



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

20 May 2022

**Your Ref: S0835 PAC33**

**Re: Private Residence Security Works**

Dear Ms. Cremin,

I refer to your correspondence dated 22 April 2022 in reference to the Committee of Public Accounts seeking more information in relation to security arrangements for private residences, in particular the increase in expenditure for private residence security arrangements from 2020 to 2021.

Security systems are installed at various private residences on foot of An Garda Síochána (AGS) security review reports, forwarded by the Department of Justice to the Office of Public Works (OPW). The OPW does not identify which properties require security works or the level of security measures involved.

The OPW funds, from its capital allocation, costs associated with installations at the primary residence of the identified individual's property. If works are required to additional properties, such as constituency offices or secondary residences, these are arranged by the OPW but funded separately by the Department.

***OPW Capital Expenditure on Private Residence Security Works from 2018 to 2021:***

Year	Expenditure
2018	€690,243.79
2019	€850,484.78
2020	€213,023.56
2021	€707,787.01



Based on advice from the Office of the Information Commissioner, the OPW, does not release information on individual residences as it may undermine the security provisions. Although costs in 2021 were significantly higher than 2020, they were in line with previous years. However, we can disclose that the primary reason for the low costs in 2020 was the limited access to individual's homes, both to carry out security surveys and progress subsequent security system installation works by contractors, during Covid lockdown restrictions.

In 2022, the OPW has budgeted for expenditure of €650,000 on private residence security system installation works. This is an estimate of expenditure, as this is a demand led service, which is dependent on the number of AGS security survey reports received and the individual measures recommended.

I trust this clarifies the matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Maurice Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

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Maurice Buckley  
Chairman