

15th January 2020

Private and Confidential

Ms Éilis Fallon

Committee Secretariat

Committee of Public Accounts

Leinster House

Dublin 2

Dear Ms Fallon

I refer to your letter of 6th January 2020 in relation to the meeting of the Committee for Public Accounts on 14th November 2019 and their consideration of the issue of procurement. I note that you have asked for an explanation in relation to the non-compliant procurement to the value of €244,692 in the PAS Appropriation Account for 2018. The information note requested is set out below.

This total is made up of three contracts which were active during 2018:

1. Contract for software support and licencing services for which there is only a single suitable supplier available (Oracle – annual software maintenance). The value of the contract in 2018 was €150,337. While this contract was procured without a competitive tender, and is included on the return, it is compliant with public procurement guidelines as the supplier is the sole provider of support and maintenance on proprietary database software.
2. Contract for cleaning of Chapter House (the offices of the Public Appointments Service) (Emerald Facility Services – janitorial services). The value of the contract in 2018 was €72,105. Emerald Facility Services were contracted following an earlier procurement exercise. The decision to re-tender for this service was put on hold

pending a decision on the long term status of Chapter House by the OPW. A request for tender in respect of this service issued in August 2019 and a new provider has since been appointed, the new contract will go live in early 2020.

3. Additional contract extension beyond the original expected end date, and outside contract terms, which allowed for a single extension for standardisation of business process services (Grant Thornton – consultancy services). The value of the non-compliant extension was €22,250. This contract finished in 2019.

PAS takes its responsibilities in relation to public procurement very seriously and appointed a dedicated Procurement Officer in 2019; the responsibilities of the Procurement Officer include ensuring that there are no further procurement related issues in PAS.

If there are any further queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Comerford
Chief Executive