



**An Roinn Iompair**  
Department of Transport

23 June 2021

Éilis Fallon  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts

**Your reference – SO448 PAC33**

Dear Éilis,

Your letter of June 9th refers concerning Circular 7 of 2015 to Accounting Officers, 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, and in particular that the requirement of the Circular had not been met with regard to the Travellers' Protection Fund, Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Bond Accounts 2019.

The audited TPF accounts for 2019 were received from the Commission for Aviation Regulation (CAR) on 16 October 2020. The Commission was dealing with a greatly increased caseload in terms of complaints under EU 261 and travel trade insolvencies, arising from the sudden and severe disruption to international travel related to the COVID-19 pandemic and were unable to repeat the earlier submission timing of July achieved for the 2018 Accounts.

In addition, some delay was experienced in the Department's internal approval process, with the Accounts being approved by the Minister on February 9th, 2021 and laid before the Houses on February 12th, 2021.

This Department will make every effort to comply with the requirements of Circular 7 of 2015 for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Spratt', is written over a horizontal blue line.

Ken Spratt  
Secretary General