



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

9th July 2020

Re: Delay in the submission of the audited financial statements of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology for 2017/18 to the Department

Dear Mr Lenihan

I am writing in accordance with the requirements set out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 07/2015, which, as you will be aware, requires that financial statements should be submitted to the relevant Department within one month of the audit certificate on the accounts being issued by the C&AG and where circumstances arise that cause a delay beyond required time limits for laying such statements before the Houses of the Oireachtas, the requirement for the Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee to be notified.

In that context, I draw your attention to the financial statements for Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) for the year ended 31st August 2018 where Department officials identified a delay in the receipt of the GMIT financial statements.

The Department followed up with GMIT to seek an explanation for the delay and was advised that the C&AG had certified the financial statements on 3rd December 2019 and that according to their records the accounts had been submitted to the Department within the required timeframe. However, due to changes in personnel, GMIT was unable to confirm when the financial statements had been submitted or provide the acknowledgement email confirming receipt of the accounts by the Department.

Following the Department's enquiries, the financial statements were subsequently submitted by GMIT on 17th April 2020 and were laid before the Oireachtas by the Department on 16th June 2020, in line with our statutory deadline. GMIT has committed to updating their account submission procedures to ensure that this situation does not arise in the future.

I trust the above clarifies the position for the Committee.

Yours sincerely

pp. Noreen Bewans

Maev Nic Lochlainn
Principal Officer
Higher Education – Governance & Quality