

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 29 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 Kelly, Paul McAuliffe, Catherine Murphy, Verona Murphy, and Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

Apologies: Deputy Alan Dillion

Permanent

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

Tusla

- Ms. Kate Duggan, Chief Executive Officer
- Ms. Clare Murphy, National Director of Services, and Integration (Interim)
- Mr. Pat Smyth, National Director of Finance and Corporate Services
- Ms. Rosarii Mannion, National Director of People and Change

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

- Mr. Colm Ó Conaill, Assistant Secretary, Disability Division
- Mr. Des Delaney, Chief Social Worker & Head of Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit
- Ms. Marie Kennedy, Principal Officer, Alternative Care Policy
- Mr. Simon Conry, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2022**
 - Tusla Child and Family Agency
- **Specific Areas of Interest:**
 - The Sláintecare Healthy Communities parenting programmes

The Committee suspended at 10:58.

The Committee resumed in **Public Session** at 11:13.

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 12:31

The Committee resumed in **Public Session** at 13:32.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
<i>Cessation accounts</i>					
Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
7	Inland Fisheries Ireland (click here to view accounts)	2022 €40.4 million	29 Nov 2023	22 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion Attention is drawn to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> resignations of Board members in 2022 and a consequential loss of quorum for Board meetings, and replacement of the Board by Ministerial nominees in 2023 (click here for further information) progress updates provided on reviews of a number of significant internal control matters (click here for further information) findings of an internal audit review on the utilisation of Aasleagh Lodge and cottages which highlighted a number of control weaknesses (click here for further information) the withdrawal of certain fishery protection prosecution cases following legal advice (click here for further information).
8	Food Safety Promotions Board (click here to view accounts) <i>North south body</i>	2022 €9.4 million	20 Dec 2023	22 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
9	Property Services Regulatory Authority (click here to view accounts)	2022 €5.5 million	18 Dec 2023	23 Feb 2024	Clear audit opinion
10	Galway And Roscommon Education And Training Board (click here to view accounts)	2022 €129 million	9 Nov 2023	23 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.

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	<p>It was agreed to write to the Department for the following information in relation to Ryevale House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What checks and balances are in place regarding health and safety, health inspections and compliance with building control regulations? - Have inspections taken place? - Is there a fire certificate for the premises, and has there been one in place since the start of the Department's contract? - How is the use of the house in compliance with planning law if the Local Authority has commenced enforcement proceedings? <p>It was agreed to advise the correspondent that the committee has agreed to write to the Department for further information and will be meeting with the Department on 18 April.</p>
R2376 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual dated 09/02/2024	<p>It was agreed to write to the Department for the following information in relation to Ryevale House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What checks and balances are in place regarding health and safety, health inspections and compliance with building control regulations? - Have inspections taken place? - Is there a fire certificate for the premises, and has there been one in place since the start of the Department's contract? - How is the use of the house in compliance with planning law if the Local Authority has commenced enforcement proceedings? <p>It was agreed to advise the correspondent that the committee has agreed to write to the Department for further information and will be meeting with the Department on 18 April.</p>

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 14:03.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session		Decision
R2395 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 16/02/2024	It was agreed to defer consideration to 7 March meeting
R2400 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 16/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the committee's decision.
R2406 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 15/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the committee's decision.
R2409 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 17/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the committee's decision.
R2410 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 18/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the committee's decision.
R2412 PAC33	Correspondence received from an individual, dated 20/02/2024	It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the committee's decision.

7. Private Business

The Committee discussed its report in relation to RTÉ and arrangements for the report launch.

The Committee **adjourned** at 14:53 until Thursday 7 March 2024.


Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
7 March 2024