

## **The Office of Public Works**

**Boxer Moran T.D.**

**Select Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and  
Taoiseach**

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

As Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, I am here this afternoon to present a proposal for a Supplementary Estimate €20 million for the Office of Public Works.

This supplementary estimate in respect of the OPW Vote will bring the 2018 net estimate of the Vote to €424.214 million.

The Gross Supplementary Estimate is €22 million, comprising of costs of €18million associated with this year's Papal Visit and an estimated additional spend of €4million on New Works, Alterations and Additions.

As you are aware, Government agreed to facilitate a visit of His Holiness Pope Francis and the World meeting of Families during August 2018. This was a large and complex event. The OPW in conjunction with the Department of An Taoiseach devised the Papal Visit Management Plan, in conjunction with the World Meeting of Families, adopting a whole of Government approach, to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of participants and visitors was taken care off. The OPW, in implementing that plan, did outstanding work in facilitating this event. It facilitated the safety of all involved whilst at the same time showcasing nationally and internationally the attractiveness of Ireland as a country and its proficiency to host such an event. As with any event of this magnitude, there are associated costs involved, which, in this case amounts to €18 million. As this

event was not finalised when the 2018 Estimates were published this time last year, the OPW Vote contained no allocation in its 2018 Estimates for the visit.

The OPW also expended an additional sum of €4 million on New Works, Alterations and Additions, which includes work on Leinster House and the Department of Justice rationalisation programme, which was committed for in 2019 but advanced by the OPW in 2018.

In order to reduce the required Supplementary I have sought to allocate €2 million additional Appropriations in Aid received by the OPW against this request thereby reducing the requirement to €20 million.

It is worth noting that the OPW expects to provide €25.749 million to the Exchequer for 2018 Appropriations in Aid. The vast bulk of this income is from the effective promotion of Ireland's Heritage sites and efficient management of visitor demands and events at managed facilities of the OPW including Dublin Castle, Kilkenny Castle and Castletown House.

## **Conclusion**

I conclude that the request for this Supplementary Estimate feeds from efficient and effective work under taken by the OPW on behalf of Government. I am happy to recommend this Supplementary Estimate for consideration and approval by the Committee and to answer any questions you may have on this additional requirement.