



Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

Mr Kieran Lenihan,
Clerk Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

17 April 2019

**Re: Houses of the Oireachtas Committee of Public Accounts Periodic Report No 5
September – November 2018 – published March 13th 2019**

Dear Mr Lenihan,

I want to bring to your attention an inaccuracy in the above report which was recently published on the Houses of the Oireachtas website, relating to the chapter dealing with the President's Establishment, Appropriation Account 2016.

Page 24 - Paragraph C12 states: 'Members drew attention to the fact that the appropriation accounts were filed in September 2017, four months overdue'.

This is incorrect. The Appropriation Account for the President's Establishment 2016 was filed by the due date, which was the end of March 2017. This was confirmed by the Comptroller and Auditor General during the discussions with Members on the day as per the published transcript:

"On the filing of the accounts, I received the appropriation accounts from the Accounting Officer by the due date, which was the end of March 2017. There was an adjustment made in the statement on internal financial control which necessitated the Accounting Officer re-signing. I did get what the Accounting Officer was required to do."

It is factually incorrect to say that the appropriation account was filed 'four months overdue'. I would therefore request that this text be amended to reflect the factual position.

On the matter of the recommendations in the report, this Department, on behalf of the Accounting Officer for the President's Establishment, will provide a response to the recommendations contained in the report in the normal way through the Minutes of the Minister for Finance on the Report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denis Breen", is written over a horizontal line.

Denis Breen
Head of Corporate Affairs
Department of the Taoiseach