

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:36 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.

Apologies: Deputies Imelda Munster and James O'Connor.

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Health Service Executive

- Mr. Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Stephen Mulvany, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms Anne Marie Hoey, National Director, Human Resources
- Ms Mary Day, National Director, Acute Operations
- Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, CHO 6

Department of Health

- Mr. Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary
- Ms Tracy Conroy, Assistant Secretary
- Ms Louise McGirr, Assistant Secretary

National Treatment Purchase Fund

- Mr. Sean Flood, Chief Executive Officer

Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform

- Mr. Eoin Dormer, Principal Officer
- Mr. Evan Coady, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2021**
 - HSE (resumed)
- **C&AG Special Report 114**

Emergency procurement of ventilators by the HSE
- **Appropriation Accounts 2021**
 - Vote 38 – Health (Subhead E.3 – The National Treatment Purchase Fund)

The Committee suspended at 11:09.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:21.

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 12:33.

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

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4 May 2023 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were no financial statements and accounts presented to the Oireachtas library between 1 and 5 May 2023.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R1882 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, dated 09/05/2023	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 request further details including: - why contracts for certain regular operational matters such as cleaning, clothing and media services were not compliant with procurement guidelines; and - were the new contracts for towing and recovery put out to tender, and if so, how many. Also, has the service been put out to tender in each county.

Correspondence received		
R1860 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 27/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1862 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Government Accounting Unit, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 27/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1863 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 27/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1864 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Feargal Rooney, Communications Division, Central Bank of Ireland, dated 27/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1866 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Dee Forbes, Director General, RTÉ, dated 28/04/2023	Note and publish.
R1871 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Maurice Buckley, Chairperson, Office of Public Works, dated 02/05/2023	Note and publish.
R1872 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr, Ken Spratt, Secretary General, Department of Transport, dated 03/05/2023	Note and publish.
R1880 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Harry Lester, Assistant Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, dated 09/05/2023	Note. It was agreed to defer a proposed meeting with the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment to a later date.
R1881 PAC33	Correspondence received from Professor Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick, dated 09/05/2023	Note. It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R1885 PAC33	Correspondence received from the Department of Health, dated 10/05/2023	Note.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R1869 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 30/04/2023	Note.

5. Work Programme

The Committee agreed its draft work programme.

It was agreed to add the following matters of specific interest to the agenda for the meeting with the Department of Justice on 25 May 2023:

- expenditure & governance in relation to the International Protection assessment process; and
- funding & governance for domestic violence refuge centres.

It was agreed to defer a proposed meeting with the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment to a later date.

It was agreed to add the following matters of specific interest to the agenda for the meeting with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 1 June 2023:

- funding, governance, & oversight of the cost rental housing sector;
- impact of construction inflation on budget and expenditure in respect of social and affordable housing; and
- the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It was agreed to schedule the following meetings:

- Sport Ireland on 15 June 2023;
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on 22 June 2023.

It was agreed to schedule a meeting with Inland Fisheries Ireland in July 2023.

It was agreed to schedule a meeting with Uisce Éireann in July 2023.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 14:00.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R1861 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 27/04/2023	It was agreed to hold over the item for further consideration at the next meeting.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:39 until Thursday 18 May 2023.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Brian Stanley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
18 May 2023