

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 23 February 2023**

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:38 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

**Deputies:** Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Matt Carthy, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Neasa Hourigan, Paul McAuliffe, Verona Murphy, James O'Connor.

**Apologies:** Catherine Murphy

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

**1. Witnesses Examined:**

**Central Bank of Ireland**

- Mr. William Molloy, Director of Financial Operations
- Mr. Adrian Varley, Director of Prudential Analysis and Inspections

**Department of Finance**

- Mr. Colm O'Reardon, Head of Unit, Strategic Economic Development Division
- Mr. Paul Cotter, Principal Officer, Strategic Economic Development Division

**Office of the Revenue Commissioners**

- Mr. Eugene Creighton, Assistant Secretary, Large Corporate Division
- Ms Angela O'Gorman, Principal Officer, C&AG and Committee Liaison

**Matters for discussion:**

- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2021:**
  - Chapter 14 – Assessment and collection of Insurance Compensation Fund Levies
- **Report on the Administration and Movement of the Insurance Compensation Fund for the year end 31 December 2021**
- **Comptroller and Auditor General Section 2 Report**
  - Unauthorised release of funds from the Central Fund of the Exchequer

The Committee suspended at 10:53.

The Committee resumed in **Private** Session at 10:56.

The Committee went into **Public** session at 11.13.

- It was agreed to suspend the meeting and resume examination of the matters scheduled to be examined at this meeting on a later date.
- It was agreed to request the Governor of the Central Bank and the Secretary General of the Department of Finance to attend the resumed meeting.
- It was agreed to request the C&AG Liaison Officer to prepare an information note regarding the governance arrangements in respect of these matters.
- It was agreed to note and publish the opening statements and briefing documents provided for the meeting.

The Committee suspended at 11:15.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:32.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2023 were agreed.

## 3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were 11 sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 13 February and 17 February 2023.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	<b>Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2021 €124 million	8 Dec 2022	14 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
2	<b>Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education And Training Board</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2021 €95 million	22 Dec 2022	15 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to non-compliance with procurement rules. <a href="#">(click here for further information)</a>
3	<b>An Foras Teanga/The Language Body</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a> <i>North South body</i>	2020 €18.9 million	18 May 2022	16 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
4	<b>The Parole Board</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2021 €254,000	5 Dec 2022	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
5	<b>Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2021 €580,000	23 Dec 2022	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
6	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2021 €2.9 million	22 Apr 2022	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
7	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2020 €2.5 million	24 May 2021	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
8	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2019 €2.6 million	19 May 2020	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
9	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2018 €2.5 million	19 Jun 2019	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
10	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2017 €2.3 million	21 Jun 2018	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion
11	<b>Moorepark Technology Limited</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2016 €2.1 million	13 Jun 2017	17 Feb 2023	Clear audit opinion

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.

It was agreed to add Teagasc to the Committee's Work Programme.

#### 4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1745 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 21/02/2023	Note and publish.
R1745 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 21/02/2023	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision

Correspondence received		
R1726 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Mary Hurley, Secretary General, Department of Rural and Community Development, dated 07/02/2023	Note and publish.  It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting.
R1733 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 09/02/2023	Note and publish.  It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting.
R1734 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Padraig McMahon, Personnel Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 31/01/2023	Note and publish.
R1741 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive Officer, The Heritage Council, dated 13/02/2023	Note and publish.
R1742 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Mark Griffin, Secretary General, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, dated 13/02/2023	Note and publish.
R1743 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Maurice Buckley, Chairperson, OPW, dated 14/02/2023	Note and publish.
R1745 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, dated 14/02/2023	Note and publish.  Note and Publish, redacting commercially sensitive information before publication.
R1750 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 20/02/2023	Note and publish.
<b>C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence</b>		<b>Decision</b>
R1731 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 09/02/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1736 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 30/01/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1740 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 12/02/2023	Note.
R1744 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Elaine Muldoon, Clerk to the Committee, Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight, dated 14/02/2023	Note.

## 5. Work Programme

It was agreed to schedule the following meetings:

- 20 April: The Central Bank/Department of Finance/Office of the Revenue Commissioners
- 27 April: An Bord Pleanála.

It was agreed to add Teagasc to the Committee's Work Programme.

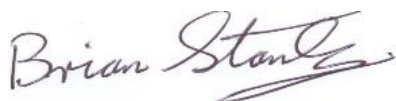
## 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13:48.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R1746 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 14/02/2023	<p>It was agreed to request an information note from the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Finance to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the application and operation of Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT), the precise nature in which seizure laws are applied and the revenue raised; and</li><li>2. the relationship of VRT with European Union law and anomalies regarding cross border movement.</li></ol> <p>It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.</p>
R1749 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 13/02/2023	<p>It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.</p>

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:30 until Thursday 2 March 2023.



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Brian Stanley, T.D.  
Cathaoirleach  
2 March 2023