



31 March 2022

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

Your Ref: S0813 PAC

Dear Ms. Cremin,

I wish to refer further to your correspondence dated 16 March 2022 in which you requested the Department to explain the delayed laying of An Bord Pleanála's 2020 Annual Report and Accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas as required under Circular 24 of 2021.

I wish to advise that while a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts was received in the Department on Wednesday, 30 June 2021, due to issues with the Board's publishers the Department did not receive a fully formatted version, incorporating the formal certification of the audited financial statements by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, until Tuesday 12th October 2021. The Report was noted at Cabinet on 7th December 2021, and laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas on the 14th December 2021.

The Department notes the contents of Circular 24 of 2021 "*Timely Production and Submission of Accounts of Bodies and Funds audited by the Comptroller and Auditor*

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General and the Laying before the Houses of the Oireachtas Special Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General” and regrets that, in this instance, the Department did not fulfil the requirement therein to inform the Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts of exceptional or unusual circumstances which cause an unavoidable delay, either for a body or fund in submitting its accounts to the parent Department or for the Department in laying the accounts of the body or fund before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Staff of the relevant section in the Department have been reminded of the requirements of DPER Circular 24 of 2021 and have undertaken to comply with the required timelines for the laying of financial statements in the future or otherwise to ensure that the Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts is made aware of exceptional or unusual circumstances for a delay.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Graham Doyle'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Graham Doyle
Secretary General