



OIFIG AN PHRÍOMH-ATURNAE STÁIT
CHIEF STATE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

29th March, 2019.

YOUR REF.: PAC32-1-1314

Ms. Éilis Fallon,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

OUR REF.:
MBROWNE//2018/00095/
Direct Dial: 4176107
CSSPO@CSSO.GOV.IE

Via Email

Re: Public Accounts Committee Appearance by the Chief State Solicitor on 7th February, 2019 – Request for Further Information

Dear Ms Fallon,

I refer to your letter of 15th March, 2019 seeking a further breakdown of the outstanding lottery grant cases for the year end 2018. The transcript of the Committee meeting on 7th March, 2019 indicates that the Committee sought details of how many cases were outstanding at the end of that year. For completeness, as set out in my letter of 26th February, 2019, the terminology of "lottery grants" is no longer used as grants are now paid out of Exchequer funds.

Please find below a table setting out the number of files outstanding at year end 2018, as well as the number of those files which have been closed or completed since that date (i.e. during Q1 2019). Please note that files have been classified as "outstanding" for these purposes if they had not been either closed or completed as at 31st December, 2018.

We have classified a file as "completed" where the relevant Department has been informed that the legal formalities have been completed, which allows the Department to progress its grant process. It should be noted, however, that a grant file is not closed by the CSSO until confirmation has been received from the grantee's Solicitor that he/she has complied with his/her undertaking to register, with the Property Registration Authority, the legal charge on the grantee's property in favour of the relevant Minister. We understand that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport generally retains 15 per cent of the grant monies until this final stage.

In the case of those files which remain outstanding, in the vast majority of cases (90 per cent), the legal process has been delayed for one of the reasons set out in my letter of 26th February, 2019. The most common reason for delay is where documentary issues

arise – i.e., where the documents returned by the grantees' Solicitors are incomplete and/or do not meet the requirements set out in the grant pack.

	2017	2018
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport		
Total files opened	64	246
Files outstanding at 31.12.2018	37	160
Files closed or completed since 31.12.2018	8	45
Files outstanding on 25.03.2018	29	115
Minister for Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht*		
Total files opened	25	17
Files outstanding at 31.12.2018	18	14
Files closed or completed since 31.12.2018	2	0
Files outstanding on 25.03.2018	16	14

I trust the above addresses the outstanding queries raised by members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Browne
Chief State Solicitor

Communications with Maria Browne as a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 may require you to register under the Regulation of Lobbying Act. See www.lobbying.ie for further detail.