

Appropriation Account 2015

Vote 29

Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 29, I am required each year to prepare the appropriation account for the Vote, and to submit the account to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit.

In accordance with this requirement, I have prepared the attached account of the amount expended in the year ended 31 December 2015 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, including certain services administered by that Office, and for payment of certain grants and for the payment of certain grants under cash-limited schemes.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums

- granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2015, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year and
- provided for capital supply services in 2015 out of unspent 2014 appropriations, under the deferred surrender arrangements established by section 91 of the Finance Act 2004.

A surplus of €9.17 million is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and notes 1 to 7 form part of the account.

Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles

The standard accounting policies and principles for the production of appropriation accounts have been applied in the preparation of the account, except for the following;

Depreciation

Motor vehicles are depreciated over 5 years at 20% per annum. Certain bespoke IT systems and specialist seabed survey equipment assets are depreciated over 10 years at 10% per annum, while all other Office/IT equipment is depreciated over 5 years at 20% per annum.

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for system of internal financial control

As Accounting Officer, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Department.

This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to me and my other obligations as Secretary General. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

I have fulfilled my responsibilities in relation to the requirements of the service management agreement between this Office and the National Shared Service Office for the provision of human resources and payroll shared service.

I rely on a letter of assurance from the Accounting Officer of the Vote for Shared Services that the appropriate controls are exercised in the provision of shared services to this Department.

Financial control environment

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability. Detailed monthly reporting to the Management Committee, combining key financial information, is in place. This enables effective management of outputs, efficiency and ensures value for money.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee to advise me in discharging my responsibilities for the internal financial control system.

Administrative controls and management reporting

I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that

- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management.
- There are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts.
- A risk management system operates within the Department. This is part of the business planning process for all divisions. The purpose of the system is to identify and assess the risks and outline measures to control and manage the risks to which the Department may be exposed. The Risk Management System is reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems.
- There are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines.
- The Department ensures that there is an appropriate focus on good practice in purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant guidelines. The Department complied with the guidelines with the exception of three contracts to the value of €521,000 which were listed in my annual return in respect of Circular 40/02. One contract (€52,000) involved the reengagement of a consultant to ensure business continuity in a large scale project and the others (€469,000) related to the continued supply of specialised mapping data. Three contracts with values in excess of €5,000 (€22,000, €14,500 and €6,500) which were below the limits of Circular 40/02 relating to the provision of consultancy services were also awarded.

Internal Audit and Audit Committee

I confirm that the Department has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department is exposed and its annual internal audit plans, approved by me are based on this analysis. These plans aim to cover the key controls on a rolling basis over a reasonable period. The internal audit function is reviewed periodically by me and by the Audit Committee. I am satisfied that procedures are in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

Mark Griffin

Accounting Officer

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

23 March 2016

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Vote 29 Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 29 Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for the year ended 31 December 2015 under section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993. The account has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and in accordance with standard accounting policies and principles for appropriation accounts.

Responsibility of the Accounting Officer

In accordance with Section 22 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866, the Accounting Officer is required to prepare the appropriation account. By law, the account must be submitted to me by 31 March following the end of the year of account.

The Accounting Officer is also responsible for the safeguarding of public funds and property under his control, for the efficiency and economy of administration by his Department and for the regularity and propriety of all transactions in the appropriation account.

Responsibility of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993 to audit the appropriation accounts of all Votes and to perform such tests as I consider appropriate for the purpose of the audit.

Upon completion of the audit of an appropriation account, I am obliged to provide a certificate stating whether, in my opinion, the account properly presents the receipts and expenditure related to the Vote. I am also required to refer to any material case in which

- a department or office has failed to apply expenditure recorded in the account for the purposes for which the appropriations made by the Oireachtas were intended, or
- transactions recorded in the account do not conform with the authority under which they purport to have been carried out.

Under Section 3 (10) of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993, I am required to prepare each year, a report on any matters that arise from the audits of the appropriation accounts or examinations of accounting controls.

Scope of audit

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and regularity of financial transactions included in the account and an assessment of whether the accounting provisions of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's *Public Financial Procedures* have been complied with.

