

**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



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

28 June 2021

Ref: S0432 PAC33

Dear Ms Fallon

I refer to your letter dated 14 June 2021 on the subject of the annual accounts of the Heritage Council.

Please find attached at Appendix 1 the Department's response to the Committee's request for further information.

If you have any questions on the attached please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Jacobs
Assistant Principal
Departmental Finance Unit



Appendix 1

Departmental Response to PAC **2019 Accounts of the Heritage Council**

- The Comptroller & Auditor General's certificate in respect of the Heritage Council's 2019 Financial Statements was dated 23 December 2020 and it was issued to the Heritage Council on 15 January 2021.
- On receipt of the C&AG's certificate on 15 January 2021, the Heritage Council engaged the graphic designer to incorporate the financial statement into the Annual Report however there was a delay with this and it took until 27 February to be cleared by the CEO and sent to the Department. The Heritage Council acknowledges that this is longer than the month provided for in the Circular 7/2015 (Section 4) and that it should have filed the accounts with the Department as soon as possible and within one month rather than waiting until they were incorporated into the Annual Report.
- The 2019 Annual Report was submitted to the Department on 27 February 2021 and was laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 11 May 2021. This is within the 3 months provided for in Circular 7/2015 (Section 5) where the Agency's Annual Report must first be brought to Government.
- The Department's business unit with responsibility for the Heritage Council is making arrangements to send a copy of the accounts to the Public Accounts Committee (per Circular 7/2015 (Section 9)) this week.