

## ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Account of the sum expended, in the year ending 31 December 2008, compared with the sum granted and of the sum which may be applied as appropriations-in-aid in addition thereto:

- for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, including certain services administered by that Office, for payment of certain subsidies, grants and grants-in-aid and for the payment of certain grants under cash-limited schemes of the Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, including certain services administered by that Office, and for payment of certain subsidies and sundry grants-in-aid

- for deferred surrender of unspent appropriations for capital supply services under Section 91 of the Finance Act 2004.

Service	Estimate Provision	Outturn	Closing Accruals
ADMINISTRATION	€000	€000	€000
A.1. SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	36,364	35,567	—
A.2. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	1,689	1,572	131
A.3. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	1,581	1,575	17
A.4. POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	927	1,244	43
A.5. OFFICE MACHINERY AND OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES AND RELATED SERVICES	5,267	5,253	2
A.6. OFFICE PREMISES EXPENSES	1,580	1,686	79
A.7. CONSULTANCY SERVICES	439	545	—
A.8. ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY	515	249	3
A.9. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT	4,957	4,343	33
A.10. LABOUR COURT	3,193	2,980	17
A.11. NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AUTHORITY	10,817	9,595	67
A.12. VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS	224	169	—
<b>ENTERPRISE AGENCIES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>			
B.1. FORFÁS - GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	37,835	36,033	—
B.2. INTERTRADE IRELAND			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	10,682		—
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	1,200	11,882	7,735
C.1. IDA IRELAND - GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	45,230	44,099	—
C.2. IDA IRELAND - GRANTS TO INDUSTRY	95,120	75,120	—
C.3. IDA IRELAND - GRANT FOR BUILDING OPERATIONS	3,400	3,400	—
D.1. ENTERPRISE IRELAND - GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	101,661	100,218	—
D.2. ENTERPRISE IRELAND - GRANT TO INDUSTRY	56,770	56,370	—
D.3. ENTERPRISE IRELAND - GRANT FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	3,400		—
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	2,000	5,400	5,400
E.1. SHANNON FREE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED - GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	102	—	—
E.2. SHANNON FREE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT			

## Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Vote 34

Service	€000	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
<b>ENTERPRISE AGENCIES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (cont'd)</b>				
F.		3,000	1,289	—
	326,558			
	4,226	330,784	309,184	—
G.				
	31,985			
	3,000	34,985	34,179	—
H.				
		130	23	—
I.				
	8,787			
	450	9,237	9,237	—
<b>LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT</b>				
K.1.		152,254	149,754	—
K.2.		99,985	98,485	—
K.3.		439,550	434,550	—
K.4.				
	16,000			
	12,552	28,552	28,552	—
L.				
		52	52	—
M.1.				
		500	496	—
M.2.				
		102	40	—
M.3.				
		846	503	3
M.4.		140	140	—
M.5.				
		2,500	2,469	—
<b>EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS</b>				
N.				
		6,600	5,921	—
O.1.				
		1,510	1,510	—
O.2.				
		2,750	418	—
P.				
		150	10	—
<b>COMMERCE, CONSUMERS AND COMPETITION</b>				
Q.				
		6,776	5,957	—
R.1.				
		10,000	7,587	(54)
R.2.		68	68	—
S.1.				

## Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Vote 34

Service	Estimate Provision	Outturn	Closing Accruals
COMMERCE, CONSUMERS AND COMPETITION (cont'd)	€000	€000	€000
S.2. ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	10,091	9,801	154
IRISH AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY (GRANT-IN-AID)	1,547	1,220	—
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
T. HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY - GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL EXPENSES	24,440	23,940	—
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>			
U. RESEARCH INCLUDING MANPOWER SURVEYS	369	145	—
V. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK COMMITTEE FOR WORK/LIFE BALANCE POLICIES	350	153	5
W. SUBSCRIPTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, ETC.	16,239	16,189	—
X.1. COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL INQUIRIES	904	523	119
X.2. MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS	1,667	812	3
X.3. SUPERANNUATION AND PENSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR COURT, THE RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES COMMISSION AND THE COMPETITION AUTHORITY	693	527	—
X.4. EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE - REFUND TO THE EXCHEQUER	60	59	—
<b>Gross Total</b>			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	<b>1,588,356</b>		
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<b>23,428</b>	<b>1,611,784</b>	<b>1,536,946</b>
Deduct:			
Y. <b>Appropriations in Aid</b>		<b>95,439</b>	<b>79,638</b>
			<b>(3,940)</b>
<b>Net Total</b>			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	<b>1,492,917</b>		
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<b>23,428</b>	<b>1,516,345</b>	<b>1,457,308</b>
		<b>1,516,345</b>	<b>1,457,308</b>
			<b>4,562</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>€59,036,998</b>	
<b>Deferred surrender under Section 91 of the Finance Act 2004</b>		<b>€18,326,000</b>	
<b>Surplus to be surrendered</b>		<b>€40,710,998</b>	

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and Notes 1 to 18 form part of this Account.

## NOTES

## 1 OPERATING COST STATEMENT FOR 2008

	€000	€000	€000
<b>Net Outturn</b>			1,457,308
<b>Changes in Capital Assets</b>			
Purchases Cash	(994)		
Depreciation	2,914		
Loss on Disposals	36	1,956	
<b>Assets under Development</b>			
Cash Payments		(1,054)	
<b>Changes in Net Current Assets</b>			
Decrease in Closing Accruals	(3,262)		
Increase in Stock	(85)	(3,347)	(2,445)
<b>Direct Expenditure</b>			1,454,863
<b>Expenditure Borne Elsewhere</b>			
Net Allied Services Expenditure	23,165		
Notional Rents	3,146		26,311
<b>Operating Cost</b>			<u>1,481,174</u>

**2 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	€000	€000	€000
<b>Capital Assets (Note 3)</b>			9,180
<b>Assets under Development (Note 4)</b>			1,267
			<u>10,447</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks (Note 16)		334	
Prepayments		175	
Accrued Income		943	
Other Debit Balances:			
Imprests Advanced	21		
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	35		
Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	7		
Miscellaneous Debit Balances	573		
Recoupable Expenditure	<u>1,358</u>	1,994	
PMG Balance and Cash	28,921		
Orders Outstanding	<u>(1,620)</u>	27,301	
			<u>30,747</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<u>30,747</u>
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Accrued Expenses		797	
Deferred Income		4,883	
Other Credit Balances:			
Due to State (Note 17)	905		
European Union Funds	7,408		
Miscellaneous Credit Balances	<u>2,415</u>	10,728	
Net Liability to the Exchequer (Note 5)			<u>18,567</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<u>34,975</u>
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>			<u>(4,228)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u><u>6,219</u></u>

**3 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Motor Vehicles €000	Office & IT Equipment €000	Furniture and Fittings €000	Totals €000
Cost or Valuation at 1 January 2008	13	28,088	7,827	35,928
Additions	14	2,256	167	2,437
Disposals	(13)	(210)	(41)	(264)
Gross Assets at 31 December 2008	<u>14</u>	<u>30,134</u>	<u>7,953</u>	<u>38,101</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation:</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 January 2008	8	20,005	6,222	26,235
Depreciation for the year	3	2,458	453	2,914
Depreciation on Disposals	(8)	(210)	(10)	(228)
Cumulative Depreciation at 31 December 2008	<u>3</u>	<u>22,253</u>	<u>6,665</u>	<u>28,921</u>
<b>Net Assets at 31 December 2008</b>	<u><u>11</u></u>	<u><u>7,881</u></u>	<u><u>1,288</u></u>	<u><u>9,180</u></u>

#### 4 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	In House Computer Applications €000
Amounts brought forward at 1 January 2008	1,661
Adjustment - misclassification	(2)
Cash Payments for the Year	1,054
Amount written off during 2008	(3)
Transferred to Asset Register	(1,443)
<b>Amounts carried forward at 31 December 2008</b>	<u>1,267</u>