The audit involves obtaining sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the appropriation account is free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of the audit. In forming the audit opinion, the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the appropriation account is evaluated.

Opinion on the appropriation account

In my opinion, the appropriation account properly presents the receipts and expenditure of Vote 29 Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for the year ended 31 December 2015.

I have obtained all the information and explanations I considered necessary for the purposes of my audit. In my opinion, adequate accounting records have been kept by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The appropriation account is in agreement with the accounting records.

Seamus McCarthy

Comptroller and Auditor General

27 September 2016

Vote 29 Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Appropriation Account 2015

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
Programme expenditure				
A	Communications			
	<i>Current year provision</i>	34,984		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(2,500)		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	1,100	33,584	27,762
				45,902
B	Broadcasting		247,645	239,282
C	Energy			
	<i>Current year provision</i>	73,352		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	2,501		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	3,500	79,353	75,851
				86,477
D	Natural Resources			
	<i>Original</i>	30,910		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,000	34,910	29,315
				24,621
E	Inland Fisheries		27,659	27,752
				28,210
Gross expenditure				
	<i>Current year provision</i>	414,550		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,001		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	4,600	423,151	399,962
				424,743
<i>Deduct</i>				
F	Appropriations-in-aid			
	<i>Original</i>	241,417		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,000	245,417	236,652
				230,796
Net expenditure				
	<i>Current year provision</i>	173,133		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	4,600		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	1		
			177,734	163,310
				193,947

Surplus for surrender

The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer. Under section 91 of the Finance Act 2004, all or part of any unspent appropriations for capital supply services may be carried over for spending in the following year.

	2015	2014
	€	€
Surplus	14,423,972	9,058,571
Deferred surrender	(5,250,000)	(4,600,000)
Surplus to be surrendered	<u>9,173,972</u>	<u>4,458,571</u>

Analysis of administration expenditure

		2015	2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn
		€000	€000
i	Salaries, wages and allowances	17,550	15,160
ii	Travel and subsistence	583	469
iii	Training and development and incidental expenses	757	687
iv	Postal and telecommunications services	529	361
v	Office equipment and external IT services	3,400	2,394
vi	Office premises expenses	732	666
vii	Consultancy services and value for money and policy reviews	1,895	1,822
viii	Equipment, stores and maintenance	246	270
		<u>25,692</u>	<u>21,829</u>
			<u>21,271</u>

Notes to the Appropriation Account

1 Operating Cost Statement 2015

	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Programme cost	378,133	403,473
Pay	15,160	14,822
Non pay	6,669	6,448
Gross expenditure	399,962	424,743
<i>Deduct</i>		
Appropriations-in-aid	236,652	230,796
Net expenditure	163,310	193,947
Changes in capital assets		
Purchases cash	(767)	
Depreciation	1,584	
Loss on disposal	1	1,180
Changes in assets under development		
Cash payments	—	—
Changes in net current assets		
Increase in closing accruals	1,258	
Increase in stock	(6)	(887)
Direct expenditure	165,380	194,240
Expenditure borne elsewhere		
Net allied services expenditure (note 1.1)	14,772	12,635
Notional rents	1,279	1,286
Net programme cost	181,431	208,161

1.1 Net Allied Services Expenditure

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following amounts in relation to Vote 29 borne elsewhere.

	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Vote 7 Finance	—	53
Vote 9 Office of the Revenue Commissioners	45	—
Vote 12 Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,587	8,588
Vote 13 Office of Public Works	4,066	3,931
Vote 18 Shared Services	23	12
Central Fund - Ministerial pensions	51	51
	14,772	12,635

2 Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 €000	2014 €000
Capital assets	2.2	2,562	3,380
		2,562	3,380
Current assets			
Bank and cash	2.3	15,984	11,042
Stocks	2.4	215	209
Prepayments		373	727
Accrued income		500	1,704
Other debit balances	2.5	141	421
Total current assets		17,213	14,103
Less current liabilities			
Accrued expenses		699	1,100
Other credit balances	2.6	3,087	5,010
Net liability to the exchequer	2.7	13,038	6,453
Deferred income		101	—
Total current liabilities		16,925	12,563
Net current assets		288	1,540
Net assets		2,850	4,920
Represented by:			
State funding account	2.1	2,850	4,920

