

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2021

The Committee met in **Private** Session at 11:32 a.m. (online remotely), a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Chairman); Colm Burke; Jennifer Carroll MacNeill; Matt Carthy; Cormac Devlin; Alan Dillon; Neasa Hourigan; Paul McAuliffe; Marc MacSharry; Verona Murphy.

Permanent

Witness: Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr. Seamus McCarthy.

Apologies: Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy

1. Private engagement in relation to the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

The Committee received a presentation from a correspondent in relation to the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland.

2. Committee's request to the Committee on Remit Oversight under Standing Order 218(10)

The Committee considered and agreed a draft agreement in principle between it and the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform in relation to processes and procedures for the determination and review of senior executives' remuneration in the public service. It was agreed to communicate the Committee's agreement to this document to the Committee on Remit Oversight and the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform. It was also agreed to propose to the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform that it also write to the Minister to request that the recruitment process for the post of Secretary General of the Department of Health be suspended.

3. Financial Statements & Accounts Received

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/ turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
1	Health and Safety Authority (click here to view accounts)	2019 €27 million	24 Dec 2020	21 Jan 2021	Clear audit opinion
2	Dublin Dental Hospital (click here to view accounts)	2019 €19.5 million	24 Dec 2020	22 Jan 2021	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to significant non-compliant procurement
3	Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2019 €13.6 million	17 Dec 2020	26 Jan 2021	Clear audit opinion
4	Letterkenny Institute of Technology (click here to view accounts)	2018/2019 €48 million	11 Dec 2020	28 Jan 2021	Clear audit opinion

The Accounts and Statements were noted.

It was agreed to add Dublin Dental Hospital to the Work Programme.

4. Correspondence

Sensitive Correspondence		
D - Correspondence received from individuals		Decision
R0323 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 01/02/2021	It was agreed to decline to receive the correspondence.
R0327 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 29/01/2021	It was agreed to decline to receive the correspondence.
R0331 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 04/02/2021	It was agreed to decline to receive the correspondence.
R0332 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 03/02/2021	It was agreed to decline to receive the correspondence.
R0339 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 05/02/2021	It was agreed to decline to receive the correspondence.


Correspondence Received		
B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R0325 PAC33	Correspondence received from Eileen Curtis, Chief Executive, Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board, dated 03/02/2021	Note and publish. In relation to each of the companies used, request the reasons for the non-compliant procurement as per the Committee's request of 27 January 2021.
R0328 PAC33	Correspondence received from Jim McCarthy, CPIU, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, dated 04/02/2021	Note and publish.
R0329 PAC33	Correspondence received from Maurice Buckley, Chairman, Office of Public Works, dated 04/02/2021	Hold Over until meeting on 18 February 2021.
R0330 PAC33	Correspondence received from Derek Moran, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 04/02/2021	Hold Over until meeting on 18 February 2021.
R0335 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, HSE, dated 04/02/2021	Note and publish.
R0336 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Maloney, Acting Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, dated 04/02/2021	Hold Over until meeting on 18 February 2021.
R0340 PAC33	Correspondence received from Sean O Fearghail, Ceann Comhairle, Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 05/02/2021	Note.
R0343 PAC33	Correspondence received from Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 05/02/2021	Note and publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision

Correspondence Received		
R0322 PAC33	Correspondence received, dated 31/01/2021	Advise the correspondent that, as the matter relates to policy decisions and potential expenditure by Local Government, it is not within the remit of the Committee of Public Accounts. Advise the correspondent to contact the Committee on Transport and Communications Networks.
R0334 PAC33	Correspondence received, dated 04/02/2021	Note. For consideration at Private meeting with the correspondent.
R0337 PAC33	Correspondence received, dated 05/02/2021	Hold Over until meeting on 18 February 2021.
R0350 PAC33	Correspondence received, dated 09/02/2021	Note.

5. Work Programme

As agreed during consideration of the Financial Accounts & Statements, Dublin Dental Hospital was added to the Work Programme.

The Committee adjourned at 1:07 p.m. until 16 February January 2021.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Chairman
02 March 2021