



Ms. Sarah Cremin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
D02 XR20

15 December 2021

**Your Ref: S0592 PAC33**

Dear Ms. Cremin

I refer to your letter of 9 November 2021, received in this Department on 1 December 2021, seeking an explanatory note regarding the delay in laying the 2020 Annual Financial Statements of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (Caranua) before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

In my letter to the Committee of 23 July, I advised that the accounts had been laid and enclosed a briefing note for the Committee setting out the main issues arising from the accounts. The briefing note also provided an explanation for the delay in laying the accounts.

It is acknowledged that there was a regrettable delay in laying the 2020 accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas and keeping the Clerk to the Committee informed in this regard. As set out in the briefing note, a number of issues relating to Caranua were required to be submitted to Government, including Caranua's Annual Report for 2020 (June to December), and the Final Report of the Caranua Independent Appeals Officer. In these circumstances, it was decided to prepare a single Memorandum for Government, which dealt with all of the issues concerned, rather than having a number of separate Government memoranda in relation to a related topic being considered at several Government meetings. This unfortunately caused a small delay of one month in laying the accounts.



The Memorandum was ultimately considered by Government at its meeting of 21 July 2021 (Government Decision S180/20/10/1868A refers). The accounts were then laid before the Houses on 23 July 2021.

Yours sincerely

Seán Ó Foghlú  
Secretary General