



MINUTES

Audit Committee Meeting

Twelfth Meeting for 33rd Dáil and 26th Seanad

Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 3:00 pm, MS Teams

Members present:

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

Secretariat:

- Máirín Devlin, OCSG
- Gerry Finn, OCSG
- Kay Brennan, OCSG

The meeting convened at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed the members to the twelfth meeting of the Audit Committee (the Committee) of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission (the 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. The Agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Committee agreed the Minutes from its meeting of 22 June 2022 and no matters arose.

3. External Audit

The Chair welcomed Elena Moldovanu, Audit Manager with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OC&AG), and Saragh Fitzpatrick, Chief Financial Officer, Houses of the Oireachtas Service (the Service), supported by Conor Morrison, Finance Unit, to the meeting. The Audit Manager presented the OC&AG's reports on its:

- (i) *Annual Audit of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Appropriation Account for year ending 31 December 2021; and*
- (ii) *Annual Audit of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Ciste Pinsean Thithe an Oireachtais (Comhaltai) Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2021.*

The Audit Manager confirmed that, following the audit, the OC&AG has provided a clear audit certificate to the Commission in respect of its accounts for 2021 and commended the Service for its cooperation throughout the audit process.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the reports from the OC&AG. The Chair thanked the Audit Manager for addressing the Committee.

4. Risk Management

(i) Risk Management Report, Q3 2022

Presenter *Máirín Devlin, Chief Risk Officer (CRO)*

The Chief Risk Officer provided an overview of the activities carried out during Q3 of 2022 to promote a risk aware culture and support users on the eRisk system. The Committee discussed the key risk issues identified in the report and noted the upward trend in the level of engagement with the eRisk system across business areas.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the *Risk Management Report, Q3 2022*.

(ii) Presentation on Cyber Security Strategy

Presenter *Ciarán Doyle and Graeme Smith, ICT Unit*

The ICT Unit delivered a presentation on the Houses of the Oireachtas Cyber Security Strategy Roadmap. The Committee noted the mitigants in place to manage this high-risk area and the programme of initiatives for ongoing development of ICT cyber security controls.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the *Presentation on the Cyber Security Strategy*.

(iii) Security Update

Presenter *Noel Murphy, Superintendent of the Houses of the Oireachtas*

The Superintendent of the Houses provided an update on the internal and external security arrangements in place for the Leinster House complex and the wider Oireachtas campus.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the *Security Update from the Superintendent*.

5. AOB

(i) Correspondence

The Committee considered the correspondence received and agreed that the matter raised was not within its terms of reference.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 3:00 pm.



Pat McLoughlin
Chair of the Audit Committee
14 December 2022