

**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Mr Martin Hughes
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

**Re: Audited Financial Statements of St Patrick's Drumcondra
for year-end 30th September 2020**

21st September 2022

Dear Mr Hughes

I am writing in accordance with Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 07/2015, Timely Production and Submission of Accounts of Bodies and Funds audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Laying before the Houses of the Oireachtas Special Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

As you will be aware, Circular 07/2015 requires that financial statements should be submitted by organisations to their relevant Department within one month of the audit certificate being issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). Each Department is then required to lay those financial statements along with the C&AG audit certificate before the Oireachtas within two months of receipt.

Circular 07/2015 includes a requirement whereby if circumstances arise that result in a delay beyond the time limits set out that the Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee be notified.

In that context, I draw your attention to the financial statements for St Patrick's College, Drumcondra for the year ended 30th September 2020. The C&AG certified the financial statements on the 9th August 2021. However, as a result of an IT systems issue within the Department, the financial statements were not received by the Department. Since St Patrick's College has not been an active education provider since its activities transferred to DCU in 2016, and is not in receipt of Departmental funding, the Department does not routinely engage with the entity and so the oversight only came to light when the College recently contacted the Department about this matter.

The financial statements have since been laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas by the Department.



I trust the above clarifies the position for the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Breslin".

Jim Breslin
Secretary General
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science

cc. Mr James Frain, St Patrick's College Drumcondra