



Ms. Sarah Cremin
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

24 November 2021

Your Ref: SO580 PAC 33

Dear Ms. Cremin

I refer to your letter of 7 October 2021 seeking information on the use of public funds by An Taisce.

The OPW has not entered into any funding arrangements or grant agreements with An Taisce.

Any payments made by OPW to An Taisce, to date, relate exclusively to the OPW's participation in the 'Green Flags' programme. The Green Flag Award, administered by An Taisce, is an international benchmarking standard for parks and green spaces. OPW pays an annual application fee, per heritage site, in order to be assessed and accredited through the programme.

OPW understands that the application fee contributes to the running costs associated with the programme including assessment of the OPW sites, the training of judges and promotion costs.

I trust the above is in order.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Buckley".

Maurice Buckley
Chairman