2.1 State Funding Account	Note	2015 €000	2014 €000
Balance at 1 January		4,920	5,240
Disbursements from the Vote			
Estimate provision	Account	177,734	
Deferred surrender	Account	(5,250)	
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(9,174)	
Net vote		163,310	193,947
Expenditure (cash) borne elsewhere	1	14,772	12,635
Non cash expenditure – notional rent	1	1,279	1,286
Adjustment		—	(27)
Net programme cost	1	(181,431)	(208,161)
Balance at 31 December		2,850	4,920

2.2 Capital Assets

	Land and buildings	Office furniture	Office and IT equipment	Specialist equipment and motor vehicles	Total
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Gross assets					
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2015	859	1,226	20,547	3,965	26,597
Additions	—	6	252	509	767
Disposals	—	(1)	(107)	—	(108)
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2015	859	1,231	20,692	4,474	27,256
Accumulated depreciation					
Opening balance at 1 January 2015	—	1,164	18,636	3,417	23,217
Depreciation for the year	—	23	1,305	256	1,584
Depreciation on disposals	—	(1)	(106)	—	(107)
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2015	—	1,186	19,835	3,673	24,694
Net assets at 31 December 2015	859	45	857	801	2,562
Net assets at 31 December 2014	859	62	1,911	548	3,380

The following fisheries are not included in capital assets but are owned by the Minister and are managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

- i. Galway
- ii. Owenea/Owentocker, Co. Donegal

Land and buildings relate to the GPO Henry Street arcade.

The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a beneficial interest in Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs), the construction of which was funded jointly with certain local authorities and the European Regional Development Fund. This interest has not been recognised as an asset in the statement of capital assets.

2.3 Bank and Cash	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000

PMG balances and cash	15,981	11,042
Commercial bank account balance	3	—
	<u>15,984</u>	<u>11,042</u>

2.4 Stocks	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000

IT equipment and stationery	—	8
Geological Survey of Ireland	208	192
Stationery	7	9
	<u>215</u>	<u>209</u>

2.5 Other Debit Balances	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000

Refund of PRSI due from State	—	1
Salary suspense	23	299
Other	118	121
	<u>141</u>	<u>421</u>

2.6 Other Credit Balances	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000

Amounts due to the State

Withholding Tax	550	2,077
Value Added Tax	279	1,464
Extra Exchequer Receipts	—	8
PAYE/PRSI	476	335
	<u>1,305</u>	<u>3,884</u>
Suspense (emergency call answering service/payroll deduction)	1,782	1,126
	<u>3,087</u>	<u>5,010</u>

2.7 Net Liability to the Exchequer	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	9,174	4,459
Deferred surrender	5,250	4,600
Exchequer grant undrawn	(1,386)	(2,606)
Net liability to the Exchequer	<u>13,038</u>	<u>6,453</u>

Represented by:**Debtors**

Bank and cash	15,984	11,042
Debit balances: suspense	141	420
Due from the State	—	1
	<u>16,125</u>	<u>11,463</u>

Creditors

Due to the State	(1,305)	(3,884)
Credit balances: suspense	(1,782)	(1,126)
	<u>(3,087)</u>	<u>(5,010)</u>
	<u>13,038</u>	<u>6,453</u>

2.8 Commitments	2015	2014
at 31 December	€000	€000

(a) Global commitments

(i) Procurement subheads	<u>669</u>	<u>190,367</u>
	<u>669</u>	<u>190,367</u>

The global commitments figure at 31 December 2015 includes contracts for current commitments in excess of €10,000.