#### 5 NET LIABILITY TO THE EXCHEQUER

##### Reconciliation of Surplus to be Surrendered at year end to Debtor and Creditor Balances held at 31 December 2008

	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	40,711	
Deferred Surrender 2008	<u>18,326</u>	59,037
Exchequer Grant Undrawn		<u>(40,470)</u>
Net Liability to the Exchequer		<u><u>18,567</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Debtors</b>		
Net PMG position and cash	27,301	
Debit Balances: Suspense	<u>1,994</u>	29,295
<b>Creditors</b>		
Due to State	(905)	
Credit Balances: Suspense	<u>(9,823)</u>	(10,728)
		<u><u>18,567</u></u>

#### 6 EXTRA RECEIPTS PAYABLE TO THE EXCHEQUER

	Estimated €	Realised €
Export Credit - Recoveries from Iraq	1,000,000	18,537
IDA Ireland Interconnectivity Project Receipts	—	179,955
IDA Ireland - Surplus Own Resource Income	363,000	363,000
IDA Unspent Balance of 2007 Oireachtas Grant Drawdown	4,975,000	4,975,000
IDA Ireland - Grant Refunds	14,572,000	3,048,000
Enterprise Ireland - Surplus Own Resource Income	—	176,619
Enterprise Ireland - Surplus Own Resource Income - Capital	967,000	699,777
Enterprise Ireland - Research Grant Refunds	538,000	6,649
Indigenous Industry - Capital	24,000	—
Forfas - Surplus Own Resource Income	—	149,143
Forfas - Grant Refund	—	133,217
Forfas - Shannon Development Pensions Refund	—	2,550,000
FÁS - Sale of Assets	22,000	22,245
Science Foundation Ireland - Subhead F	—	900,599
Bank Interest	—	409,000
Miscellaneous	—	20,844
<b>Total</b>	<u>22,461,000</u>	<u>13,652,585</u>

## 7 EXPLANATION OF THE CAUSES OF VARIATION BETWEEN OUTTURN AND ESTIMATE PROVISION

Sub-head	Less/(More) than provided	Explanation
	€000	
A.4.	(317)	The overspend on postal and telecommunications services is due to an increase in the volume of registered post and expenditure on land line and mobile phones. Also, a quarterly charge associated with high speed interlinks was not budgeted for when the estimate for the subhead was agreed.
A.7.	(106)	The variance is due to the requirement to carry out an important consultancy that was not foreseen when the estimate was agreed.
A.8.	266	The anticipated impact of the Official Languages Act, 2003 did not materialise. In addition, economies were achieved in relation to advertising expenditure.
B.2.	4,147	The saving in relation to the North/South Body, Intertrade Ireland, arose from operational factors and favourable movements in the Euro/Sterling exchange rate in 2008.
C.2.	20,000	It is difficult to predict exact expenditure under the subhead as expenditure is driven by demand/economic activity. The saving was due to a reduction in grant claims received in 2008 and to the fact that payment conditions had not been fully complied with in respect of some of the claims.
E.1.	102	An allocation of €102,000 was made available to Shannon Development in 2008. As in recent years the company did not draw down monies as all administration expenditure was funded from income generated by the company.
E.2.	1,711	The savings are due to claims not being received as expected or grant conditions not being met, together with a grant repayment during the year. These grants are expected to be claimed and paid in 2009.
F.	21,600	There was a significant saving in capital grants as demand was less than anticipated. There were also savings by Enterprise Ireland due to the lengthy procurement process associated with one particular scheme.
G.	806	The bulk of the saving (€500,000) was assigned for the National Entrepreneurship Week which did not proceed in 2008. The non take-up of some grants at individual project promoter level also contributed to the variance.
H.	107	Costs associated with the closure of the Productive Sector Operational Program 2000-2006 did not arise as expected in 2008.
M.3.	343	An ongoing vacancy existed in the ESF Financial Control Unit for the first half of 2008. A number of activities were also deferred until 2009.
N.	679	Savings arose due to the Government Expenditure cut of 2.5%, additional savings in Pay of €125,000 attributable to staff vacancies and further savings of €389,000 in Non-Pay principally due to delays in IT Projects and expenditure on T16 Assessors' reports being less than expected.
O.2.	2,332	The establishment of the Workplace Innovation Fund was agreed as part of the social partnership agreement Towards 2016. The nature of the projects covered by the Fund is such that they involve long development and lead-in times and many of the projects were only rolled out half-way through 2007.
P.	140	Expenditure under this subhead is difficult to predict in advance of applications being received and approved.
Q.	819	An amount of €625,000 was achieved in payroll savings due to staffing vacancies. A further €100,000 arose from non-pay efficiency savings for 2008.

