

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 24 November 2022

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:42 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Matt Carthy, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Alan Kelly, Catherine Murphy.

Apologies: Deputies Colm Burke, Imelda Munster and Verona Murphy.

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Regulator of the National Lottery

- Ms Carol Boate, Regulator of the National Lottery
- Mr. Derek Donohoe, Deputy Regulator

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

- Mr. Dermot Nolan, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2021 – National Lottery Fund**
- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Services**
 - Chapter 19: Exchequer receipts from National Lottery ticket sales

The Committee suspended at 11:05.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:19.

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 12:31.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:45.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2022 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were five sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 14 and 18 November 2022.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	Intestate Estates Fund Account (click here to view accounts)	2021 €472,000	11 Nov 2022	14 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
2	Citizens Information Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €52 million	30 Sep 2022	14 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
3	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (click here to view accounts)	2021 €6.1 million	8 Sep 2022	14 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
4	National Transport Authority (click here to view accounts)	2021 €1.5 billion	24 Jun 2022	15 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion
5	Residential Tenancies Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €20 million	28 Jun 2022	16 Nov 2022	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none">cost overrun and delay in delivery of a new IT based management system for tenancy registrations and disputes (click here for further information)non-compliant procurement of business processing services. (click here for further information)

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

The Committee has a standing agreement to request explanations for any significant non-compliant procurement or delays in laying accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1587 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Carol Boate, Chief Executive, Regulator of the National Lottery, dated 21/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1593 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Carol Boate, Regulator of the National Lottery, dated 22/11/2022	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R1571 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, HSE, dated 10/11/2022	Note and publish. It was agreed to request further details in relation to: - whether obsolete hand gel has been disposed of, the full cost associated with disposal, and what the total outlay is likely to be; - whether expenditure of €40 million for cybersecurity being provided in the first year of a seven-year project is adequate given the risks posed and if there is other funding or other resources available for this purpose; - an information note regarding vacant properties nationwide, particularly in Co. Laois where there are seven such properties.
R1573 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Joseph Nugent, Chief Administrative Officer, An Garda Síochána, dated 10/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1576 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive, Túsla, dated 13/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1579 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Katherine Licken, Secretary General, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media, dated 15/11/2022	Note and publish.
R1594 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Ray Mitchell, Assistant National Director, HSE, dated 23/11/2022	Note and publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision

Correspondence received		
R1565 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Alan Guidon, Clerk to the Joint Committee on Justice, dated 25/10/2022	Note.
R1574 PAC33	Correspondence received from Neasa Hourigan, T.D., Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 11/11/2022	It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting on 1 December 2022. It was agreed to request the Charities Regulator to respond to the matters raised.
R1577 PAC33	Correspondence received from Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 15/11/2022	It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting on 1 December 2022. See R1574 PAC33.
R1578 PAC33	Correspondence received from Verona Murphy, T.D., Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 15/11/2022	It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting on 1 December 2022. It was agreed to request An Bord Pleanála and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to advise if a review is being undertaken in relation to planning permissions granted by An Bord Pleanála for telecommunications masts.

5. Work Programme

It was agreed to re-schedule an engagement with the Operator of the National Lottery from 1 December to 8 December 2022 due to the joint sitting of the Houses on 1 December 2022.

The Committee considered its draft work programme for the new year, and it was agreed that a revised draft reflecting the discussion would be circulated for further consideration.

6. Any Other Business

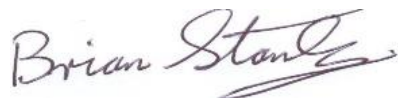
It was agreed to periodically include overdue correspondence (i.e., overdue responses to requests from the Committee) as an agenda item for public session.

The Committee went into **private** session at 14:20.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R1572 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 10/11/2022	It was agreed to inform the correspondent of the Committee's decision.

R1581 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 16/11/2022	Note.
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The Committee **adjourned** at 14:51 until Thursday 1 December 2022.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
1 December 2022