(b) Multi-annual capital commitments

	Cumulative expenditure to 31 December 2014	Expenditure in 2015	Project commitments in subsequent years	Expected total spend lifetime of project 2015	Expected total spend lifetime of project 2014
Project	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
ICT programmes	290,487	10,582	21,606	322,675	313,212
Multimedia developments	38,685	6,013	9,357	54,055	56,765
Sustainable energy programmes	270,274	49,746	16,274	336,294	282,368
Energy research programmes	30,684	6,196	6,232	43,112	36,921
Mining services	12,128	319	731	13,178	15,863
Geoscience initiatives	16,879	2,931	4,285	24,095	22,729
National Seabed Survey	32,653	2,973	8,000	43,626	41,653
Tellus	2,073	2,246	4,900	9,219	4,073
Teilifis na Gaelige (TG4)	8,598	920	199	9,717	8,765
	702,461	81,926	71,584	855,971	782,349

Expenditure figures for 2015 and prior years relate only to projects with future legally binding commitments.

Significant variations

An explanation is provided below where multi-annual commitments increased by more than €500,000 from 2014 to 2015.

Project	Amount of increase €000	Explanation
ICT programmes	9,463	Additional commitments due to the commencement of the National Broadband Plan and continuing management of related infrastructure.
Sustainable energy programmes	53,926	Additional commitments reflect the cost of running the programmes for an additional year.
Energy research programmes	6,191	Additional commitments under the Ocean Energy Prototype Development Fund and the development of the AMETS ocean energy test site.
Geoscience initiatives	1,366	The increase in commitments reflects final research payments to third level institutions under the Griffith Research Awards phase 1 (2007-2015).
National Seabed Survey	1,973	Additional commitments for offshore mapping as part of €15 million funding for the INFOMAR (National Marine Mapping) Programme for the period 2014 to 2018.
Tellus	5,146	Additional commitments due to further development as a national programme, facilitating additional airborne geophysical data acquisition in the Midlands to East Coast area.

2.9 Land Remediation

Avoca Mine Site

The Government has allocated €3 million to address essential health and safety issues at the Avoca mine site over a three year period 2014 to 2016. A multi-disciplinary team via a single supplier framework agreement was appointed in December 2013 for three years to provide specialist design, procurement and project management services to oversee this project to address the priority public health and safety works. During 2015, a number of shafts were capped in order to make them safe and planning permission was sought and obtained from Wicklow County Council in respect of the main body of work under the contract. The total cost in 2015 was €0.32 million. The procurement of a contractor to undertake these works was commenced at the end of 2015. The balance of the €3 million allocation will be expended in 2016, bringing the works funded by this allocation to an end.

Silvermines

Remediation of six mine sites at Silvermines was undertaken between 2007 and 2011. No further remediation works are currently envisaged until funding becomes available for the final phase. A provision of €0.4 million was made available for 2015 in respect of land acquisition and contingencies that may have arisen from ongoing environmental monitoring designed to detect any changes at the site. While the provision of €0.4 million was not required in 2015, the same contingency has been made available for 2016 and future provisions will be required to cover any additional costs that may arise.

Environmental Monitoring at Avoca and Silvermines

Essential specialist monitoring cost €0.14 million in 2014, €0.15 million in 2015 and is estimated to cost €0.15 million in 2016. It is estimated that an additional amount of €0.16 million will also be required for each year from 2017 to 2019 in respect of continued monitoring of the Avoca and Silvermines sites or until full remediation is achieved.

2.10 Contingent Liabilities

There is potential for financial liabilities to arise in 2016 and subsequent years depending on the outcomes of current, pending and possible future EU and other legal actions. The amounts involved cannot be determined at this point.

3 Programme Expenditure by Subhead

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
A	Communications			
A.1	Administration - pay		4,660	3,758
A.2	Administration - non pay		1,787	2,107
A.3	Information and communications technology programme ^a			
	<i>Original</i>	17,935		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(2,500)	15,435	31,770
A.4	Multimedia developments			
	<i>Current year provision</i>	5,600		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	400	6,000	6,123
A.5	Information society			
	<i>Current year provision</i>	4,502		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	700	5,202	2,144
A.6	Other capital (incl. capital contingency)		500	—
		33,584	27,762	45,902

^a This includes a payment of €296,337 (gross) in respect of a delay in the rollout of postcodes due to the need to enact data protection legislation.

