

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2023

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:32 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Paul McAuliffe, Imelda Munster, Verona Murphy.

Apologies: Deputy Catherine Murphy

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Central Bank of Ireland

- Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor
- Ms Sharon Donnery, Deputy Governor
- Mr. William Molloy, Director

Department of Finance

- Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General
- Mr. Michael McGrath, Assistant Secretary, Financial Services Division
- Mr. Colm O'Reardon, Head of Division with responsibility for the Strategic Economic Development Division
- Ms Sceline Scott, Head of the Corporate Office

Revenue Commissioners

- Mr. Eugene Creighton, Assistant Secretary
- Ms Angela O'Gorman, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2020**
 - 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 11:02.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:14.

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 12:43

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:37.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2023 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

Three sets of financial statements and accounts were laid before the Dáil between 27 March and 14 April 2023.

| Ref | Body/fund | Accounting period/turnover | Date certified | Date presented | Audit opinion/notes |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Legal Aid Board (click here to view accounts) | 2021 €47 million | 15 Dec 2022 | 29 Mar 2023 | Clear audit opinion |
| 2 | Special EU Programmes Body (click here to view accounts) <i>North South body</i> | 2021 €96 million | 23 Dec 2022 | 30 Mar 2023 | Clear audit opinion |
| 3 | Údarás na Gaeltachta (click here to view accounts) | 2021 €56 million | 24 Dec 2022 | 11 Apr 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.

4. Correspondence

| Correspondence received | | |
|--|--|--|
| A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements | | Decision |
| R1848 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 19/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings | | Decision |
| R1819 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Niall Cody, Chairman, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, dated 23/03/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1822 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 24/03/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1824 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Ms Siorcha Fitzpatrick, Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, dated 25/03/2023 | Note and publish. It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the next meeting. |
| R1825 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Darragh O'Loughlin, Chief Executive, Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board, dated 28/03/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1827 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Ms Eeva Leinonen, President, Maynooth University, dated 30/03/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1830 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 03/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1831 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 03/04/2023 | Note and publish. It was agreed to request the Department of Health to keep the Committee informed of developments regarding the review being undertaken in respect of additional charges for nursing homes including services potentially available under the medical card scheme and to give consideration to making arrangements for a mechanism for nursing home providers to review their level of support funding under the Fair Deal scheme where patients need a higher degree of care than when the nursing home care began. |

| Correspondence received | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| R1833 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Ken Spratt, Secretary General, Department of Transport, dated 04/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1834 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Maurice Buckley, Chairman, Office of Public Works, dated 04/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1835 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Government Accounting Unit, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 03/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1837 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Ms Katherine Licken, Secretary General, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, dated 06/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1838 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Ms Kate Duggan, Interim CEO, Tusla, dated 11/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1839 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. John Hogan, Secretary General, Department of Finance, dated 12/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1840 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Ciarán Breen, Director, State Claims Agency, dated 13/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1841 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, dated 13/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| R1843 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 13/04/2023 | Note and publish. |
| C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence | | Decision |
| R1821 PAC33 | Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/03/2023 | Note. |
| R1836 PAC33 | Correspondence received from Laura Pathe, Clerk, Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media, dated 05/04/2023 | Note. |

5. Work Programme

The Committee agreed its draft work programme.

It was agreed to request the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an information note to include details in relation to:

- capital expenditure underspend from 2020 to 2022; and
- performance indicators and targets for capital expenditure and why they are not being met.

It was agreed to add the Fishery Harbour Centres Financial Statements 2021 to the agenda for the meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 4 May 2023.

It was also agreed to schedule a meeting with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 1 June 2023.

6. Any Other Business

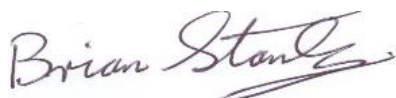
There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13:56.

It was agreed to revise a request to the Department of Education for information regarding the Schools Capital Building Programme.

The arrangements for the forthcoming meeting with the University of Limerick were agreed.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:11 until Thursday 27 April 2023.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
27 April 2023