



11 January 2023

Sarah Cremin
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Ref: S1136 PAC

Dear Ms. Cremin,

I refer to your letter of 29 December 2022 regarding Circular 24 of 2021 to Accounting Officers, dated 08 November 2021 entitled “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”

In relation to the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) Annual Report and Accounts 2021, I can confirm that the RTB Annual Report and Financial Statements were submitted to the Minister and the Department in a timely manner as legislated in the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 at the end of June 2022.

However, the Minister felt it necessary to seek further clarification on a number of issues raised in the report and in particular on tenancy registration difficulties, before approving the submission to bring the report to Cabinet. As the Public Accounts Committee is aware, since 4 April 2022, landlords are required under the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 to register their tenancies with the RTB every year, within one month of the anniversary of when the tenancy began. Since that time, the RTB has experienced difficulties with the implementation and roll out of its new tenancy registration management system during 2022 and a large number of landlord and agent customers have been encountering issues with the process of registering tenancies on the new portal and delays in contacting the RTB.

This clarification involved a number of meetings between the Minister and his officials with the RTB, and a significant volume of work to be carried out in the RTB, before the Minister was satisfied there is a clear path to resolving the issues identified. Once this assurance was given, the Minister brought the report to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity and the report/accounts were laid without further delay on 16th November 2022. It should be noted that officials from the Department are continuing to support the RTB to ensure annual registration difficulties are resolved in full.

[The Secretary General is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015](#)

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I hope the above has provided the necessary clarification for the Committee. The delay in bringing the report to cabinet is regrettable but was necessary and the Department notes that the Public Accounts Committee should have been informed of the delay at the time.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'D'.

Graham Doyle

Secretary General