Significant variations

Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme A was €5.82 million lower than provided. This was mainly due to the following:

Description	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
Information and communications technology programme	2,305	The underspend for the National Broadband Plan (NBP) Programme occurred because the procurement phase of the Programme did not commence until December 2015. There was also an administrative delay in preparing the complex competitive dialogue Request for Tender.
Information society	1,828	The trading online voucher scheme is demand-led and expenditure levels are reflective of the time lag between the award of vouchers to successful companies, and the establishment of a meaningful trading online presence prior to redeeming the voucher. By end 2015, 1,032 vouchers had been paid out under the national scheme, with 467 more projects in progress which were paid in early 2016.
Other capital (incl. capital contingency)	500	The savings arose as capital contingency funds were not required.

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
B	Broadcasting			
B.1	Administration - pay	988	854	830
B.2	Administration - non pay	612	495	373
B.3	Grant to Radio Telefís Éireann for broadcasting licence fees	185,724	178,499 ^a	178,828
B.4	Payment to An Post for collection of broadcasting licence fees	12,457	11,609	11,063
B.5	Deontas i leith Theilifís na Gaeilge	33,160	33,160	34,283
B.6	Broadcasting Fund	14,704	14,665 ^a	14,156
		247,645	239,282	239,533

^a An administrative error in December 2015 resulted in an overpayment to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland of €496,359 and an underpayment to RTE of the same amount. The error was rectified in the January 2016 grant payments.

Significant variations

Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme B was €3.36 million lower than provided. This was mainly due to the following:

Description	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
Grant to Radio Telefís Éireann for broadcasting licence fees	7,225	Grant payments to RTE are vote neutral and are dependent on TV licence sales income which was lower than anticipated.
Payment to An Post for collection of broadcasting licence fees	848	These payments are vote neutral and are based on television licence sales income which was lower than anticipated.

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
C	Energy			
C.1	Administration - pay		4,557	3,937
C.2	Administration - non pay		2,162	1,752
C.3	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - administration and general expenses		7,000	6,771
C.4	Sustainable energy programmes (cash limited)			
	Current year provision	50,300		
	Supplementary	2,501		
	Deferred surrender	3,500		
			56,301	56,004
C.5	Energy research programmes (cash limited)		9,061	7,184
C.7	Gas services		32	32
C.8	Subscriptions to international organisations		240	171
			79,353	75,851
				86,477

Significant variations

Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme C was €3.50 million lower than provided. This was mainly due to the following:

Description	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
Energy research programmes (cash limited)	1,877	Expenditure was less than anticipated in the following programmes which are funded under this measure - ESB Westwave project (€877,000), the draft Bioenergy Plan and the design of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (€644,000).

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision		Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
D	Natural Resources			
D.1	Administration – pay		6,451	5,572
D.2	Administration - non pay		3,159	2,631
D.3	Petroleum services			
		<i>Original</i>	641	
		<i>Supplementary</i>	4,000	
			4,641	4,509
D.4	Mining services		3,585	917
D.5	GSI services		9,524	8,554
D.6	Ordnance Survey Ireland		7,415	7,000
D.7	Subscriptions to international organisations		135	132
	Geoscience initiatives		—	—
	National seabed survey		—	—
			34,910	29,315
				24,621

Significant variations

Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme D was €5.60 million lower than provided. This was mainly due to the following:

Description	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
Petroleum services	132	In December 2015 the Department sought and was granted a supplementary estimate in respect of Subhead D3, Petroleum Services (reference note 7.1), to facilitate the reinvestment through the PIP-EOSG mechanism of €4 million arising in 2015 from petroleum data sale receipts.
Mining services	2,668	Savings due to: (1) lower than expected extraction rates of private minerals by the mining companies and legal delays in settling outstanding claims; (2) unforeseen delays in the Avoca mines remediation project due to the requirement to obtain planning permissions.
GSI services	970	Savings due to delays in the completion of the 2015 phase of the Tellus research project on Geochemical analyses and savings on the Griffith Research Award.
Ordnance Survey Ireland	415	Savings due to lower annual payments for non-commercial activities than originally budgeted.

