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

Your Ref: PAC32-I-1726
Our Ref: A25/181/002

Re: Purchase of a new printer and printing facilities in the Houses of the Oireachtas

Dear Ms. Fallon,

I refer to your email dated the 3rd December 2019 regarding the above. Please see below response to the matters raised by the Members at the PAC meeting held on the 28th November 2019.

Details regarding the role of the OPW in the procurement process and when it became involved in matters related to the purchase of a new printer

The OPW had no role in the procurement of the new printer.

The OPW was advised on 30th May 2018 that print machinery had been procured for the print facility in Kildare House and that delivery was planned for September of 2018.

An information note clarifying why the head height in the room into which the machine was subsequently located was not identified in the first place and the reason for changing the location of the printer

It might be noted at the outset that the ceiling height in all the rooms within the print facility was the same before the recent works.

The email of 30th May 2018 was initially regarded as a routine request for OPW assistance. The works requested comprised of the temporary removal of doors and the removal of a partition to facilitate the delivery and installation of the print machine and associated equipment. The OPW understood that the Houses of the Oireachtas and the print machine provider had assessed the existing room and determined it to be suitable for the installation and operation of the print machine and associated equipment.

When the OPW assessed the requirements for the print machine and associated equipment with regard to working platforms and operational access, it became evident that the ceiling required to be raised to achieve the minimum clearance needed for the safe operation of the machine.

The decision to locate the new printer in Room 2 instead of Room 1 (both located within the print area) was informed by a number of factors including:

- The printer would not fit in either room without major structural alterations, i.e. raising of ceiling height which, in both instances, would have involved raising existing/introducing new
structural supporting beams. The structural interventions for Room 2 were determined to be less than would be required for Room 1.
- Other necessary mechanical and electrical interventions, including air conditioning, would be less challenging in Room 2.
- By using Room 2, instead of Room 1, it was possible to keep the print facility operational during the works. This would not have been possible if Room 1 had been selected as the construction site would have restricted access to the other rooms.

Details in relation to the procurement process of the ancillary works that were required for the printer including the overall final cost and VAT

The OPW has a dedicated service manager and permanent works team available to service any emerging maintenance requirements for the Houses of the Oireachtas. This team commenced works to facilitate the delivery and installation of the printer. However, when the full extent and complexity of the works required for the delivery, installation and especially the operation of the new print machine and associated equipment were identified, it was clear that this was beyond their expertise and capacity.

The OPW utilised a contract that is already in place which is specifically designed for urgent immediate maintenance or intervention works. This contract was tendered through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). In addition to the required building works there was a requirement to carry out Mechanical and Electrical Works to accommodate the print machine and associated equipment. The Mechanical and Electrical Contractors required for these works were separately tendered from the existing OPW Mechanical & Electrical Services framework contracts which had been established through a similar OJEU advertised procurement process.

The OPW Civil & Structural Engineering expertise was supplemented by the engagement of an external Structural Consultant with specific prior experience and knowledge of that building and the print room areas. A fee of €5,719 (inclusive of VAT) was paid for this single tender engagement.

The Final Account for the works has not been agreed as yet. However, to assist the Members, the following best estimates can be provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>VAT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building works</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>113,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>126,000</td>
<td>17,010</td>
<td>143,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>5,535</td>
<td>46,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Civil &amp; Structural Engineering fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>€314,453</strong></td>
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The opportunity was availed of by OPW to undertake some other unrelated necessary works in the print facility. In particular the replacement of the AC system to address the replacement of R22 refrigerant which was a legal requirement by EU Directive from 2015. We also carried out some electrical works to install LED lighting throughout the rooms and corridors, all while the print related works were being undertaken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>VAT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUILDING COSTS NOT DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRINTER</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A note on when the Oireachtas will receive the final invoice and details of the overall costs of this work

As indicated above, final costs of this project are the subject of negotiations with contractors. Once established, OPW will seek to recoup funds from the Houses of the Oireachtas within a matter of weeks.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Buckley
Chairman

10th December 2019