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Robert Watt
Secretary General