		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
E	Inland Fisheries			
E.1	Administration - pay	894	773	852
E.2	Administration - non pay	422	343	320
E.3	Inland fisheries	26,343	26,636	27,038
		27,659	27,752	28,210

4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid		2015		2014
		Estimate provision	Realised	Realised
		€000	€000	€000
1.	Proceeds of fines in respect of fishery offences		50	25
2.	Receipts under the Minerals Development Act, 1940 and the Petroleum and Other Minerals Act, 1960			
	<i>Original</i>	11,455		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,000	15,455	14,787
3.	Petroleum Infrastructure Support Group		437	297
4.	Broadcasting licence fees		222,130	214,018
5.	Geological Survey Ireland income		550	595
6.	Rent on properties in GPO		223	350
7.	Miscellaneous		1,323	1,732
8.	Pension contribution from agencies		1,084	1,102
9.	Receipts from pension-related deduction on public service remuneration		4,165	3,746
Total			245,417	236,652
				230,796

Miscellaneous	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Costs recovered from other bodies	79	519
Corrib verification process	744	260
Royalties in respect of Metropolitan Area Networks	864	1,055
Other	45	36
Total	1,732	1,870

Significant variations

An explanation is provided below in the case of each heading where the outturn varied from the amount estimated by more than €100,000, and by more than 5%.

Description	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
Receipts under the Minerals Development Act, 1940 and the Petroleum and Other Minerals Act, 1960	668	A supplementary estimate was sanctioned as receipts of €4 million relating to royalties from the sale of petroleum data for the current and previous years were received. Mining compensation receipts were €1.4 million lower than anticipated due to lower extraction levels of private minerals by mining companies.
Petroleum Infrastructure Support Group	140	Receipts lower than anticipated due to less contributions to the Petroleum Infrastructure Support Group.
Rent on properties in GPO	(127)	Higher than anticipated income as some of the rent received related to 2014.
Miscellaneous	(409)	Higher receipts reflect the additional costs incurred in the finalisation of the verification audit of the Corrib gasfield project.
Receipts from pension-related deduction on public service remuneration	419	Lower than anticipated income as planned additional recruitments were deferred until 2016.

4.2 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

	2015 €000	2014 €000
Balance on 1 January	8	131
Refunds from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	—	135
Transferred to the Exchequer	(8)	(258)
Balance at 31 December	—	8

5 Employee Numbers and Pay

	2015	2014
Number of staff at year end (full time equivalents)		
Department	250	245
Agencies	859	849
	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,094</u>
 Remuneration of All Staff (Department and Agencies)	 2015	 2014
	€000	€000
Pay	33,774	33,938
Higher, special or additional duties allowance	263	343
Other allowances	1,309	1,285
Overtime	90	142
Employer's PRSI	2,832	2,853
Total pay	<u>38,268</u>	<u>38,561</u>

The remuneration arrangements refer to the pay element of Subheads A1, A4, B1, C1, C3, D1, E1 and E3.

5.1 Department

	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Pay	14,167	13,822
Higher, special or additional duties allowance	82	128
Other allowances	50	48
Overtime	24	24
Employer's PRSI	837	800
Total pay	<u>15,160</u>	<u>14,822</u>

Allowances and Overtime Payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Maximum individual payment 2015 €	Maximum individual payment 2014 €
Higher, special or additional duties	7	3	21,406	22,498
Other allowances	25	—	7,357	5,574
Overtime	10	—	7,435	8,049
Number of individuals who received extra remuneration in more than one category	3	1	11,304	11,372

5.2 Agencies

	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Pay	19,607	20,116
Higher, special or additional duties allowance	181	215
Other allowances	1,259	1,237
Overtime	66	118
Employer's PRSI	1,995	2,053
Total pay	23,108	23,739

Allowances and Overtime Payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Maximum individual payment 2015 €	Maximum individual payment 2014 €
Higher, special or additional duties	31	—	7,118	17,089
Other allowances	291	—	8,351	6,535
Overtime	13	1	12,000	17,637
Number of individuals who received extra remuneration in more than one category	10	1	12,000	17,637

The main agencies included above are Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, the Digital Hub Development Agency and the Loughs Agency.

The figures in Note 5 and Note 5.2 include non Voted monies to ensure compliance with Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidelines (Circular 17/2013).

