



MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 22 February 2022, 3:00 pm

Ninth Meeting for 33rd Dáil and 26th Seanad

This meeting was held online in MS Teams due to COVID-19 precautions

Members present:

- Pat McLoughlin (Chair), external member
- Senator Victor Boyhan
- Deputy Francis Noel Duffy
- Deputy Mairéad Farrell
- Deputy Eimear Higgins
- Cyril Maybury, external member
- Charles Hearne, member of Service staff

Apologies received:

- Noreen Fahy, external member

The meeting convened at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed the members to the eighth meeting of the Audit Committee of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission for the 33rd Dáil and 26th Seanad.

1. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of interests in relation to any of the agenda items.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Committee agreed the Minutes from its meeting of 15 December 2021 and no matters arose.

3. Risk Management

(i) Presentation on the 'Migration to the Cloud' Project

Presenter *Head of Innovation, Security, and Infrastructure, ICT*

The Head of Innovation, Security, and Infrastructure, ICT, updated the Committee on a proposal to proceed to plan for the transfer of ICT services and storage of data to a cloud-based platform and the steps taken to support such a move and mitigate against risk. The Committee noted that the migration of services and data to the cloud would enhance the ability of the Oireachtas to prevent and respond to cyber-attacks and data breaches. The

Committee also noted that the update is part of a series of briefings it has received, since 2020, on cybersecurity and requested further such briefings, including on the *Public Sector Cyber Security Baseline Standards*. Following discussion, the Committee noted the *Presentation on the 'Migration to the Cloud' Project*.

(ii) Risk Management Report Q4 2021

Presenter *Chief Risk Officer supported by Risk Officer*

The Chief Risk Officer gave an overview of the activities carried out during 2021 to promote a risk aware culture, support users on the new eRisk system, and to manage the impact and risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee discussed key risk issues identified in the report and noted the level of activity recorded on the eRisk system across business areas. Following discussion, the Committee noted the *Risk Management Report Q4 2021*.

4. Internal Audit

Document *External Quality Assessment - Implementation of Recommendations Report*

Presenter *Head of Internal Audit supported by Internal Auditor*

The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that all eleven (11) Internal Audit EQA recommendations have now been actioned and the Committee noted the achievement in this area. Following discussion, the Committee noted the *External Quality Assessment - Implementation of Recommendations Report*.

5. Draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2021

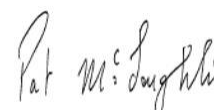
Presenter *Head of Internal Audit*

Following discussion, the Committee agreed and adopted the *Audit Committee Annual Report 2021*, subject to minor amendment. The Committee noted that the report is to be submitted to the Secretary General and to the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission in accordance with the Section 7(e) of the *Audit Committee Charter* and Section 14A(10)(c) of the *Houses of the Commission Acts 2003 to 2021*, respectively. The Committee also noted and that the report will be published as part of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission's Annual Report 2021 to be laid before the Houses in due course.

6. AOB

None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 3:00 pm



Pat McLoughlin
Chair of the Audit Committee
11 May 2022