

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 17 November 2022

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:34 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Cormac Devlin, Neasa Hourigan, Paul McAuliffe, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy, Verona Murphy, James O'Connor.

Apologies: Deputies Matt Carthy and Alan Kelly.

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Department of Finance

- Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General
- Mr. Des Carville, Head of Shareholding and Financial Advisory Division
- Ms Emma Cunningham, Assistant Secretary
- Mr. John McCarthy, Chief Economist for Economic Policy Division
- Ms Scline Scott, Head of the Corporate Office

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

- Mr. Dermot Nolan, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Appropriation Accounts 2021:**
 - **Vote 7 – Office of the Minister for Finance**
- **Finance Accounts 2021**
- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2021:**
 - Chapter 1: Exchequer Financial Outturn 2021
 - Chapter 2: Net Cost of Banking Stabilisation Measures
 - Chapter 22: Ireland Apple Escrow Fund

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

The Committee suspended at 12:39.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:29.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2022 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were seven sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 1 and 11 November 2022.

Ref	Body/main purpose	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date laid	Audit opinion/notes
1	National Standards Authority of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2021 €31 million	29 Sep 2022	2 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to note 12(c) of the financial statements in relation to recognition of a deferred pension funding asset. (click here for further information)
2	Donegal Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €83 million	6 Sep 2022	2 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
3	Leopardstown Park Hospital Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €17.2 million	26 Aug 2022	2 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
4	National University of Ireland, Galway (click here to view accounts)	2020/2021 €351 million	31 Aug 2022	3 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognition of a deferred pension funding asset (standard for universities)• procurement non-compliance (click here for further information)• payroll overpayment. (click here for further information)
5	Crawford Art Gallery Cork Limited (click here to view accounts)	2021 €4 million	24 Jun 2022	4 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion

6	National Museum of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2021 €19.6 million	30 Jun 2022	4 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to non-compliance with procurement rules. (click here for further information)
7	National Library of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2021 €10.5 million	9 Aug 2022	10 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion

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

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1575 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 11/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1580 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 11/11/2022	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R1547 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Moloney, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Secretary General, dated 03/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1558 PAC33	Correspondence received from Graham Doyle, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Secretary General, dated 03/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1562 PAC33	Correspondence received from Anne Graham, Chief Executive, National Transport Authority, dated 07/11/2022	Note and publish It was agreed to request the Minister for Transport to consider extending the DART+ West scheme to the railway station in Kilcock, Co. Kildare. It was also agreed to request the Department to consider a means to address such anomalies efficiently and cost effectively when they arise.
R1566 PAC33	Correspondence received from Niall Byrne, Director, Residential Tenancies Board, dated 08/11/2022	Note and publish.

Correspondence received		
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R1561 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 24/10/2022	Note.
R1568 PAC33	Correspondence received from the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform, and Taoiseach, dated 27/10/2022	A draft reply to the Committee was agreed.
R1570 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 27/10/2022	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.

5. Work Programme

It was agreed to proceed with the engagements detailed in the draft work programme which was circulated in advance of the meeting, and to consider the work programme for the new year at the meeting on 24 November 2022.

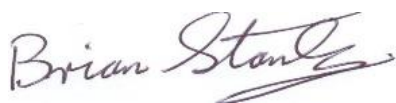
6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13:55.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R1559 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 04/11/2022	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1560 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 06/11/2022	It was agreed to hold over the item for the meeting on 24 November 2022.
R1564 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 07/11/2022	It was agreed to hold over the item for the meeting on 24 November 2022.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:40 until Thursday 24 November 2022.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
24 November 2022