



22nd June, 2021.

Éilis Fallon,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts.

Dear Éilis,

I refer to your correspondence of 9th June 2021, regarding the laying of the 2018 cessation account for Irish Water Safety (IWS) and the 2019 account for the Western Development Commission (WDC) before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

In responding to your query of 26th February regarding a delay with the 2019 Pobal accounts, I had sought to clarify the overall situation for this Department with our agency accounts, including for the 2018 IWS account and the position at that time for the 2019 WDC account. I am now providing further detail on the 2018 IWS account and the updated position on the 2019 WDC account, in line with your request of 9th June.

With regard to the 2018 IWS Account, given this was a cessation account covering the period 1st January 2018 to 17th February 2019, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) audited this account in parallel with the 2019 Account. The 2018 account was therefore certified on 20th November 2020. It was then received by this Department on 4th December 2020, and presented to the Oireachtas on 8th March 2021. As referenced in my response to your letter of 26th February, the delay in presenting to the Oireachtas related to an upgrade to the “docs laid” IT system not recognising some DRCD users, and then WSI not correctly assigned as being under the remit of DRCD on that system. The account was presented as soon as possible once these issues were rectified, however, it is acknowledged that the Committee should have been informed of this delay.

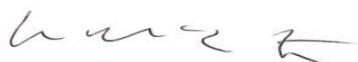
With regard to the 2019 WDC account, this was certified by OCAG on 17th December 2020. The audited accounts, alongside the 2019 Annual Report were received by this Department on 5th March 2021, and then presented to the Oireachtas on 19th April 2021. I note that the information provided in our response to your letter of 26th February incorrectly stated “5th March 2020” as the date received. The delay in receipt of the

account by the Department (17 December 2020 to 5 March 2021) was as a result of a delay in the finalisation of the 2019 annual report, which has in practice been provided by WDC together with the account. It is acknowledged that the delay in preparation of the annual report should not have delayed receipt of the account and subsequent laying of the account before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

As noted in my reply to your letter of 26th February, I have taken steps to ensure that the requirements of this circular are adhered to in the future, with specific attention to where there have been recurring instances of delay and ensuring any unavoidable delays are notified to the Committee.

I am happy to provide any further information that may be required to assist the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy
Secretary General