

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 10 February 2022

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09.31 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Matt Carthy, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Neasa Hourigan, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy (Leas-Chathaoirleach), James O'Connor, Séan Sherlock.

Apologies: Deputy Verona Murphy

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined

National Broadband Ireland

- Mr. Peter Hendrick, Chief Executive Officer, National Broadband Ireland
- Mr. T.J. Malone, Chief Executive Officer, National Broadband Ireland Deployment
- Ms Tara Collins, Chief Marketing Officer
- Mr. Barry Kelly, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Jenny Fisher, Chief Legal Officer

Matters for discussion

Expenditure on the National Broadband Plan.

Specific areas of interest to the Committee included:

- The impact of the pandemic on delivery
- NBI's financial structures
- Current progress and timelines
- Subcontracting arrangements
- Lease and rental of infrastructure from other companies, and
- Penalty clauses in the contract.

The Committee suspended at 11.00.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11.12.

The Committee suspended at 12.34.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13.31

2. Witnesses Examined

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

- Mr. Mark Griffin, Secretary General
- Mr. Ciarán Ó hÓbáin, Assistant Secretary
- Mr. Fergal Mulligan, Programme Manager
- Mr. Patrick Neary, Chief Technical Officer
- Ms. Barbara Leeson, Principal Officer
- Ms. Louise Carrigan, Principal Officer

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

- Mr. Ken Cleary, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion

Expenditure on the National Broadband Plan in the context in the context of the 2020 Appropriation Account: Vote 29 – Environment, Climate and Communications.

Specific areas of interest to the Committee included:

- The impact of the pandemic on delivery of the plan
- National Broadband Ireland's financial structures
- Current progress and timelines
- Subcontracting arrangements, and
- Penalty clauses in the contract.

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

The Committee adjourned at 15.51 until Thursday 17 February 2022.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
17 February 2022