

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 04 APRIL, 2019

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09.09 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

The following members were present:-

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

Apologies from Deputies Pat Deering.

Also present:

Seamus McCarthy – Comptroller and Auditor General

Maureen Mulligan – Deputy Director of Audit

1. Minutes of the Meetings of:

28 March 2019

Agreed and agreed to publish.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Correspondence received		
A - Briefing documents and opening statements		Decision
32R002081-PAC	Catherine C Smith, Corporate Secretariat, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 28/03/2019	Note and Publish.
B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
32R002073-PAC (Held Over)	Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive, KWETB, dated 22/03/2019	Hold Over.
32R002078-PAC	Maria Browne, Chief State Solicitor, Office of the Chief State Solicitor, dated 29/03/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002080-PAC	Aidan O'Driscoll, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 26/03/2019	Note and Publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
32R001872-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 22/01/2019	Noted.
32R001876-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 22/01/2019	Noted.
32R001886-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 17/01/2019	Noted.

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3. Correspondence received		
32R002072-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 22/03/2019	Noted. Write to the correspondent for permission to forward the item to the Department Write to Board to ask them to respond to section 7 of the item. Write to the Department to ask about the direction given to the Board of KWETB and to provide a response to the Committee in relation to the item.
32R002082-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 28/03/2019	Noted. Secretariat to circulate a copy of the High Court judgment referred to in the correspondence.
32R002084-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 29/03/2019	Noted. Chair corrected the record, Secretariat to inform correspondent that the matter is not within the remit of the Committee.

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	Letterkenny Institute of Technology	2016/2017 €41.3 million	17 Dec 2019	21 Mar 2019	Clear audit opinion
4.2	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland	2017 €9.2 million	21 Dec 2019	22 Mar 2019	Clear audit opinion The Board accounts for the costs of superannuation entitlements as they become payable (cash basis) (standard for health bodies).
4.3	Law Reform Commission	2017 €2 million	19 Dec 2018	22 Mar 2019	Clear audit opinion

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Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date received	Audit opinion/notes
4.4	Ordnance Survey Ireland	2017 €31.1 million	24 Dec 2018	25 Mar 2019	Clear audit opinion OSI recognises a deferred pension funding asset.

5. Work Programme

Work programme agreed.

6. Any other business

The Committee went into **private session** at 09.46 a.m. to discuss some further items of correspondence and other housekeeping matters.

Items of correspondence received		Decision
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		
32R002061-PAC	Correspondence dated 14 March 2019	It was agreed not to circulate the item and to take no further action.
32R002067-PAC	Correspondence dated 15 March 2019	It was agreed not to circulate the items and to take no further action.
32R002068-PAC		
32R001866-PAC	Correspondence circulated previously on 24 January 2019.	Noted.
32R001870-PAC	Correspondence circulated previously on 24 January 2019.	
32R001884-PAC	Correspondence circulated previously on 24 January 2019.	
32R001885-PAC	Correspondence circulated previously on 24 January 2019.	
32R001872-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	
32R001876-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	
32R001886-PAC	Correspondence dated 17 January 2019.	
32R001867-PAC	Correspondence dated 21 January 2019.	
32R001869-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	
32R001871-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	
32R001873-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	It was agreed not to circulate these items electronically.
32R001874-PAC	Correspondence dated 22 January 2019.	
32R001893-PAC	Correspondence dated 23 January 2019.	

The Committee went into **public session** at 10.13 a.m.

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7. Witnesses Examined

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

- Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General
- Maureen Mulligan, Deputy Director of Audits

Department of Justice & Equality

- Aidan O’Driscoll, Secretary General
- Oonagh McPhillips, Deputy Secretary General
- Doncha O’ Sullivan, Assistant Secretary
- Michael Kirrane, Assistant Secretary
- Carol Baxter, Assistant Secretary
- Mark Wilson, Principal Officer
- Seamus Clifford, Principal Officer

Department of Public Expenditure & Public Reform

- John Burke, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion

- Appropriation Accounts 2017
 - Vote 24: Justice and Equality

During the meeting, Deputy Marc MacSharry raised a number of matters within the Irish Prison Service. Given the nature of the matters described by Deputy MacSharry, the Chair indicated that he intended to send a copy of the transcript to An Garda Síochána for consideration of any actions deemed appropriate.

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

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 13.30 p.m. until 11 April 2019.

Sean Fleming, T.D
Chairman
11 April 2019