Sub-head	Less/(More) than provided	Explanation
	€000	
R.1.	2,413	Savings relate to delays in the intended decentralisation of the National Consumer Agency to Cork; staff vacancies and savings on advertising campaigns.
S.2.	327	Savings are due to staffing vacancies in IAASA.
U.	224	Savings are attributable to a decision not to proceed with one project and efficiencies achieved on two other projects. A further project originally expected to conclude by end 2008 has continued in 2009.
V.	197	Savings were achieved in relation to media advertising of Work Life Balance Day.
X.1.	381	Savings relate to underspends on activities of various Committees, including Joint Labour Committees, consultancy and other costs for the Company Law Review Group, and the High Level Group on Business Regulation. Savings relate to travel costs, publications, meeting costs, etc.
X.2.	855	The underspend primarily relates to savings in legal costs which were provided for in the 2008 Estimate, and which subsequently did not arise. Some savings were also realised in relation to advertising costs on the National Minimum Wage, and on trade projects.
X.3.	166	This subhead includes a provision for payment of death gratuities and possible spouses and children's pension in the event of the death in service of a current member of the Labour Court. It also includes a provision for cases of unplanned retirement before maximum retirement age, e.g. retirement on grounds of ill health. As none of these circumstances arose in 2008, €166,419, was not required.

## 8 APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID

	Estimated €	Realised €
1. Receipts from the Social Insurance Fund under Section 56 of the Redundancy Payments Act, 1967 (Employment Appeals Tribunal).	2,000,000	1,894,253
2. Employment Permit Fees	12,500,000	5,960,756
3. Employment Agency Licences	250,000	288,934
4. Companies Registration Office & Registry of Friendly Societies	20,511,000	29,097,400
5. Receipts under the Trade Marks Act, 1963 and Patents Act, 1964	11,000,000	10,191,402
6. Occasional Trading Licences (Competition Authority)	10,000	8,602
7. NCA Consumer Credit	597,000	641,497
8. Merger Notifications	600,000	328,000
9. FÁS Pay	3,400,000	3,784,792
10. European Social Fund	43,496,000	24,331,367
11. ODCE Legal	50,000	138,961
12. County Enterprise Development	—	569,908
13. Enterprise Policy (InterTrade Ireland)	27,000	44,086
14. IAASA Pay Refund	398,000	235,753
15. PIAB Superannuation	500,000	924,517
16. Miscellaneous	100,000	1,197,272
Total	<u>95,439,000</u>	<u>79,637,500</u>

### Explanation of Variations

- The impact of overtime and annual increments on the administrative costs of Redundancy, Insolvency and Finance Units was overestimated.
- The reasons for the reduction in fee receipts can be attributed to a drop in the number of new and renewal fee bearing permits issued, allied to an unanticipated increase in non-fee bearing permits in respect of spouses, unlimited permits and charities.
- A-in-A in the CRO continues to be dominated by late filing penalties, with €17.6m being received in 2008 in late filing penalties. The approach taken by the Department and the CRO in relation to receipts from late filing penalties has been to make a very conservative estimate on the basis that if all companies were to file on time, there would be very little or no late filing penalties received.
- The variation between the estimate and outturn is attributable to a reduction in patent renewal fee income. Fee income from Industrial Designs and International Trade Marks was also less than estimated. The drop in receipts occurred in the latter half of 2008 in tandem with the deepening global financial crisis and economic recession.



