

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 07 MARCH, 2019

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09.11 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

The following members were present:-

Deputies: Sean Fleming; Bobby Aylward; Peter Burke; Shane Cassells; Catherine Connolly; David Cullinane; Alan Farrell; Alan Kelly; Marc MacSharry; Catherine Murphy; Jonathan O'Brien; and Kate O'Connell.

Apologies from Deputy Pat Deering.

Also present:

Seamus McCarthy – Comptroller and Auditor General

Mark Brady – Deputy Director of Audit

It was agreed to reorder the agenda to allow for the Committee's engagement with witnesses from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform before dealing with other business of the Committee.

The Committee suspended at 09.49 a.m. to allow witnesses to take their seats.

The Committee went into in **public session** at 09.54 a.m.

7. Witnesses Examined

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

- Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General
- Mark Brady, Deputy Director of Audits

Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

- Robert Watt, Secretary General
- David O'Brien, Principal Officer, Office of Government Procurement
- David Feeney, Principal Officer, Corporate Office
- Helen Codd, AP, Corporate Office
- Ciara Morgan, AP, Investment Projects and Programmes Office

Matters for discussion

- Oversight and Implementation of Capital Projects
- Role of Public officials on State Boards

The Committee suspended at 11.43 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 11.55 a.m.

The Committee suspended at 13.00 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 14.13 p.m.

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1. Minutes of the Meetings of:

28 February 2019

Agreed and agreed to publish.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received		
A - Briefing documents and opening statements		Decision
32R002034-PAC	Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, dated 06/03/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002037-PAC	Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, dated 06/03/2019	Note and Publish.
B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
32R002013-PAC	Barry Donoghue, Deputy Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, dated 25/02/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002016-PAC	Maria Browne, Chief State Solicitor, Office of the Chief State Solicitor, dated 25/02/2019	Note and Publish. Request a breakdown of the outstanding cases for the year end.
32R002018-PAC	Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, Health Service Executive, dated 27/02/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002019-PAC	Aidan O'Driscoll, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 27/02/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002021-PAC	Aidan O'Driscoll, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 28/02/2019	Note and Publish. Request the overall number of cases progressed through the courts.
32R002023-PAC	Paul O'Toole, Chief Executive Officer, The Higher Education Authority, dated 28/02/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002024-PAC	Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer, NAMA, dated 27/02/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002025-PAC	Maurice Buckley, Chairman, Office of Public Works, dated 01/03/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002030-PAC	Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, dated 04/03/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002039-PAC	Maurice Buckley, Chairman, Office of Public Works, dated 06/03/2019	Note and Publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
32R002020-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 27/02/2019	Noted.

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Correspondence received		
32R002022-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 19/02/2019	Noted.
32R002026-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 01/03/2019	Note and Publish. Forward to original correspondent.
32R002027-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 02/03/2019	Noted.
32R002028-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 02/03/2019	Noted.
32R002029-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 04/03/2019	Note and Publish.

4. Accounts and Statements received since the meeting of the 21 February 2019

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/ turnover	Date certified	Date received	Audit opinion/notes
4.1	Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority	2017 €12.6 million	21 Dec 2018	25 Feb 2019	Clear audit opinion
4.2	Private Security Authority	2017 €5.7 million	5 Oct 2018	27 Feb 2019	Clear audit opinion

5. Work Programme

Work programme agreed.

6. Any other business

It was agreed to request the Clerk to seek any agreed follow-up information and carry out any agreed actions arising from the meeting.

The Committee went into **private session** at 14.33 p.m. to discuss private matters.

Items of correspondence received		
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
32R002035-PAC	Correspondence dated 27 November 2018.	It was agreed to write to the Correspondent conveying the decision of the Committee.
32R002036-PAC	Correspondence dated 19 February 2019.	

PAC Draft Annual Report 2018: The draft report was agreed and it was also agreed that the Chair would work with the Secretariat to finalise the document for publication.

Periodic Report No. 5: The draft report was agreed and it was also agreed that the Chair would work with the Secretariat to finalise the document for publication.

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8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 15.06 p.m. until 14 March 2019.

Sean Fleming, T.D
Chairman
14 March 2019