

**An Roinn Sláinte**  
Department of Health  
Secretary General



Ms Sarah Cremin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts

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

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

Dear Ms Cremin

I refer to your letter of 24 March in relation to requirements under Circular 24 of 2021, and the delay in the Medical Council submitting its 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the timelines set out under that circular.

The Medical Council submits its Annual Report and Financial Statements for approval to the Minister as a single document. However exceptional circumstances caused delays associated with the finalisation of the 2021 Annual Report, which resulted in late submission. Submission was made to the Minister on 21 December 2022, with the document laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 16 January 2023.

The Council has informed the Department that the delay related to finalising content, fact checking of statistics and the knock-on delays with design and translation to Irish. The delay was compounded by resource issues whereby the manager overseeing the project suffered a close family bereavement and had to take personal leave.

The Medical Council undertook a review of the factors which led to the delayed submission, and this was discussed by the Council's senior leadership team. Plans are now in place to ensure no recurrence of the delay in relation to the submission of future annual reports. The Council have informed Department officials that the Annual Report for 2022 is at an advanced stage and the Comptroller and Auditor General's annual audit is due to begin next week.

The Council have asked me to extend their apologies to the Committee for the late submission and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

I confirm that this Department has no objection to the publication of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Robert Watt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Robert' and last name 'Watt' clearly distinguishable.

*Robert Watt*  
Secretary General