

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 16 June 2022

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09.38 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Matt Carthy, Neasa Hourigan, Paul McAuliffe, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy (Leas-Chathaoirleach), Verona Murphy

Apologies: Deputies Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Alan Kelly, James O'Connor

Permanent

Witness: Mr. Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General

1. Witnesses Examined

National Paediatric Hospital Development Board

- Mr. David Gunning, Chief Officer
- Mr. Phelim Devine, Project Director
- Dr. Emma Curtis, Medical Director
- Mr. Jim Farragher, Financial Manager

Department of Health

- Mr. Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary in the Health Infrastructure Division

Health Service Executive

- Mr. Martin McKeith, Assistant Lead Director, Children's Hospital Project & Programme,

Matters for discussion

Financial Statements 2020

- National Paediatric Hospital Development Board

The Committee suspended at 11.09.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11.22.

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

The Committee suspended at 12.36.

The Committee resumed in **Private** Session at 13.34.

2. Private Session

Sensitive correspondence		Decision
R1278 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 29/05/2022	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1293 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 31/05/2022	Note.
R1294 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 07/06/2022	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.

The Committee went into **Public** session at 13.42.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2 June 2022 were agreed.

4. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were nine sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 30 May and 10 June 2022.

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
1	Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin (click here to view accounts)	2020/2021 €424 million	28 Mar 2022	30 May 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognition of a deferred pension funding asset (standard for universities)• an investigation of alleged inappropriate payments (click here for further information)• non-compliance with procurement rules. (click here for further information)
2	Charities Regulatory Authority (click here to view accounts)	2021 €4.3 million	23 May 2022	1 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion

3	Charity Funds (click here to view accounts)	2021 €1.6 million	23 May 2022	1 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion
Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
4	Home Building Finance Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2021 (€6.9 million) <i>Loss: €3 million</i>	25 Apr 2022	2 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion
5	Home Building Finance Ireland (Lending) DAC (click here to view accounts)	2021 €6.8 million (expenditure)	25 Apr 2022	2 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion
6	Cork Institute of Technology (click here to view accounts) <i>Dissolved body – cessation accounts</i>	1 Sep 2019 to 31 Dec 2020 €204 million	22 Mar 2022	7 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to non-compliance with procurement rules. (click here for further information)
7	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (click here to view accounts)	2020/2021 €32 million	8 Apr 2022	7 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion
8	National Asset Management Agency (click here to view accounts)	2021 €262 million	22 Apr 2022	10 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to a settlement with the Revenue Commissioners in respect of underpayment of professional services withholding tax in the period 2013-2016. The settlement included interest of €1 million, and penalties of €0.1 million. (click here for further information)
9	Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2021 €3 million	6 May 2022	10 Jun 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to the disclosure in note 7.3 to the financial statements in respect of a suspected fraud by a borrower from a participating on-lender of SBCI-backed loans. (click here for further information)

It was agreed to note the listings of the accounts and statements.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1296 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Gunning, Chief Officer, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 10/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1298 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Gunning, Chief Officer, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 10/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1301 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Rhonda Evans, Communications Manager, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 14/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1302 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Gunning, Chief Officer, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 14/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1303 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Gunning, Chief Officer, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 15/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1304 PAC33	Correspondence from Mr. Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health, dated 15/06/2022	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R1271 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 27/05/2022	Note and publish. It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.

Correspondence received		
R1272 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General, Department of Justice, dated 24/04/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p> <p>In relation to item one in the correspondence, it was agreed to request further information from the Secretary General of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to the rationale for the Department's assessment of certain contracts as non-compliant which were previously determined by another Secretary General to be compliant.</p> <p>It was agreed to request further information from the Department of Justice in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - item three: whether the four non-compliant contracts referenced continue to be rolled over or are now in compliance; - item seven: reiterate request for sight of valuations relating to the Thornton Hall site; - item thirteen: reiterate request for details regarding the number of domestic violence refuge beds in the State. <p>It was also agreed to request the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an update in relation personal injury claims received from Irish Prison Service staff (ref Table 1A Parliamentary Questions 791 and 792); - an information note regarding community-based CCTV to include clarification regarding who is the data controller for these facilities, are there cameras in place that are not currently being used, and if legislation is required.
R1279 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 31/05/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.</p>
R1281 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Vivienne Flood, Head of Public Affairs, RTÉ, dated 31/05/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.</p>
R1284 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Eamonn Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, dated 01/06/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p>

Correspondence received		
R1285 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 02/06/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.</p> <p>It was agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach.</p> <p>In relation to item 6 in the correspondence, it was agreed to request the Department of Finance to provide an information note regarding progress to date on the separation of Irish Water and Ervia, and whether Irish Water's borrowings are likely to be impacted by that separation.</p>
R1290 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. John McKeon, Secretary General, Department of Social Protection, dated 02/06/2022	<p>Note and publish.</p> <p>It was agreed to request the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether any litigation fees were incurred in respect of the appeal notifications for approximately 29% of all cases determined; and - an information note regarding the number of former contractors who are no longer on contract or employed by RTÉ and if these are within the scope of the investigation. <p>It was agreed to hold over the item for further consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.</p>
R1292 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick, dated 08/06/2022	Note and publish.
R1295 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Sinead Quill, Department of Health, dated 10/06/2022	Note and publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R1268 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 25/05/2022	<p>Note.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold over the item for further consideration at the meeting on 23 June 2022.</p>
R1277 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 29/05/2022	It was agreed that Deputy Neasa Hourigan would make a submission, regarding buildings and capital expenditure related to the Owenacurra Centre, for consideration by the Committee.
R1280 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 31/05/2022	See R1277 PAC33.
R1286 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 26/05/2022	Note.

Correspondence received		
R1287 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 03/06/2022	See R1277 PAC33.
R1291 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 31/05/2022	See R1277 PAC33.
R1300 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 14/06/2022	Note.

6. Work Programme

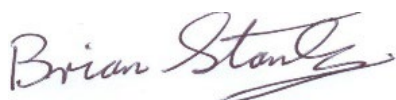
The Committee agreed to proceed with the following engagements:

- Department of Foreign Affairs on 30 June 2022
- Department of Education on 7 July 2022
- An Bord Pleanála on 14 July 2022

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee adjourned at 14.21 until Thursday 23 June 2022.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
23 June 2022