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8. Merger income of €328,000 represents 41 merger notifications. The decrease in the level of notification can be largely attributed to the general downturn in economic activity and to the continuing effects of the revision of a number of terms in the Competition Act 2002, which saw certain types of mergers that heretofore were required to be notified no longer having to be notified.
9. This item relates to pay-as-you-go pension contributions in respect of staff in FÁS who are not part of a closed (i.e. former ANCO) pension scheme. The excess of actual over projected income was affected by the timing of individual retirements and staff changes in the organisation.
10. A European Commission decision was taken in 2008 to reduce the amount of ESF monies payable to Ireland, under the Employment Community Initiative for the 1994-1999 programming period. This resulted in €8.7 million being deducted from payments due to Ireland in 2008. In addition, the estimate included anticipated expenditure under 2007-2013 Human Capital Investment Operational Programme activities, which was not drawn down in 2008.
12. Receipts relate to the refund of unused monies in respect of programmes operated by the City and County Enterprise Boards. The refunds were not foreseen when the estimate was prepared.
14. In 2008, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment operated payroll services for IAASA. The receipts are netted off payments made under Subhead S.2. to reconcile the net contribution payable by the Department to IAASA's administrative costs. IAASA did not have a full complement of staff in 2008, hence the amount received from IAASA to balance out the Department's contribution to the organisation's pay costs was less than forecast.
15. This item relates to the pension contributions for staff in the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB). The 2008 forecast of receipts was understated.
16. By its very nature, it is difficult to predict what level of funds will be received under this heading. Significant receipts in 2008 relate to pension contributions for staff of the Health & Safety Authority (€1,009,272) and the transfer of funds from inactive Suspense Accounts following a review by the Department.

## 9 COMMITMENTS

	<b>€000</b>
<b>(A) Procurement</b>	<b>4,213</b>
<b>(B) Grants</b>	<b>€000</b>
IDA Ireland	360,700
Enterprise Ireland	568,140
Science Foundation Ireland	455,987
Shannon Development	29,000
FAS	8,700
Other	579
	<b>1,423,106</b>

**Note:**

The above figures represent best estimates of the maximum amounts likely to become payable.

## 10 MATURED LIABILITIES

Estimated matured liabilities undischarged at the year-end were €510,159

## 11 DETAILS OF EXTRA REMUNERATION

	Amount paid	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Max. individual payment of €10,000 or more
	€			€
Higher, special or additional duties	952,838	209	14	19,851
Overtime and delegates allowance	1,362,433	514	32	30,818
Miscellaneous	241,174	150	3	36,989
Total extra remuneration	2,556,445	873	49	

**Note:** Certain individuals received extra remuneration in more than one category.

## 12 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Under the provisions of section 91 of the Finance Act 2004, €18,326,000 of unspent allocations in respect of the capital element of the subheads D.2., F., G., I. and K.4. is carried forward to 2009 as a deferred surrender.

A total of €10,000 was spent on merit awards to 50 individual officers.

The 2007 Appropriation Account included a note on a contingent liability in respect of the Employment Community Initiative 1994-1999. In 2008, the European Commission reduced the amount of European Social Fund monies payable to Ireland in respect of this Initiative by €12,724,594. Of this sum, €8,705,468 was withheld from ESF payments due to Ireland in 2008. The balance will be absorbed in 2009.

## 13 EU FUNDING

The amount of €24,331,367 received from the European Social Fund and shown as appropriation-in-aid was included in the recorded expenditure from the following subheads of the Vote: - K.2. and M.3.

In addition to the grants from the Vote, the following bodies under the aegis of the Department received EU aid directly in 2008 as shown below:

	ERDF €	Other €	Total €
Health & Safety Authority	—	31,392	31,392
FAS	—	928,234	928,234
SFADCo	112,033	855,108	967,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,033</b>	<b>1,814,734</b>	<b>1,926,767</b>

## 14 COMMISSIONS AND INQUIRIES ETC.

The expenditure in respect of Commissions etc. to 31 December 2008 is as follows:

Commission, Committee or Special Inquiry	Year of appointment	Expenditure in 2008 €	Cumulative expenditure to 31 December 2008 €
National Framework Committee for Work/Life Balance Policies	2004	153,194	995,112
Joint Labour Committees <sup>1</sup>	1946	84,764	1,121,248
Company Law Inquiries	1994	49,881	2,016,762
Company Law Review Group	2000	52,535	732,410
Business Regulation Group	2006	36,292	101,920
EAT - Research Group	2007	—	8,056
Workplace Safety	2002	295,450	1,992,590
Departmental Audit Committee	2004	4,598	11,817
<b>Total</b>		<b>676,714</b>	<b>6,979,915</b>

**Note:**

<sup>1</sup> Base Year 1994 - Payments in respect of the period 1946-1993 were made from Subhead A.2. in the year in question.

