

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09:33 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, Catherine Murphy, Verona Murphy, Marc Ó Cathasaigh, and James O'Connor.

Apologies: Deputy Imelda Munster

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

- Mr. Justice Rory MacCabe, Chairperson
- Ms. Emily Logan, Commissioner
- Mr. Hugh Hume, Commissioner
- Ms. Amanda McLoughlin, Head of Finance
- Mr. Peter Whelan, Director of Operations
- Ms. Valerie Woods, Deputy Director of Administration

Department of Justice

- Ms. Sarah Kennelly, Principal Officer, Criminal Governance

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2022**
 - Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission
- **Specific Areas of Interest:**
 - The timelines for the processing and completion of complaints by GSOC:
Resourcing of GSOC

The Committee suspended at 11:06.

The Committee resumed in **Public Session** at 11:15.

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 12:18

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 13:34.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 1 February 2024 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were 5 sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 29 January 2024 and 2 February 2024.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €76.1 million	4 Dec 2023	30 Jan 2024	Clear audit opinion
2	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €191 million	8 Dec 2023	31 Jan 2024	Clear audit opinion
3	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €202 million	18 Dec 2023	1 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none">payments totalling €20,645 to a business with which a staff member had a direct connection, representing a conflict of interest (click here for further information).non-compliance with procurement rules (click here for further information).
4	Tipperary Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €85.1 million	20 Dec 2023	1 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none">non-compliance with procurement rules (click here for further information).
5	Kerry Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €87.3 million	18 Dec 2023	2 Feb 2024	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
R2362 PAC33	Correspondence received from Valerie Woods, Principal Officer, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, dated 02/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2373 PAC33	Correspondence received from Valerie Woods, Principal Officer, Garda Síochána	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision
R2341 PAC33	Correspondence received from Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Health, dated 26/01/2024	Note and publish.
R2347 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 26/01/2024	Note and publish. It was also agreed to forward to the Moore Street Preservation Trust.
R2350 PAC33	Correspondence received from Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, dated. 30/01/2024	Note and publish. It was also agreed to request that the Department inform the Committee when the external review commences and provide a copy to the Committee on its completion.
R2351 PAC33	Correspondence received from Kevin O'Brien, Government Accounting Unit, Department of Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 30/01/2024	Note and publish.
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R2343 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 26/01/2024	Note
R2344 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 27/01/2024	Note
R2346 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 30/11/2023	It was agreed to advise the correspondent that it is not the role of the Committee to examine the RDS.
R2348 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 24/01/2024	Note
R2356 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual dated 19/01/2024	It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response
R2357 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 30/01/2024	Note

5. Work Programme

It was agreed to add the University of Limerick to the work programme.

It was agreed to add the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to the work programme.

It was agreed to add the Central Bank of Ireland to the work programme.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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

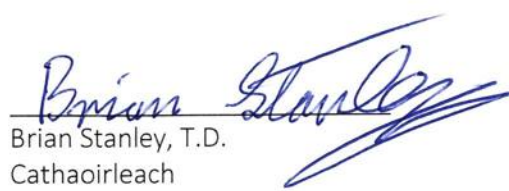
Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R2345 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 27/01/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision
R2349 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual dated 25/01/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision

7. Private Business

It was agreed to request a briefing from the OPLA.

Arrangements regarding the draft report on RTE were agreed.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:48 until Thursday 15 February 2024.


Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
15 February 2024