

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024

The Committee met in **Public Session** at 09:37 a.m., a quorum being present.

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Brian Stanley (Cathaoirleach), John Brady, Cormac Devlin, Alan Kelly, Paul McAuliffe, Catherine Murphy, Verona Murphy, Marc Ó Cathasaigh.

Apologies: Deputy Imelda Munster

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

1. Witnesses Examined:

National Transport Authority

- Ms Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Jeremy Ryan, Director of Public Transport Services
- Mr. Philip L'Estrange, Director of Finance & Corporate Services

Department of Transport

- Mr. Garret Doocey, Assistant Secretary
- Mr. John Boylan, Principal Officer

Matters for discussion:

- **Financial Statements 2022 – National Transport Authority**

The Committee suspended at 11:05.

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

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 12:35

The Committee resumed in **Public Session** at 13:31.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25 April 2024 were agreed.

3. Financial Statements and Accounts

There were two sets of financial statements and accounts laid before the Dáil between 22 April and 26 April 2024.

Ref	Body/fund	Accounting period/turnover	Date certified	Date presented	Audit opinion/notes
1	Environment Fund (click here to view accounts) <i>Cessation account</i>	1 Jan 2022 – 30 Jun 2023 €15.9 million	26 Mar 2024	23 Apr 2024	Clear audit opinion
2	Account of the Receipt of Revenue of the State collected by the Revenue Commissioners (click here to view accounts)	2023 €128 billion	16 Apr 2024	24 Apr 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

R2565 PAC33 Correspondence received from Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority, dated 26/04/2024

Decision

Note and publish.

R2578 PAC33

Note and publish.

Correspondence received from Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority, dated 01/05/2024

Correspondence received

B – Correspondence from Accounting Officers and/or Ministers and follow up to PAC meetings

Decision

R2536 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Maggie Cusack, President, Munster Technological University, dated 16/04/2024	Note and publish with any personal information in item (ii) redacted.
R2540 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Laura Burke, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, dated 18/04/2024	Note and publish.
R2543 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General, Department of Justice, dated 19/04/2024	Note and publish. It was agreed to write to the Department of Justice to request an explanation as to why the 2022 Financial Statements were submitted late to the Department, noting the provisions of Circular 24/2021.
R2544 PAC33	Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General, Department of Justice, dated 19/04/2024	Note and publish. It was agreed to write to both the Department of Justice and to Tusla to request the number of referrals being made to Tusla by the International Protection Office for assessment of services under the Child Care Act. In this regard, it was agreed to ask the Department of Justice for the number of people referred to Tulsa who were presumed to be under 18 years of age and the number who do not transpire to be under the age of 18 in the years 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024. It was agreed to seek the same information from Tulsa, in addition to which it was agreed to request the number of such children they are aware of who have gone missing from Tulsa's care during this period. It was also agreed to request that the Department of Justice raise the issue of unaccompanied minors boarding planes to Ireland from other jurisdictions with its counterparts in those countries.
R2545 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Jonathan Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Football Association of Ireland, dated 08/04/2024	Note and publish. It was agreed to write to the Football Association of Ireland for more granular information on what the grant funding was used for under the headings listed. It was agreed to add to the Work Programme the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to sports capital grants.
R2548 PAC33	Correspondence received from Mr. Colm O'Reardon, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, dated 22/04/2024	Note and publish.

Correspondence received

R2559 PAC33 Correspondence received from Ms Oonagh Buckley, Secretary General, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, dated 24/04/2024

It was agreed to note but not to publish this item.

It was agreed to write to the IFI to seek further information.

R2577 PAC33 Correspondence received from Mr. Sam Waide, Chief Executive Officer, Road Safety Authority, dated 30/04/2024

Note and publish.

It was agreed to write to the Road Safety Authority in order to remind them of the fact that as they are audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General that the Body is accountable to the Committee of Public Accounts.

It was agreed to request that the Road Safety Authority appear before the Committee on 27 June 2024.

Decision

C - Correspondence from and related to private individuals and any other correspondence

R2541 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 18/04/2024

Note.

It was agreed to inform the correspondent that it is the practice of the Committee to publish correspondence it receives from bodies accountable to it, including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, on its webpage.

Note.

R2554 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/04/2024

R2556 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/04/2024

It was agreed to advise the correspondent that the Joint Committee on Health considers policy matters relating to the Health Service Executive.

Note.

R2557 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 23/04/2024

R2558 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 24/04/2024

It was agreed to advise the correspondent that a summary of matters raised in his correspondence dated 18 July 2023 was read into the parliamentary record at the meeting of 21 September 2023 and related questions were put to Inland Fisheries Ireland at the meeting of 25 April 2024.

It was agreed to seek the consent of the correspondent to forward item (viii) to Inland Fisheries Ireland for confirmation of the figures relating to expenditure on further education from 2018-2024.

R2560 PAC33 Correspondence received from an individual, dated 24/04/2024

5. Work Programme

The Committee agreed its draft work programme.

It was agreed to add the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (sports capital grants) to the work programme.

It was agreed to issue an invitation to the Road Safety Authority to appear before the Committee on 27 June 2024.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Committee went into **private** session at 13:56.

Sensitive - for consideration in Private session

R2546 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 22/04/2024
R2547 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 22/04/2024
R2549 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 22/04/2024
R2550 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 22/04/2024
R2551 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 22/04/2024
R2555 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 23/04/2024
R2566 PAC33	Correspondence received an individual, dated 18/04/2024

Decision

It was agreed to advise the correspondent of the Committee's decision.

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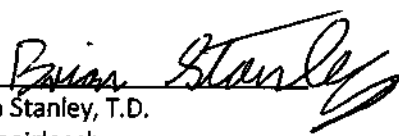
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The Committee **adjourned** at 14:07 until Thursday 9 May 2024.


Brian Stanley, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
9 May 2024