



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí | Office of the Secretary General

Ms. Sarah O'Farrell
Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts

By email only: pac@oireachtas.ie

13 January 2023

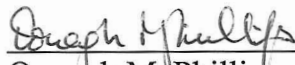
Our ref: DJE-SG-00543-2022
Your ref: S1141 PAC33

Dear Ms. O'Farrell,

I refer to your letter of 30 December 2022 in relation to non-compliance with procurement guidelines in respect of the Justice Vote, Vote 24.

I attach a tabulated report of the current status of the contracts to the value of €8,081,078 as referenced in the Appropriation Account for 2021.

Yours sincerely,


Oonagh McPhillips
Secretary General

Public Accounts Committee, January 2023

The 2021 Appropriation Account for Vote 24 was prepared in March 2022 and included 18 instances of non-compliant procurement valued at €8,081,078.

The updated position in relation to these contracts is as follows:

Current Position	Number	Value	Percentage (Value)
Contract awarded or in place	5	€4,877,371	60%
Specification complete and with OGP ¹ for publication	2	€663,900	8%
OGCIO ² / OGP Central contract now in place from which Department can draw down	4	€706,215	9%
Specification being progressed	4	€1,045,382	13%
Other	3	€788,210	10%
TOTAL	18	€8,081,078	100%

Further detailed information is contained in the table below.

¹ Office of Government Procurement

² Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

No.	Supplier	Subject of Contract	Value €	Reason for Non-Compliance	Current Position, January 2023
1.	Capita	ICT Managed Service	€3,984,212.75	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow for an OGP led Request for Tender (RFT) for these services. A two stage restricted procedure has been completed and a new contract was awarded in February 2022.	Contract in place.
2.	Accenture	Financial Shared Services	€601,300.00	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow for transition to new Financial Management Shared Services Centre (FMSSC).	Awaiting new system: It has been confirmed that the Department and its client group is to transition in the next phase of the National Shared Services Office, Financial Management Shared Services Project. This will bring this contract to a conclusion at that point which is likely to be in 2024.
3.	Arkphire Security	Security Licences and Support	€600,674.98	Contract Extension: Contract extended for a further year due to the pandemic, a tender is now ready to be published and it is envisaged a new contract will be awarded in Q3 2022.	Contract in place.
4.	Atos IT Solutions & Services Ltd	AVATS support and maintenance	€471,542.00	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow for consultation with UK Home Office, CSSO and the Attorney General's Office regarding the optimum procurement process.	Specification being progressed: The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) is conducting this procurement. The route to market and specification are under consideration. It is envisaged that a new contract will be in place by end 2023.
5.	Grosvenor	Commercial cleaning	€399,573.07	Contract Extension: Contract was extended following a legal challenge emerging at contract award stage following a tender competition. The Supplementary Request for Tenders (SRFT) has been finalised and will issue to the OGP for publication in Q2 2022.	Specification Complete: Tender documents have been submitted to the OGP for publication under the Framework for Commercial Cleaning.

No.	Supplier	Subject of Contract	Value €	Reason for Non-Compliance	Current Position, January 2023
6.	Eir	Telephonists services	€330,862.80	Contract Extension: Contract was extended following legal issues emerging at contract award stage following a tender competition. The Department is planning to tender for this service again.	Specification being progressed: The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) issues arising from the previous competition are being addressed and the specification for returning to market is under preparation.
7.	Derrycourt	Commercial cleaning	€264,326.66	Contract Extension: Contract was extended following a legal challenge emerging at contract award stage following a tender competition. The SRFT has been finalised and will issue to the OGP for publication in Q2 2022.	Specification Complete: Tender documents have been submitted to the OGP for publication under the Framework for Commercial Cleaning.
8.	Virgin Media Ireland Ltd	Wide Area Network (WAN)	€244,317.55	Contract Extension: The contract was extended to consider the specifications and requirements for publication of a SRFT. Draft requirements are currently being worked on with a view to publishing a new SRFT under the OGP Dynamic Purchasing System in Q3 2022.	Government Networks Contracts awarded: Government Networks recently signed multiple contracts for backhaul and local connectivity to Government Cloud Network (GCN) Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs). The Department is in consultation with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and plan to migrate to these new contracts in the coming months.
9.	Word Perfect	Translations & Interpretations	€242,768.50	Contract Extension: Contract originally extended to allow for OGP led Translation and Interpretation Frameworks to be put in place. However, this framework is still the subject of legal challenges and is currently under appeal. Once a new OGP Framework is live, the Department intends to formally draw down these services through the Framework.	OGP Interpretation Services Framework now live: The OGP awarded a Framework contract for the provision of Interpretation services on behalf of the Department in December 2022. Drawdown of Interpretation services will be completed shortly and work will then begin on the procurement of Translation services.

