

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2021

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 9.33 a.m. , a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach); Colm Burke, Matt Carthy, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Neasa Hourigan, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Paul McAuliffe, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Verona Murphy, Seán Sherlock

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined

NTMA

- Mr Conor O’Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Frank O’Connor, Director of Funding and Debt Management
- Ms Susan O’Halloran, Chief Legal Officer
- Mr Ciaran Breen, Director, State Claims Agency
- Mr Ian Black, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, State Claims Agency

Matters for discussion

- NTMA Financial Statements 2020
- Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2020
 - Chapter 15 – Accounts of the National Treasury Management Agency
 - Chapter 16 – Ireland Apple Escrow Fund
- Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2019
 - Chapter 16 – Post Office Savings Bank Fund

It was agreed that the Clerk would request any follow-up information and carry out any agreed actions arising from the meeting. It was also agreed to note and publish the opening statements and briefing document provided to the Committee for the meeting.

The Committee suspended at 12.29.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13.36.

The Committee went into **Private** Session at 13.36.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13.43.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 28 September and 30 September 2021 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts Received

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/ turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
1-45	Appropriation accounts (click here to view accounts)	2020 Various	Various	30 Sep 2021	Clear audit opinions in all cases – accounts properly present the transactions and financial position Certain matters are brought to attention for a number of accounts, including links to chapters in the Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2020.
46	Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (click here to view accounts)	2020 €12.7 million	8 Jul 2021	24 Sep 2021	Clear audit opinion
47	Educational Research Centre (click here to view accounts)	2020 €4.3 million	30 Jun 2021	27 Sep 2021	Clear audit opinion

The Accounts and Statements were noted.

As previously agreed, the Committee will request explanations for any significant non-compliant procurement or delays in laying accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
B - Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R0802 PAC33	Correspondence received from Jim Breslin, Secretary General, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, dated 23/09/2021	Note and publish. Forward to the correspondent who raised the matter.
R0804 PAC33	Correspondence received from Michael Mulvey, President, Dundalk Institute of Technology, dated 24/09/2021	Note and publish.
R0806 PAC33	Correspondence received from Niall Beirne, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, National Broadband Ireland, dated 27/09/2021	Note and publish.
R0809 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Príomhfheidhmeannach, Údarás na Gaeltachta, dated 28/09/2021	Note and publish.

Correspondence received		
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R0800 PAC33	Correspondence from an individual dated 21/09/2021	Note. Request the consent of the correspondent to bring the matter to the attention of the Tax Appeals Commission.
R0801 PAC33	Correspondence from an individual dated 22/09/2021	Note. Forward to the correspondent who raised the matter and advise that the Committee's consideration of the matter is closed.
R0803 PAC33	Correspondence from an individual dated 24/09/2021	As per 801.
R0807 PAC33	Correspondence from an individual dated 28/09/2021	Advise the Councillor that, at its meeting of 28 September, the Committee agreed to enquire into this matter arising from a proposal from Deputy Neasa Hourigan.
R0811 PAC33	Correspondence received from Deputy Seán Sherlock, dated 29/09/2021	It was agreed to write to the relevant Departments and bodies that provide funding to An Taisce to enquire into related oversight and governance arrangements. It was also agreed that Deputy Matt Carthy would forward additional questions for An Taisce to the Secretariat.

5. Work Programme

It was agreed to schedule engagements with the following public bodies before the end of the year:

1. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
2. Tusla
3. Exchequer funding of RTÉ
4. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media,
5. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
6. The Department of Transport,
7. The Office of the Revenue Commissioners.
8. The Department of Social Protection, and
9. The Department of Health.

6. Any Other Business

The arrangements for circulating correspondence to Members and the C&AG in advance of meetings were agreed.

It was agreed to flag expenditure in relation to the JobPath scheme as an area of specific interest to the Committee for the engagement with the Department of Social Protection.

The Committee adjourned at 14.01. until 14 October 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Stanley". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
14 October 2021