

Promoting public trust: the role of the C&AG

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Key points



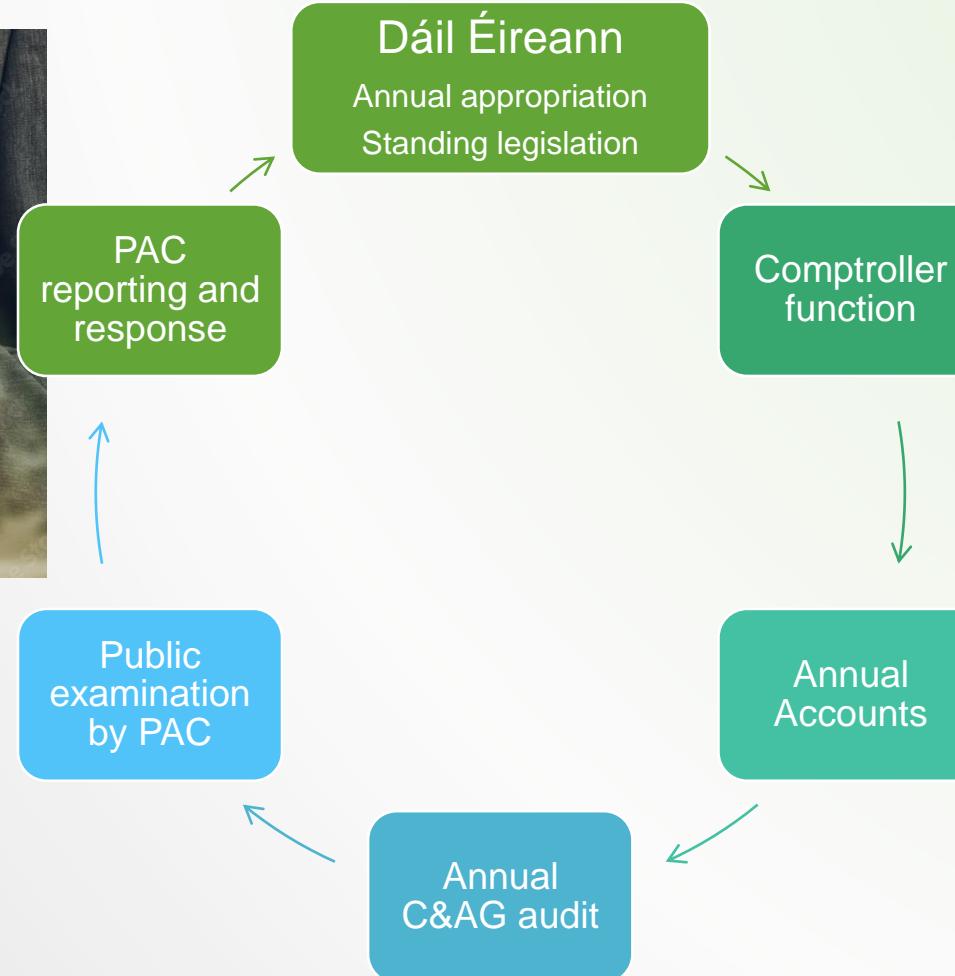
- Examination in public
- Broad audit and public reporting mandate

Comptroller and Auditor General

- Constitutional office holder
- Audit public funds and report to Dáil Éireann
- Attends Public Accounts Committee
- Supported by organisation
- Member of INTOSAI
- Financial and performance audits conducted in accordance with international standards
- Central government, non-commercial State bodies, certain regional entities and North/South bodies
- Emphasis on programmes / service / investment



Accountability process for public finances



Remit of the C&AG



Opinion on financial statements

True and fair (or properly presents)

Regularity (funds applied for the purposes intended by parliament)



