



18 June 2021

Ms Éilis Fallon
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Dear Ms Fallon,

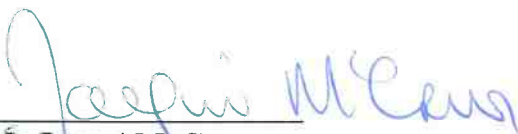
I refer to your recent correspondence, ref. S0422 PAC33, regarding compliance with Circular 7 of 2015 dated 28 May 2015 entitled:

Timely Production and Submission of Accounts of Bodies and Funds audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Laying before the Houses of the Oireachtas Special Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Comptroller and Auditor General certified the accounts for 2019 for the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces (ODF) on 30th September 2020. Unfortunately, as a result of an administrative oversight within that office during the period when attendance was restricted due to Covid-19, the accounts were not submitted to the Department until 23rd December 2020. Thereafter, the accounts were laid before the Oireachtas on 12th February 2021.

The Department very much regrets the fact that the accounts were not laid before the Oireachtas within the three months required under the Circular and that the Department did not inform you of the reason for this delay. I am writing to the ODF drawing their attention to the requirements of the Circular. In addition, revised arrangements are being put in place in the Department and I am satisfied that this will ensure that there is no repeat of this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Jacqui McCrum
Secretary General