

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 27 April 2023

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:34 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), John Brady, Colm Burke, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Paul McAuliffe, Catherine Murphy, Verona Murphy, Marc Ó Cathasaigh, James O'Connor.

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

An Bord Pleanála

- Ms Oonagh Buckley, Interim Chairperson
- Mr. Chris McGarry, Deputy Chairperson
- Ms Brid Hill, Chief Officer
- Mr. Gerard Egan, Director of Corporate Affairs
- Ms Anne Killian, Senior Administrative Officer, Finance Section

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

- Mr. Paul Hogan, Acting Assistant Secretary General
- Ms Paula Donohue, Assistant Principal

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2021**
 - An Bord Pleanála

The Committee suspended at 11:06.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:16.

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 12:38

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:33.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2023 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were no sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between since the last meeting.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1851 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh Buckley, Interim Chairperson, An Bord Pleanála, dated 21/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1855 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh Buckley, Interim Chairperson, An Bord Pleanála, dated 21/04/2023	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R1824 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms SORCHA 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.
R1844 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Mark Griffin, Secretary General, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, dated 14/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1845 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 17/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1847 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Graham Doyle, Secretary General, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, dated 17/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1849 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Mary Hurley, Secretary General, Department of Rural and Community Development, dated 19/04/2023	Note and publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision

Correspondence received		
R1842 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 13/04/2023	Note.
R1854 PAC33	Correspondence received from Brian Stanley, T.D., Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 25/04/2023	<p>Note.</p> <p>It was agreed to request the Secretary General of the Department of Health to provide a written response regarding the findings of the external review.</p> <p>It was also agreed to request the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform to provide a written response regarding the findings of the external review.</p>

5. Work Programme

The Committee agreed its draft work programme.

It was agreed to add a meeting with Uisce Éireann to the work programme.

It was agreed to add the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment to the Committee's Work Programme and request representatives from the Workplace Relations Commission.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13.41.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R1816 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/03/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1823 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/03/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1828 PAC33	Correspondence received from Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 31/03/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1829 PAC33	Correspondence received from Anonymous, dated 02/04/2023	It was agreed to request an information note on the matter from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.
R1832 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 03/04/2023	It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the next meeting.

R1846 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 17/04/2023	It was agreed to hold over the item for consideration at the next meeting.
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The Committee **adjourned** at 14:14 until Thursday 4 May 2023.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
4 May 2023