

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 10 March 2022**

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09.30 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, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Verona Murphy, and Séan Sherlock.

**Apologies:** Deputies Jennifer Carroll MacNeill and Paul McAuliffe

**Permanent**

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

**1. Witnesses Examined**

**Health Service Executive**

- Mr. Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Anne O'Connor, Chief Operations Officer
- Mr. Stephen Mulvany, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms Yvonne O'Neill, National Director, Community Operations
- Mr. Jim Curran, National Director, Capital and Estates
- Dr. Amanda Burke, Child & Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist and Executive Clinical Director for Galway Roscommon Mental Health Services

**Department of Health**

- Ms Louise McGirr, Assistant Secretary
- Ms Margaret Campbell, Principal Officer
- Mr. Seamus Hempenstall, Principal Officer

**Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

- Mr. Andrew Harkness, Director of Audit

**Matters for discussion**

- Health Service Executive Financial Statements 2020 (resumed)

The Committee suspended at 11.02.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11.13.

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 statement and briefing documents provided to the Committee for the meeting.

The Committee suspended at 12.31.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13.30.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2022 were agreed.

## 3. Financial Statements and Accounts

The Committee noted six sets of financial statements and accounts which were laid before the Dáil between 28 February and 4 March 2022.

The Committee has a standing agreement to request explanations for any significant non-compliant procurement or delays in laying accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/ turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
1	<b>Criminal Assets Bureau</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €10.4 million	17 Dec 2021	28 Feb 2022	Clear audit opinion
2	<b>Loughs Agency</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a> <i>North South body</i>	2020 €8.2 million	21 Dec 2021	28 Feb 2022	Clear audit opinion
3	<b>Children's Health Ireland</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €429 million	21 Dec 2021	3 Mar 2022	Qualified audit opinion  Accounts give a true and fair view, except that they account for the costs of retirement benefit entitlements only as they become payable (standard for many health bodies).  Attention is drawn to significant non-compliant procurement. <a href="#">(click here for further information)</a>

4	<b>Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €824,000	16 Dec 2021	3 Mar 2022	Clear audit opinion
5	<b>Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €3.5 million	22 Dec 2021	4 Mar 2022	<p>Qualified audit opinion</p> <p>Accounts give a true and fair view, except that they account for the costs of retirement benefit entitlements only as they become payable (standard for many health bodies).</p> <p>Attention is drawn to a potential conflict of roles. <a href="#">(click here for further information)</a></p>
6	<b>Ordnance Survey Ireland</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €29 million	13 Dec 2021	4 Mar 2022	Clear audit opinion

#### 4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1118 PAC33	Correspondence received from Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE, dated 07/03/2022	Note and publish.
R1120 PAC33	Correspondence received from Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE, dated 07/03/2022	Note and publish.
R1122 PAC33	Correspondence received from Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE, dated 08/03/2022	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R1104 PAC33	Correspondence received from Katherine Licken, Secretary General, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media, dated 16/03/2007	Note and publish.
R1106 PAC33	Correspondence received from Fergal Costello, Government Accounting Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, dated 25/02/2022	Note and publish.

Correspondence received		
R1110 PAC33	Correspondence received from Orla Nugent, Deputy CEO, Higher Education Authority, dated 25/02/2022	Note and publish.
R1113 PAC33	Correspondence received from John McKeon, Secretary General, Department of Social Protection, dated 02/03/2022	Note and publish.
<b>C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence</b>		<b>Decision</b>
R1091 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 21/02/2022	Hold over for consideration at the next meeting.
R1111 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 01/03/2022	Note.
R1112 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 01/03/2022	Note.

## 5. Work Programme

It was agreed to schedule a meeting in May 2022 with the Department of Health (Appropriation Account 2020 resumed) and the HSE (Financial Statements 2020 resumed) to examine a number of issues that have been identified from reports in the public domain.

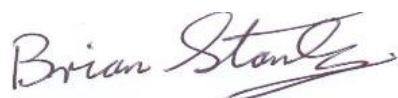
## 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **Private** session at 13.41.

It was agreed to request further information from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to assist in preparing the draft report in relation to the Committee's engagements with the Department.

The Committee adjourned at 13.46 until Thursday 24 March 2022.



Brian Stanley, T.D.  
Cathaoirleach  
24 March 2022