Other matters

Read other information e.g. Statement on Internal Controls

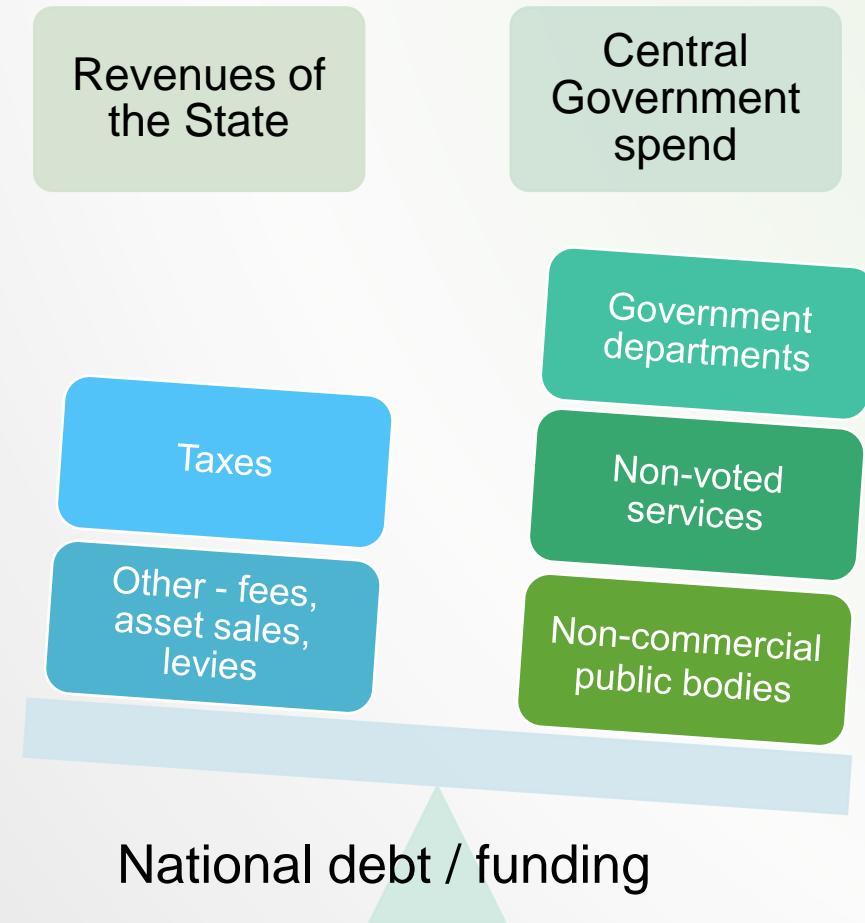
Audits conducted with regard to 'propriety'



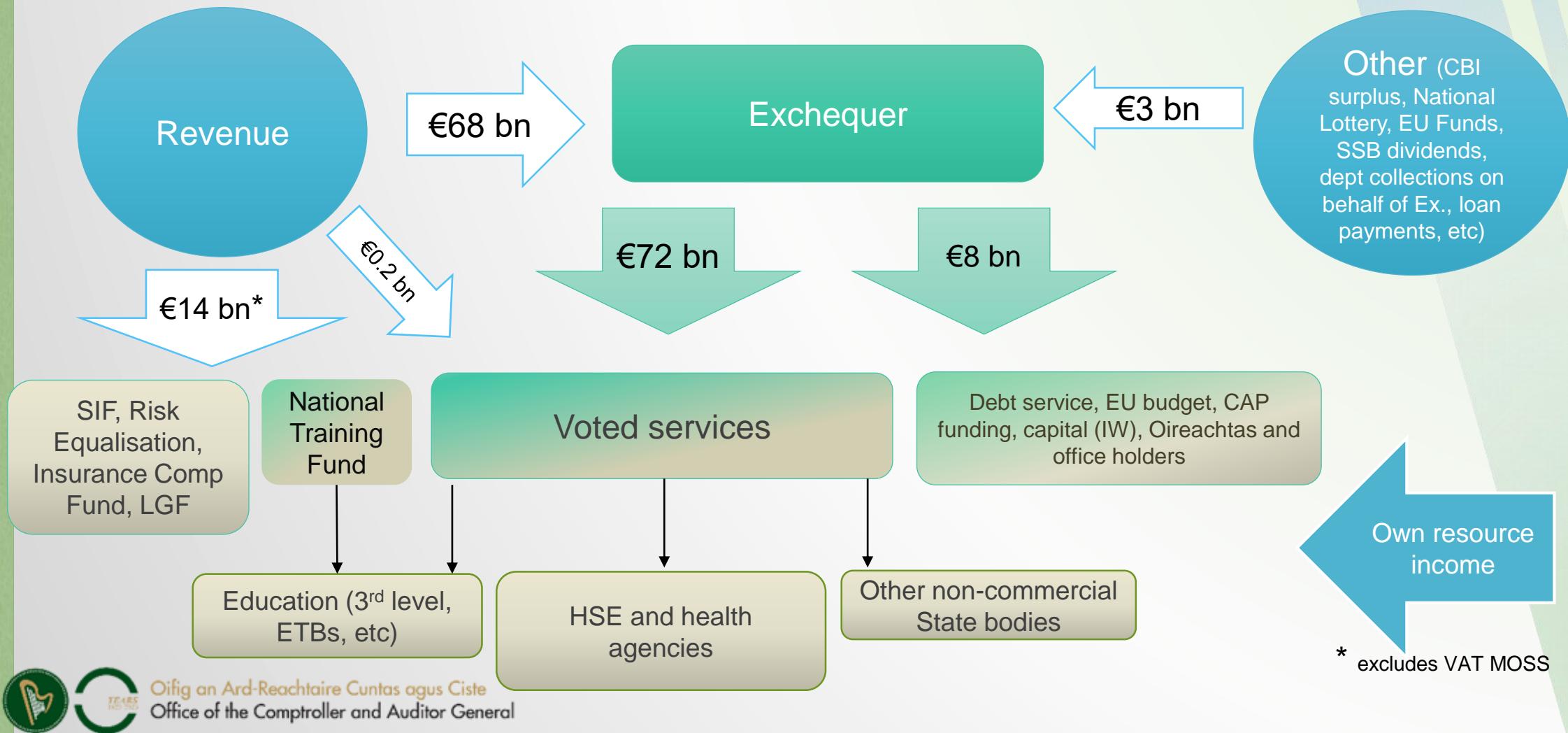
Other reports (value for money)

