



20 July 2022

Ms Sarah Cremin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
D02 A272

**Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Vote 29)**  
**Ref: S0912 PAC33**

Dear Ms Cremin

I refer to your letter of 4 July 2022 regarding information requested following the PAC meeting on 2 June 2022 at which the Department's correspondence concerning advisor contracts and additional posts in respect of the National Broadband Plan was considered. The information requested by the Committee is set out below.

**1. CLARIFICATION IF ALL TWO-YEAR ADVISOR CONTRACTS REFERENCED IN PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE EXTENDED**

The NBP team is supported in the management and governance of the NBP contract by Analysys Mason, Ernst & Young (EY) and William Fry who provide technical, commercial and financial and legal advisory services respectively.

These companies were contracted following open public procurements that were conducted in accordance with public procurement guidelines and EU procurement regulations. The contracts commenced in 2020, with a contract term of two years, expiring in 2022. Each contract provides for an extension of the contract term by a period of up to twelve months, with two such extensions permitted, by agreement between the parties.

The Department has approved a contract extension, as provided for under each contract. The details for each contract and the extension approved are set out in the following table:

Company	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Extension Approved	Extended Contract End Date
Analysys Mason	6 March 2020	5 March 2022	Two year extension	5 March 2024
Ernst & Young	29 June 2020	28 June 2022	One year extension	28 June 2023
William Fry	15 June 2020	14 June 2022	One year extension	14 June 2023

The term of the Analysys Mason contract was extended by up to two years, as provided for in the contract, in order to retain expertise for particular technical services that are critical during this important stage of the network deployment.

2. THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN IN TERMS OF NUMBER AND TYPE OF ADDITIONAL POSTS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN; AND
3. WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS SANCTION, OR HAS SOUGHT SANCTION, TO FILL ANY ADDITIONAL POSTS

The Department has a core team of circa 25 people, augmented by specialist external services to effectively manage the NBP contract. Approximately 20 people are providing these specialist external services.

The NBP team is continually working to build up the skills of the internal team to reduce the reliance on external expertise as the NBP build programme progresses.

In Budget 2022, funding was approved for circa 20 additional posts. At present, there are 15 posts either filled or to be filled, taking account of vacancies that have arisen during this year. Six posts have been filled this year so far and a further five or six posts are expected to be filled in the coming weeks. It is intended to fill the remaining posts before the end of this year.

The following table sets out the details of the roles to be filled and the status of each position:

Role Description	Number of Posts	Status of Position
Clerical Officer	2	Posts filled
Executive Officer	1	Post filled
Higher Executive Officer	2	Posts filled
Higher Executive Officer – Finance Manager	1	Recruitment currently underway – appointment is imminent
Administrative Officer	1	Post filled
Assistant Principal Officer	1	Post to be filled by redeployment, promotion or recruitment
Assistant Principal Officer – Project Management Office	1	Recruitment currently underway – appointment is imminent
Assistant Principal Officer – Accountant	2	Recruitment currently underway – appointments are imminent
Assistant Principal Officer – Senior Telecoms Solution Architect	1	Recruitment commenced – appointment expected during Q3 2022
Assistant Principal Officer – Procurement Lead	1	Recruitment commenced – appointment expected during Q3 2022
Principal Officer – Network Operations	1	Recruitment commenced – appointment is imminent
Procurement Officer	1	Recruitment commenced – appointment expected during Q3 2022
Total	15	

The Department has not requested sanction for any additional posts beyond the posts outlined above. The provision of these additional posts will assist the Department to further develop the necessary internal expertise to manage the governance of the NBP contract, particularly during the critical deployment phase of the programme and reduce the reliance on external service providers. It is likely

that a level of external expertise will continue to be required, particularly during the network deployment phase, given the detailed technical and commercial nature of the NBP contract. However, a fully resourced and suitably skilled internal team within the Department will help to reduce the level of external expertise needed.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Louise Carrigan in my Department, by email at [louise.carrigan@DECC.gov.ie](mailto:louise.carrigan@DECC.gov.ie) or by phone at 087 094 9532.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" at the end.

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**Mark Griffin**  
**Secretary General**