

**COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 18 APRIL, 2019**

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09.08 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 Kelly; Catherine Murphy; Jonathan O’Brien; and Kate O’Connell.

**Apologies** from Deputies Pat Deering; Alan Farrell; and Marc MacSharry.

Also present:

Seamus McCarthy – Comptroller and Auditor General

Orla Duane – Deputy Director of Audit

**1. Minutes of the Meetings of:**

11 April 2019

Agreed and agreed to publish.

**2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

<b>3. Correspondence received</b>		
<b>A - Briefing documents and opening statements</b>		<b>Decision</b>
32R002105-PAC	Mary Donohoe, Office of the Director General, EPA, dated 10/04/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002117-PAC	Mary Donohoe, Office of the Director General, EPA, dated 10/04/2019	Note and Publish.
<b>B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings</b>		<b>Decision</b>
32R002092-PAC	Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, Health Service Executive, dated 27/03/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002101-PAC	Rhonda Evans, Communications Manager, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 10/04/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002102-PAC	Crónan Goodman, Private Secretary to the Secretary General, Office of the Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 10/04/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002103-PAC	John Conlon, Assistant Secretary, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, dated 11/04/2019	Note and Publish. Write to DPER re the Periodic Report and JobPath. Write to DEASP to ask about the timeframe for the review of JobPath.

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<b>3. Correspondence received</b>		
32R002106-PAC	Aidan O'Driscoll, Secretary General, Department of Justice & Equality, dated 11/04/2019	Note and Publish. Write to SCA to ask about the sums of money involved in pay-outs for TB cases, the estimated costs for dealing with the remaining cases and information on any confidentiality agreements in place. Write to the DoJ to ask about the learning process for the Prison Service in relation to the TB outbreak.
32R002115-PAC	Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, Health Service Executive, dated 12/04/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002116-PAC	Susanna Lyons, Head of Regulation, Housing Agency, dated 12/04/2019	Note and Publish.
<b>C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence</b>		<b>Decision</b>
32R002093-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 08/04/2019	Noted. Write to DEASP to ask for a note in relation to test cases used to determine levels of employment, self-employment and bogus self-employment.
32R002099-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 19/09/2018	Noted. Request permission to forward this to the Road Safety Authority for a note on the matter.
32R002109-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 08/04/2019	Noted. Advise correspondent to raise the matter directly with DFA.

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<b>3. Correspondence received</b>		
32R002113-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 11/04/2019	Noted. Advise correspondent this issue does not fall within the remit of the Committee and suggest they could contact the Local Government Audit Service.
32R002118-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 15/04/2019	Noted.

**4. Accounts and Statements received since the meeting of the 11 April 2019**

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date received	Audit opinion/notes
4.1	<b>National Gallery of Ireland</b>	2017 €13.8 million	21 Dec 2018	5 Apr 2019	Clear audit opinion

**5. Work Programme**

Work programme agreed.

**6. Any other business**

The Committee suspended at 09.57 a.m. to allow witnesses to take their seats.

The Committee went into in **public session** at 10.02 a.m.

**7. Witnesses Examined**

**Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

- Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General
- Orla Duane, Deputy Director of Audits

**Environmental Protection Agency**

- Laura Burke, Director General,
- Gerard O'Leary, Deputy Director General
- Dr Tom Ryan, Director, Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Dan Harney, Finance Officer

**Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**

- Caroline Lyons, Assistant Principal Officer
- Aoife Byrne, Assistant Principal Officer

**Matters for discussion**

- Environmental Protection Agency Financial Statements 2017

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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 12.47 p.m. until 09 May 2019.

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Sean Fleming, T.D  
Chairman  
09 May 2019