

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:33 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, Imelda Munster and Catherine Murphy.

Apologies: Deputy Marc Ó Cathasaigh and Deputy Verona Murphy

Permanent

Witnesses: Mr. Seamus McCarthy, Comptroller and Auditor General
Mr. Tony Peteh, Audit Manager

1. Witnesses Examined:

National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) :

- Mr. Aidan Williams, Chairman
- Mr. Alan Stewart, Chief Legal Officer
- Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Jamie Bourke, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer
- Ms. Noelle Condon, Chief Financial Officer

The Committee suspended at 11:03

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:12

2. Minutes

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

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were four sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 18 and 22 September 2023.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	Health Insurance Authority (click here to view accounts)	2022 €2.9 million	10 Aug 2023	19 Sep 2023	Qualified audit opinion Accounts give a true and fair view, except that they account for the costs of retirement benefit

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
					entitlements of staff only as they become payable (standard for many health bodies).
2	Risk Equalisation Fund (click here to view accounts)	2022 €812 million	10 Aug 2023	19 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
3	Medical Bureau of Road Safety (click here to view accounts)	2022 €6.7 million	6 Jul 2023	20 Sep 2023	Clear audit opinion
4	National Oil Reserves Agency Designated Activity Company (click here to view accounts)	2022 €95 million	7 Jun 2023	21 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.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements		Decision
R2149 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive, NAMA, dated 16/06/2023	Note and Publish.
R2155 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Chief Executive, NAMA, dated 21/06/2023	Note and Publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R2138 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 13/09/2023	Note and Publish when the Committee's report on its engagement with the Tax Appeals Commission is published.
R2142 PAC33	Correspondence received from Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, dated 15/09/2023	Note and Publish.
R2143 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Gunning, Chief Executive, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 19/09/2023	Note and Publish. It was agreed to hold over this item for consideration at the meeting of 19 October 2023.

Correspondence received		
R2146 PAC33	Correspondence received from Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, Children's Health Ireland, dated 19/09/2023	Note and Publish. It was agreed to hold over this item for consideration at the meeting of 19 October 2023.
R2148 PAC33	Correspondence received from Kevin Bakhurst, Director General, RTÉ	Note and Publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R2139 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 13/09/2023	Note.
R2140 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 14/09/2023	Note and inform the correspondent that the Committee does not investigate individual cases.
R2141 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 13/09/2023	Note.
R2145 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 19/09/2023	Note and write to Water Safety Ireland to request information on its expenditure on lifeguards and cooperation with Local Authorities in this regard.

5. Work Programme

The Committee agreed its draft work programme.

It was agreed to write to the Department of Health to request that the 2021 Financial Statements of the NPHDB be laid before the meeting of 19 October.

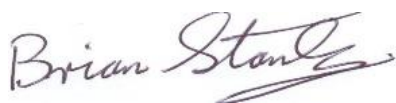
6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13:49.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R2144 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 19/09/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:04 until Thursday 5 October 2023.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
5 October 2023