

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023**

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:35 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

**Apologies:** Imelda Munster

**Permanent**

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

**1. Witnesses Examined:**

**Health Service Executive**

- Mr Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer
- Ms Anne Marie Hoey, National Director Human Resources
- Mr David Walsh, National Director Community Operations

**Department of Health**

- Ms Louise McGirr, Assistant Secretary

**Matters for discussion:**

- **Financial Statements 2022 – Health Service Executive**

The Committee suspended at 10:54.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:06.

It was agreed to note and publish the opening statement provided for the meeting.

It was agreed to request the Clerk to seek any follow-up information and carry out any agreed actions arising from the meeting.

The Committee suspended at 12:52.

The Committee resumed in **Private** Session at 13:45.

It was agreed to schedule a private meeting at 3p.m. on Wednesday 11 October.

It was agreed to schedule a visit to the National Sports Campus from 10.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. on Tuesday 17 October 2023.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 14:44.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28 September 2023 were agreed.

## 3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were 53 sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 25 September and 29 September 2023.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	<b>Digital Hub Development Agency</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €4.2 million	27 Jun 2023	25 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion  Attention is drawn to note 7 to the financial statements, which discloses that the Agency incurred expenditure of €227,500 in respect of 2022 as a result of a vacant site levy charge by the local authority. ( <a href="#">click here for further information</a> )
2	<b>Office of the Planning Regulator</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €3.6 million	10 May 2023	26 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
3	<b>Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €13.5 million	16 Jun 2023	27 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
4	<b>Teilifís na Gaeilge</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €47 million	27 Jun 2023	27 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
5	<b>Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €2.4 million	29 May 2023	27 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
6	<b>Residential Tenancies Board</b> ( <a href="#">click here to view accounts</a> )	2022 €25.6 million	9 Jun 2023	27 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion  Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cost overrun and delay in delivery of a new IT based management system for tenancy registrations and disputes (<a href="#">click here for further information</a>)</li> <li>• non-compliance with legislation on late annual registration penalties (<a href="#">click here for further information</a>)</li> <li>• non-compliant procurement of business processing services. (<a href="#">click here for further information</a>)</li> </ul>

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes <a href="#">information</a> )
7-51	<b>Appropriation accounts</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2022 Various	Various	29 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinions in all cases – accounts properly present the transactions and financial position.  For a number of accounts, certain matters are brought to attention, including links to chapters in the Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2022.
52	<b>Health Products Regulatory Authority</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2022 €36.8 million	9 Jun 2023	29 Sep 2023	Qualified audit opinion  Accounts give a true and fair view, except that they account for the costs of retirement benefit entitlements of staff only as they become payable (standard for many health bodies).
53	<b>Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland</b> <a href="#">(click here to view accounts)</a>	2022 €344 million	30 Jun 2023	29 Sep 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.

It was agreed to write to the Residential Tenancies Board to express concern at the level of non-compliant procurement highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General and ask what steps are being taken to address it.

#### 4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		Decision
<b>A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements</b>		
R2160 PAC33	Correspondence received from Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer, HSE, dated 02/10/2023	Note and publish.
R2161 PAC33	Correspondence received from Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive, HSE, dated 03/10/2023	Note and publish.
<b>B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings</b>		
R2151 PAC33	Correspondence to the Committee regarding the laying of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety and the Road	Note and publish.

	Safety Authority's accounts before the Houses of the Oireachtas.	
R2162 PAC33	Correspondence to the Committee providing an update in relation to the Mazars review of RTÉ.	Note and publish.
<b>C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence</b>		<b>Decision</b>
R2147 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 20/09/2023	It was agreed to inform the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R2150 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 22/09/2023	It was agreed to inform the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R2152 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 25/09/2023	It was agreed to inform the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R2153 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 14/09/2023	Note.
R2156 PAC33	Correspondence received from Niamh Smith, Cathaoirleach, Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media, dated 27/09/2023	It was agreed to inform the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R2157 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 29/09/2023	Note.

## 5. Work Programme

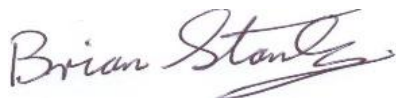
The Committee agreed its draft work programme as proposed:

- 9 November: SEAI and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- 16 November: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
- 23 November: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- 30 November: Department of Finance

## 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee **adjourned** at 15:05 until Wednesday 11 October 2023.




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Brian Stanley, T.D.  
Cathaoirleach  
12 October 2023