No.	Supplier	Subject of Contract	Value €	Reason for Non-Compliance	Current Position, January 2023
10.	Eir	Fixed line telephony & Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)	€195,205.61	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow for a new OGCI0 led national framework for the provision of Supply of Fixed Voice and Voice Over IP Communications. A new competition has been completed and a contract was awarded in November 2021.	Contract in place.
11.	Vodafone	Wide Area Network / Local Area Network (WAN/LAN)	€191,014.00	Contract Extension: The contract was extended to consider the specifications and requirements for publication of a SRFT. Draft requirements are currently being worked on with a view to publishing a new SRFT in Q3 2022.	Government Networks Contracts awarded: Government Networks recently signed multiple contracts for backhaul and local connectivity to Government Cloud Network (GCN) Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs). The Department is in consultation with the OGCI0 and plan to migrate to these new contracts in the coming months.
12.	Glenbeigh	Records Management - File Storage	€132,888.24	Contract Extension: The contract was extended to consider the requirements across the Department for publication of a SRFT. The specification is currently under review.	Specification being progressed: The Department is currently reorganising all of the records held internally in storage. Once this work has been completed the specification will be completed and submitted to the OGP.
13.	Accenture	Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Support	€123,341.33	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow for development of and transition to new Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) system.	Contract Extension: A second contract extension was required to allow work to continue on the new GNIB system in parallel with critical upgrades required to the Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) Public Key infrastructure (PKI) solution. The Department plans to undertake a procurement for the ongoing support and maintenance of the new PKI system once these upgrades are completed.

No.	Supplier	Subject of Contract	Value €	Reason for Non-Compliance	Current Position, January 2023
14.	Shepherds Funeral Supplies	Mortuary services – Dublin Coroner's Office	€110,089.09	Contract Extension: The functions of the Dublin District Coroner's Office transferred from Dublin City Council to the Department and the original contract was procured by Dublin City Council. The Coroner's Office is considering its specification and requirements with a view to returning to the market.	Specification being progressed: A market sounding exercise will be conducted during Q1 and the specification of requirements and other elements of the Request for Tender (RFT) will be progressed during this period. It is anticipated that the RFT will go to market with a view to awarding a contract in 2023.
15.	Bidvest Noonan (ROI) LTD	Security Services – Forensic Science Ireland	€63,569.01	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow Forensic Science Ireland complete their move from Phoenix Park to their new site in Backweston, Co. Kildare.	Service to cease after FSI relocation: It is envisaged that Forensic Science Ireland will complete their move from the Phoenix Park to their new site in Backweston, Co. Kildare in June 2023. Once the move is complete, the service will cease.
16.	Vodafone -	Fixed line telephony	€63,524.87	Contract Extension: Contract extended to allow the Probation Service to port over to the Department's VOIP network. This will take place on a phased basis and is ongoing.	Contract Awarded: A new contract has been awarded for the provision of these services, the Probation Service will be ported over to the new account on a phased basis in 2023.
17.	Kantar Media	Media Monitoring	€33,752.25	Contract Extension: Contract extended following the expiry of the OGP framework in February 2020 and the Department continued to use the services of Kantar on a month by month basis in the absence of a framework. A contract was awarded for these services in December 2021.	Contract in place.

No.	Supplier	Subject of Contract	Value €	Reason for Non-Compliance	Current Position, January 2023
18.	Eurotext	Translations	€28,114.90	Contract Extension: Contract originally extended to allow for OGP led Translation and Interpretation Frameworks to be put in place. However, this framework is still the subject of legal challenges and is currently under appeal. Once a new OGP Framework is live, the Department intends to formally draw down these services through the Framework.	OGP Interpretation Services Framework now live: The OGP awarded a Framework contract for the provision of Interpretation services on behalf of the Department in December 2022. Drawdown of Interpretation services will be completed shortly and work will then begin on the procurement of Translation services.
	Total		€8,081,078		