

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2024

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09:36 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, Marc Ó Cathasaigh and James O'Connor.

Apologies: Deputy Alan Kelly and Deputy Imelda Munster.

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

- Mr. Feargal O Coigligh, Secretary General
- Mr. Cian Ó Lionáin, Assistant Secretary – Sports Division
- Mr. Micheál O Conaire, Principal Officer – Sports Policy Unit

Sport Ireland

- Dr. Úna May, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Shane Califf, Director of National Governing Bodies
- Mr. Colm Mc Ginty, Director of Governance and Strategy

Football Association of Ireland

- Mr. Jonathan Hill, FAI Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. David Courell, FAI Chief Operating Officer
- Mr. Dan McCormack, FAI Finance Director
- Mr. Paul Cooke, FAI President
- Mr. Tony Keohane, FAI Board Chair
- Ms. Catherine Guy, FAI Board Member
- Ms. Liz Joyce, FAI Board Member

Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

- Mr. Dermot Nolan, Principal Officer of the DTCAGSM Vote

Matters for discussion:

- **Appropriation Accounts 2022**
 - Vote 33 – Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Programme D – Sports and recreation services

- **Financial Statements 2022**
 - Sport Ireland
- **Specific Areas of Interest:**
 - Matters related to the oversight and governance by Sport Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media of funding to the FAI.

The Committee suspended at 11:04.

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 12:56

The Committee resumed in **Public** Session at 13:50.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2024 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were 8 sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 12 February 2024 and 16 February 2024

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	Royal Irish Academy (click here to view accounts)	2022 €8.2 million	7 Dec 2023	12 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
2	City of Dublin Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €501 million	15 Dec 2023	12 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to a material level of non-compliance with procurement rules (click here for further information).
3	The Parole Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €1.5 million	18 Dec 2023	14 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
4	Kildare Wicklow Education and	2022 €166 million	21 Dec 2023	15 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
	Training Board (click here to view accounts)				Attention is drawn to material level of non-compliance with procurement rules (click here for further information).
5	Land Development Agency DAC (click here to view accounts) <i>New entity</i>	20 Dec 2021 – 31 Dec 2022 €12.5 million	26 Sep 2023	15 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
6	Fishery Harbour Centres (click here to view accounts)	2022 €15.4 million	19 Dec 2023	15 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
7	Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2021 €239 million	21 Dec 2023	16 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to material level of non-compliance with procurement rules (click here for further information).
8	Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €98.2 million	21 Dec 2023	16 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
R2397 PAC33	Correspondence from Feargal Ó Coigligh, Secretary General, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, dated 16/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2398 PAC33	Correspondence from Úna May, CEO, Sport Ireland, dated 16/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2399 PAC33	Correspondence from Jonathan Hill, CEO, Football Association of Ireland, dated 16/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2413 PAC33	Correspondence from Úna May, CEO, Sport Ireland, dated 21/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2417 PAC33	Correspondence from Jonathan Hill, CEO, Football Association of Ireland, dated xx /02/2024	Note and publish.
B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings		Decision

Correspondence received		
R2374 PAC33	Correspondence received from David Moloney, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, dated 07/02/2024	It was agreed to note and publish. It was also agreed to write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a briefing on why the provision of staff in housing teams in Laois County Council was delayed and whether the Department plans to make further requests for sanction for post in Local Authorities to support the delivery of affordable housing.
R2378 PAC33	Correspondence received from Francis O'Donnell, Chief Executive Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland, dated 09/02/2024	Note and publish. It was also agreed to provide to the IFI a summary of the issues raised in the correspondence
R2380 PAC33	Correspondence received from Maurice Buckley, Chairman, Office of Public Works, dated 12/02/2024	Note and publish.
R2384 PAC33	Correspondence received from Graham Doyle, Secretary General, Department of Housing, dated 09/02/2024	It was agreed to note and publish. It was agreed to request the following information from the DHLGH: What oversight does the Department have over the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive? Is this organisation completely under the remit of the local authorities or does the Department have direct oversight? How many projects have made use of the Part 8 process which is exempt from planning permission? Has that process addressed any of the concerns about the length of the process to get funding? Or do the blockages exist elsewhere?
R2386 PAC33	Correspondence received from Derek Finnegan, Corporate Support Unit, Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, dated 13/02/2024	It was agreed to Note and Publish. It was also agreed to write to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to request the following information in relation to the National Cyber Security Centre: (a) The business case for the use of Grant Thornton for the provision of procurement consultancy. (b) Whether this decision was made before or after the cyber-attack on the HSE.
R2387 PAC33	Correspondence received from Helena Hughes, Programme Manager Office of the CEO, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, dated 13/02/2024	Note and publish

Correspondence received		
C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence		Decision
R2366 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 05/02/2024	It was agreed to defer to the meeting of 29 February 2024
R2376 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 09/02/2024	It was agreed to defer to the meeting of 29 February 2024
R2388 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 13/02/2024	Note.
R2391 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 15/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.
R2392 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 15/02/2024	Note.
R2393 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 15/02/2024	Note.
R2411 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 19/02/2024	Note.

5. Work Programme

It was agreed that a proposed schedule of meetings for the rest of April and May would be considered at the meeting of 29 February.

It was agreed to add the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board and Horse Racing Ireland to the work programme.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 14:20.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R2375 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 08/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision
R2379 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 10/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision
R2383 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 08/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision
R2385 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 11/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision
R2389 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual dated 07/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision

*Deputy Catherine Murphy took the Cathaoirleach at 14.45.
Deputy Brian Stanley resumed the Cathaoirleach at 14.54.*

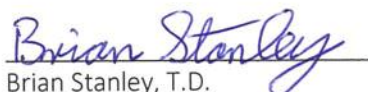
7. Private Business

Presentation of draft report on RTÉ.

It was agreed to schedule a private meeting on Tuesday, 27 February at 1.30pm to consider the draft report.

It was agreed to make arrangements for a report launch on 5 March 2024.

The Committee **adjourned** at 15:50 until Thursday 29 February 2024.



Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
29 February 2024