

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 20 JUNE, 2019

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09.10 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; Marc MacSharry; Catherine Murphy; and Kate O’Connell.

Apologies from Deputy Pat Deering.

Also present:

Mr. Seamus McCarthy – Comptroller and Auditor General

Ms. Josephine Mooney – Deputy Director of Audit

1. Minutes of the Meetings of:

30 May 2019 and 13 June 2019 – Held Over

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Correspondence received		
A - Briefing documents and opening statements		Decision
32R002249-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 13/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002255-PAC	Opening Statement in relation to private meeting, dated 18/06/2019	Noted.
32R002256-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 19/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002257-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 19/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002258-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 19/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002259-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 19/06/2019	Note and Publish.
B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
32R002161-PAC (Held Over)	Paul O'Toole, Chief Executive Officer, The Higher Education Authority, dated 10/05/2019	Previously Noted and Published.
32R002201-PAC (Held Over)	Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, dated 31/05/2019	Previously Noted and Published.
32R002202-PAC	John FM Leech, Chief Executive, Water Safety Ireland, dated 04/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002203-PAC	Professor David Fitzpatrick, President, Technological University Dublin, dated 04/06/2019	Note and Publish.

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3. Correspondence received		
32R002221-PAC	Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 05/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002231-PAC	John McKeon, Secretary General, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, dated 07/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002232-PAC	Paul Reid, Director General, HSE, dated 07/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002233-PAC	Brian MacCraith, President, Dublin City University, dated 07/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002234-PAC	Dr Anne Taheny, President, St Angela's College, Sligo, dated 31/05/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002235-PAC	Derek Moran, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 05/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002236-PAC	Professor Patrick O'Shea, President, University College Cork, dated 06/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002237-PAC	Paul Hannigan, President, Letterkenny IT, dated 06/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002238-PAC	Dr. Donal Reddington, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Aid Board, dated 06/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002239-PAC	Most Rev. Dr. Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, Church of Ireland, dated 06/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002240-PAC	Declan McSweeney, Chairperson of the Governing Body, St. Patrick's College, dated 10/06/2019	Note and Publish.
32R002244-PAC	Crónan Goodman, Private Secretary to the Secretary General, Office of the Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 11/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002246-PAC	Crónan Goodman, Department of Justice, Office of the Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality, dated 11/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002254-PAC	Peter Wood, Irish Prison Service, dated 17/06/2019	Hold Over.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
32R002243-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 09/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002245-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 11/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002248-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 13/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002250-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 14/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002251-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 14/06/2019	Hold Over.
32R002252-PAC	Correspondence received, dated 14/06/2019	Hold Over.

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4. Accounts and Statements received since the meeting of the 13 June 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

Agreed.

5. Work Programme

Work Programme agreed.

6. Any other business

The Committee suspended at 10.44 a.m. to allow witnesses to take their seats.

The Committee went into in **public session** at 10.50 a.m.

7. Witnesses Examined

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

- Mr. Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General
- Ms. Josephine Mooney, Deputy Director of Audits

Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

- Ms. Georgina Hughes Elders, Principal Officer
- Mr. Donal Lynch

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

- Mr. Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General
- Mr. Cecil Beamish, Assistant Secretary
- Mr. Martin Crowley, Principal Officer
- Ms. Patricia Heeney, Accountant
- Mr. Paul Dillon, Assistant Secretary

Matters for discussion

- Appropriation Accounts 2017 Vote 30 – Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Financial Statements 2016: Fishery Harbour Centres
- Financial Statements 2017: European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (the funds)

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The Committee suspended at 13.26 p.m.

The Committee resumed in **private session** at 14.39 p.m. to discuss some further items of correspondence and other housekeeping matters.

Items of correspondence received		
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
32R002197-PAC	Correspondence dated 29 May 2019.	It was agreed to write to the Correspondent conveying the decision of the Committee. It was agreed to write to the Correspondent conveying the decision of the Committee. It was agreed to write to the Correspondent conveying the decision of the Committee. It was agreed to write to the Correspondent conveying the decision of the Committee.
32R002218-PAC	Correspondence dated 21 May 2019.	
32R002220-PAC	Correspondence dated 27 May 2019.	
32R002241-PAC and 32R002247-PAC	Correspondence dated 7 June and 13 June 2019.	

The Committee suspended at 14.47 p.m. to allow witnesses to take their seats.

The Committee resumed in **private session** at 14.51 p.m.

The Committee met in private session to discuss matters relating to the OPW.

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 16.07 p.m. until 27 June 2019.

Sean Fleming, T.D
Chairman
27 June 2019