

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 11:32 a.m. in Committee Room 3, a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Catherine Murphy (TC); Colm Burke; Jennifer Carroll MacNeill; Matt Carthy; Cormac Devlin; Alan Dillon; Neasa Hourigan; Paul McAuliffe; Marc MacSharry; Imelda Munster.

Permanent

Witness: Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr. Seamus McCarthy

Apologies: Brian Stanley; Verona Murphy.

1. Witnesses Examined

Department of Justice

- Ms Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General
- Ms Caron McCaffrey, Director General, Irish Prison Service (IPS)
- Mr. Fergal Black, Director of Care & Rehabilitation (IPS)

Department of Justice (Remote Witnesses)

- Mr. Don Culliton, Director of Human Resources (IPS)
- Mr. Doncha O’Sullivan, Assistant Secretary
- Mr. Derek Caldbeck, Director of Finance and Estates (IPS)

Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (Remote Witness)

- Mr. Liam Gleeson

Matters for discussion

- C&AG Appropriation Account 2019
 - Vote 24 – Justice and Equality (Resumed)
 - Vote 21 – Prisons
- C&AG Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2019
 - Chapter 7. Catering and ancillary services in prisons

It was agreed that the Clerk would request any follow-up information and carry out any agreed actions arising from the meeting. It was also agreed to note and publish the opening statements and briefing provided to the Committee for the meeting.

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice to request an investigation by the Inspector of Prisons into matters raised in the *C&AG's 2019 Report on the Accounts of the Public Services: Chapter 7 - Catering and ancillary services in prisons*, as well as other matters raised by Members at the meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 1:32 p.m. until 16 December 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Catherine Murphy, T.D.
Vice Chairperson
16 December 2020