**15 MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS****Employment and Training Levy - Statement of Payments made in accordance with Section 25(1) of the Labour Services Act, 1987**

	Total for the year ended 31 December 2008 €	Cumulative to 31 December 2008 €
Received by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment	997,269	2,888,513,709
Paid by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment into the Exchequer <sup>1</sup>	1,031,984	2,888,548,455

<sup>1</sup> An amount of €34,715 relating to 2008 was paid to the Exchequer in December 2008 but was not received by this Department until January 2009.

**16 STOCKS**

Stocks at 31 December 2008 comprise:	€000
Stationery	276
IT Supplies	41
Materials	17
	<u>334</u>

**17 DUE TO THE STATE**

The amount due to the State at 31 December 2008 consisted of:	€000
Income Tax	47
Superannuation	769
Pay Related Social Insurance	(76)
Withholding Tax	148
VAT on Intra EU Acquisitions	17
	<u>905</u>

**18 ENHANCING INTERNAL CONTROL**

A statement on internal financial controls in the standard format for the year ended 31 December 2008 has been submitted with this account to the Comptroller and Auditor General. The following further actions have been taken, or are planned, to enhance the system of internal control:

**Monitoring of Expenditure**

Expenditure from the Department's Vote is monitored on an on-going basis and monthly Expenditure Reports are presented to the Management Board for consideration. The Expenditure Reports outline progress being made against forecasts of expenditure provided at the beginning of the year. The reports highlight potential cost overruns and underspends, and serve as an early warning signal on areas that may require correction.

**Financial Management System**

An upgrade was carried out to the Department's financial management system in 2008. The upgrade has ensured that the system is more robust and has mitigated the risk of the system being ineligible for technical support. The upgrade also resulted in additional training on the system for staff in the Department's Finance Unit, IT Unit and Organisation Unit.

**Risk Management**

The Department has a Risk Management policy which involves Risk Registers being maintained and updated on an on-going basis at Divisional level. The Divisional Risk Registers feed into a Departmental-level Risk Register.

**ICT**

The role of Information Security Officer was established as a full time dedicated post in the ICT Unit in 2007. This post is supported with additional staffing. The Security and Business Process Section was established in order to lead a programme of work aimed at achieving best practice in Information Security in the Department. A number of staff awareness exercises have taken place including information workshops and information notices. These have been complemented by the introduction of additional security technologies, including internet usage management tools, laptop encryption as well as ongoing security enhancements to existing ICT systems.

The Department's ICT Strategy was finalised in February 2008. The Strategy includes a target of providing accredited Project Management training to all members of staff of the Department's ICT Unit, as well as making complementary training available to other Business Units involved in significant ICT projects. All members of staff in the ICT Unit have now undergone PRINCE2 training and received the relevant accreditation. Project Management is now being introduced as the management process for the ICT Business Plan in line with Department of Finance Circular 02/09.

**SEÁN GORMAN**

Accounting Officer

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

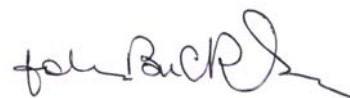
30 March 2009

**Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for 2008 under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993. The Account has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles. The duties of the Accounting Officer and of the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to the Appropriation Accounts, and the basis of the audit opinion, are set out in Part 1 to this volume.

I have obtained all the information and explanations I considered necessary for the purposes of my audit. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Appropriation Account is in agreement with the books of account.

In my opinion, the Appropriation Account properly presents the receipts and expenditure of the Vote for the year ended 31 December 2008.



**JOHN BUCKLEY**  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
4 September 2009