

An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



20 February 2023

Ms Sarah Cremin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts

By email

**Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Vote 29)**  
**Ref: S1114 PAC33**

Dear Ms Cremin,

I refer to your letter regarding the provision of an explanatory note as required under Circular 24/2021 on the 2021 accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The position is as follows:

28 February 2022      The EPA presented their 2021 financial statements to the C&AG for audit.

03 June 2022      C&AG issued their Audit Report to the EPA.

24 June 2022      The EPA provided the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) with the English version of their 2021 financial statements.

03 August 2022      The EPA provided DECC with the Irish version of their 2021 financial statements.

The delay between August and October in laying the Accounts before the Oireachtas is partly due to there being no Government meeting for the first three weeks of August 2022 (to note the Accounts) and to an administrative oversight in the Department leading to the Accounts not being considered by Government until 11 October 2022. The ensuing Government Decision, noting the Annual Report and Accounts, was received in DECC on 12 October 2022 and the Accounts were laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 13 October 2022.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Karen McCaffrey in my Department, by email at [karen.mccaffrey@decc.gov.ie](mailto:karen.mccaffrey@decc.gov.ie).

Yours sincerely,



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Mark Griffin  
Secretary General