

**An Roinn Iompair**  
Department of Transport



Ms Sarah Cremin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
D02 XR 20

*Your ref: S1198 PAC33*

By email: [pac@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pac@oireachtas.ie)

04 April 2023

Dear Ms Cremin,

I refer to your letter of 24 March 2023 concerning the requirements to comply with the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform Circular 24 of 2021, and requesting an explanation as to why the requirements of the Circular were not met in relation to the 2021 accounts of the National Transport Authority and the 2020 accounts of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety.

At the outset, I wish to apologise for the department's failure to comply in full with the Circular's requirements in this respect. I have examined the reasons for the delay in both cases and set out below a note on each for the information of the Committee.

**National Transport Authority (NTA)**

In keeping with Circular 24/2021 and as required, the department wrote to the Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on 22 September 2022 to advise the PAC that there had been a delay with bringing the 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Transport Authority to Government within the timelines set out under Section 6 of the Circular (copy of correspondence attached).

As advised at the time, the delay with submitting the NTA's 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements was due to work pressures arising due to Budget 2023 being brought forward by a number of weeks.

It was further advised in the correspondence that the department intended to bring the NTA's 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements to Government in October.

**Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60, Éire**  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland  
T +353 1 6707444 | [info@transport.gov.ie](mailto:info@transport.gov.ie)  
[www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)



I can confirm that the NTA's 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements were brought to Government on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

### **Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS)**

In respect of the MBRS 2020 Accounts, I refer to my letter of 12 January 2023 attached (your ref: S1115 PAC33), in which I addressed the delay in laying the 2021 accounts. In this correspondence I also referred to the delay in laying the 2020 accounts of the MBRS.

The 2020 accounts of the MBRS were certified and submitted to the department on 20 December 2021. At the time the audit had been delayed considerably. Due to a subsequent oversight by the department, the 2020 accounts were not laid until 23 November 2022. I acknowledge this was a considerable delay and not in line with Circular 24/2021. The 2020 MBRS Annual Report was laid on 22 December 2021.

I wish to assure the Committee that both the department and our agencies strive to comply in full with the timelines and requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and the relevant circulars. The department is committed to comprehensive oversight on all governance matters and works with our agencies to achieve compliance on an on-going basis. Every effort will be made to avoid such delays in future.

As requested, I can also confirm that my department have no objection to the publication of this correspondence by the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Spratt', is written over a horizontal line.

Ken Spratt  
Secretary General

Cc Chairpersons and CEO/Director at NTA and MBRS

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Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 XR20  
[pac@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pac@oireachtas.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Your ref: S1115 PAC33**

**Medical Bureau of Road Safety - 2020 and 2021 Accounts**

Dear Ms Cremin,

I refer to your correspondence of 29 December 2022, regarding the 2021 accounts of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS).

The Minister for Transport granted an extended deadline of 30 September 2022 for the Bureau to submit its reports for 2021. This was required for the compilation of statistics for the Annual Report. While the 2021 audited accounts were submitted to this Department on 12 July 2022, they were not laid pending receipt of the 2021 Annual Report (received 23 August 2023). My Department informed the Clerk by email on 22 September 2022 of the delay in meeting the designated timelines. The submission and approval process was begun within the Department on 6 September 2022 and both Annual Report and the Accounts were laid on 18 October 2022.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the Committee a delay in laying the 2020 Accounts of the MBRS.

These were certified and submitted to the Department on 20 December 2021. At the time the audit had been delayed considerably. Due to a subsequent oversight by the Department, the 2020 Accounts were not laid until 23 November 2022. I acknowledge this was a considerable delay and not in line with Circular 24/2021. The 2020 MBRS Annual Report was laid on 22 December 2021.

My Department will endeavour, in future, to ensure all reporting timelines and requirements are met in line with the Code of Practice for State Bodies and the relevant circulars.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken Spratt', written over a horizontal line.

**Ken Spratt**  
Secretary General

C.c Professor Denis Cusack, Director, Medical Bureau of Road Safety; Keith Walsh, Assistant Secretary General, Road Transport Services.