5.3 Other Remuneration Arrangements

Five public sector workers in receipt of public sector pensions were re-engaged on a contract basis at a total cost of €273,000.

5.4 Payroll overpayments

Overpayments at the year end were €22,966 (11 cases) (2014 €14,055, 5 cases). Of this, €2,151 (2 cases) have recovery plans in place.

6 Miscellaneous

6.1 EU Funding

The outturn shown in Subheads A.3, C.4, D.5 and E.3 includes payments in respect of activities which are co-financed from the EU. Estimates of expenditure and actual outturns were as follows:

		2015		2015	2014
		Estimate	Outturn	Outturn	
		€000	€000	€000	€000
A.3	Information and Communications Technology Programme				
	<i>Original</i>	17,935			
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(2,500)	15,435	13,130	31,770
C.4	Sustainable Energy Programmes				
	<i>Current year provision</i>	50,300			
	<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	3,500			
	<i>Supplementary</i>	2,501	56,301	56,004	63,802
D.5	GSI Services		9,524	8,554	7,956
E.3	Inland Fisheries		26,343	26,636	27,038
			107,603	104,324	130,566

6.2 Committees and Commissions

€23,643 was paid in 2015 in respect of various expenses arising out of the Department's involvement in the Moriarty Tribunal. The total payments made to date are €2.07 million.

6.3 Legal Costs

					2015	2014
					Total	Total
					€000	€000
					€000	€000
					€000	€000
Claims by members of the public						
Legal fees in respect of a settled High Court case	1	—	15	—	15	—

6.4 Carryover to 2016

Under the provisions of Section 91 of the Finance Act 2004, €5.25 million of unspent allocation in respect of the capital elements of Subheads A.3, A.5, A.6 and C.5 was carried forward to 2016.

6.5 Write-Offs

The following sum was written off in the year:

	2015	2014
	€000	€000
Suspense account balances re: historic debt	—	16

7. Miscellaneous Accounts

7.1 Petroleum Infrastructure Programme Fund

Statement of the receipts and payments of the Petroleum Infrastructure Programme Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015.

	2015 €000	2014 €000
Balance at 1 January	5,205	8,138
Receipts	4,357	279
Payments	(2,021)	(3,212)
Balance at 31 December	<u>7,541</u>	<u>5,205</u>

The Petroleum Infrastructure Programme (PIP) was established in 1997 and is funded by oil companies with offshore exploration licences issued by Petroleum Affairs Division. Its aim is to promote hydrocarbon exploration and development activities by strengthening local support structures, funding of research data gatherings and 'land based' research in Irish offshore areas and provides a forum for co-operation amongst exploration and researchers. Receipts in relation to the PIP Fund are recorded as appropriations-in-aid and paid into the fund via Subhead D.3.

In December 2015, the Department sought and was granted a supplementary estimate in respect of Subhead D3 Petroleum Services to facilitate the reinvestment through the PIP-EOSG mechanism of €4 million arising in 2015 from petroleum data sale receipts.

The Fund is administered by the Petroleum Affairs Division of the Department.

7.2 Energy Efficiency National Fund

Statement of receipts and payments of the Energy Efficiency National Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015.

	2015 €000	2014 €000
Balance at 1 January	33,903	—
Receipts	—	35,000
Investments	(2,093)	(1,097)
Balance at 31 December	<u>31,810</u>	<u>33,903</u>

The Energy Efficiency National Fund (EENF) was established in 2014 under the provisions of the European Union (Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme) Regulations 2014 (SI 131 of 2014). The objectives of the Fund are (a) to support the delivery of energy efficiency improvement programmes and other energy efficiency measures, and (b) to promote the development of a market for energy efficiency improvement measures. The Government provided €35 million from the Carbon Levy Revenue Fund to the EENF and is committed to investing this amount in a qualifying investor fund (QIF) authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. The State funding is matched by private sector funding. The Minister, along with other investors is represented on an investment advisory committee and all shareholders receive annual reports and interim financial statements on the QIF's performance.

The total cost of investment for 2014 and 2015 is €3.19 million.

At 31 March 2015, the estimated market value of the fund was €2,305,667. At that point in time, the Minister owned 49% of the total shareholding in the fund.