

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023

The Committee met in **Public** Session at 09:32 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), Colm Burke, Cormac Devlin, Alan Dillon, Alan Kelly, Paul McAuliffe, Imelda Munster, Catherine Murphy and Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

Apologies: Deputy John Brady, Deputy Verona Murphy and Deputy James O'Connor.

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Childrens Health Ireland

- Ms. Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive
- Mr. Stephen Flanagan, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms Julia Lewis, Transformation Director

National Paediatric Hospital Development Board

- Mr. David Gunning, Chief Executive
- Mr. Phelim Devine, Project Director
- Dr. Emma Curtis, Medical Director

Department of Health

- Mr. Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2021**
Childrens Health Ireland
- **Financial Statements 2021**
National Paediatric Hospital Development Board

The Committee suspended at 11:17.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 11:28.

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 12:36

The Committee resumed in **Private** Session at 13:34.

The draft application to the Committee on Parliamentary Privileges and Oversight was agreed as amended.

A draft letter was agreed.

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:47.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 11 and 12 October 2023 were agreed.

2. Financial Statements and Accounts

There was 1 set of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 9 and 13 October 2023.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	National Museum of Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2022 €23.4 million	29 Jun 2023	10 Oct 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.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received		
A – Briefing Documents and Opening Statements	Decision	
R2178 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Gunning, Chief Executive, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 13/10/2023	Note and publish.
R2180 PAC33	Correspondence received from Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, Children's Health Ireland, dated 17/10/2023	Note and publish.
R2182 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Gunning, Chief Executive, National	Note and publish.

	Paediatric Hospital Development Board, dated 18/10/2023	
R2183 PAC33	Correspondence received from Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, Children's Health Ireland, dated 18/10/2023	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R2164 PAC33	Correspondence received from Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 05/10/2023	Note and Publish
R2165 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mary Lawlor, Senior Communications & Public Affairs Manager, National Asset Management Agency, dated 06/10/2023	Note and Publish
R2170 PAC33	Correspondence received from Joanna McBride, Director of Corporate Services, Office of the Planning Regulator, dated 09/10/2023	Note and Publish
R2171 PAC33	Correspondence received from Donal Hamilton, McCann Fitzgerald LLP, dated 09/10/2023	Note and Publish
R2172 PAC33	Correspondence received from Arthur Cox, Arthur Cox, dated 09/10/2023	Note and Publish
R2173 PAC33	Correspondence received from Kevin O'Brien, Government Accounting Unit, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 06/10/2023	Note and Publish
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R2163 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 05/10/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent that the Committee has previously looked at the procurement and development plans for the IFMS and will continue to monitor its deployment.

4. Work Programme

The Committee's Work Programme was agreed.

It was agreed to invite the Housing Agency to the meeting of 23 November.

It was agreed to schedule a meeting with the Department of Health.

It was agreed to add the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to the work programme.

It was agreed to add the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to the work programme.

It was agreed to add the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board to the work programme.

5. Any Other Business

It was agreed to write to DPENDPDR and to the Chief State Solicitor's Office to request an overview of, and estimate of the number of, State organisations that are involved in litigation with another State body at any one time.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:20 until Thursday 26 October 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Stanley". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
26 October 2023