- Systems for ensuring effectiveness
- Efficiency and economy in use of resources

Public finances audited by the C&AG

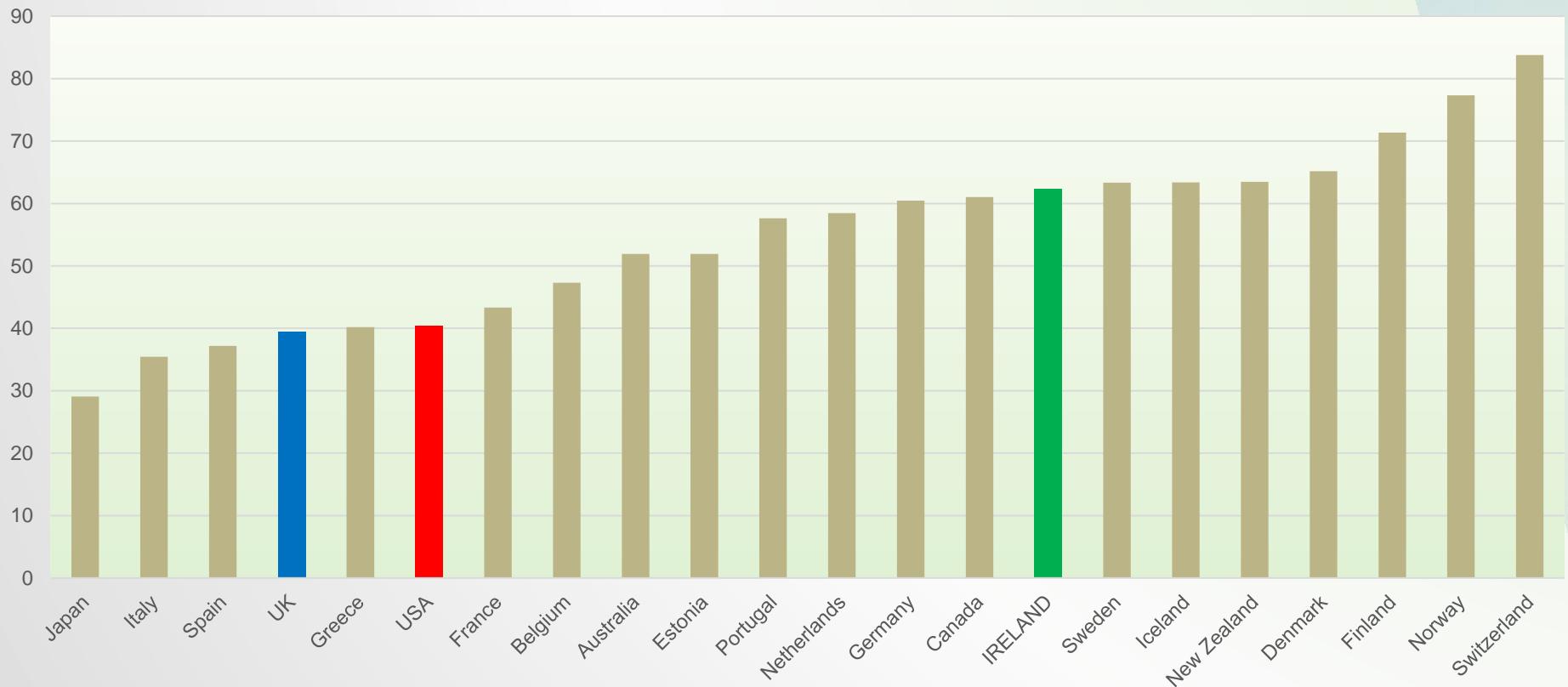


Annual flow of central government funds (2021)

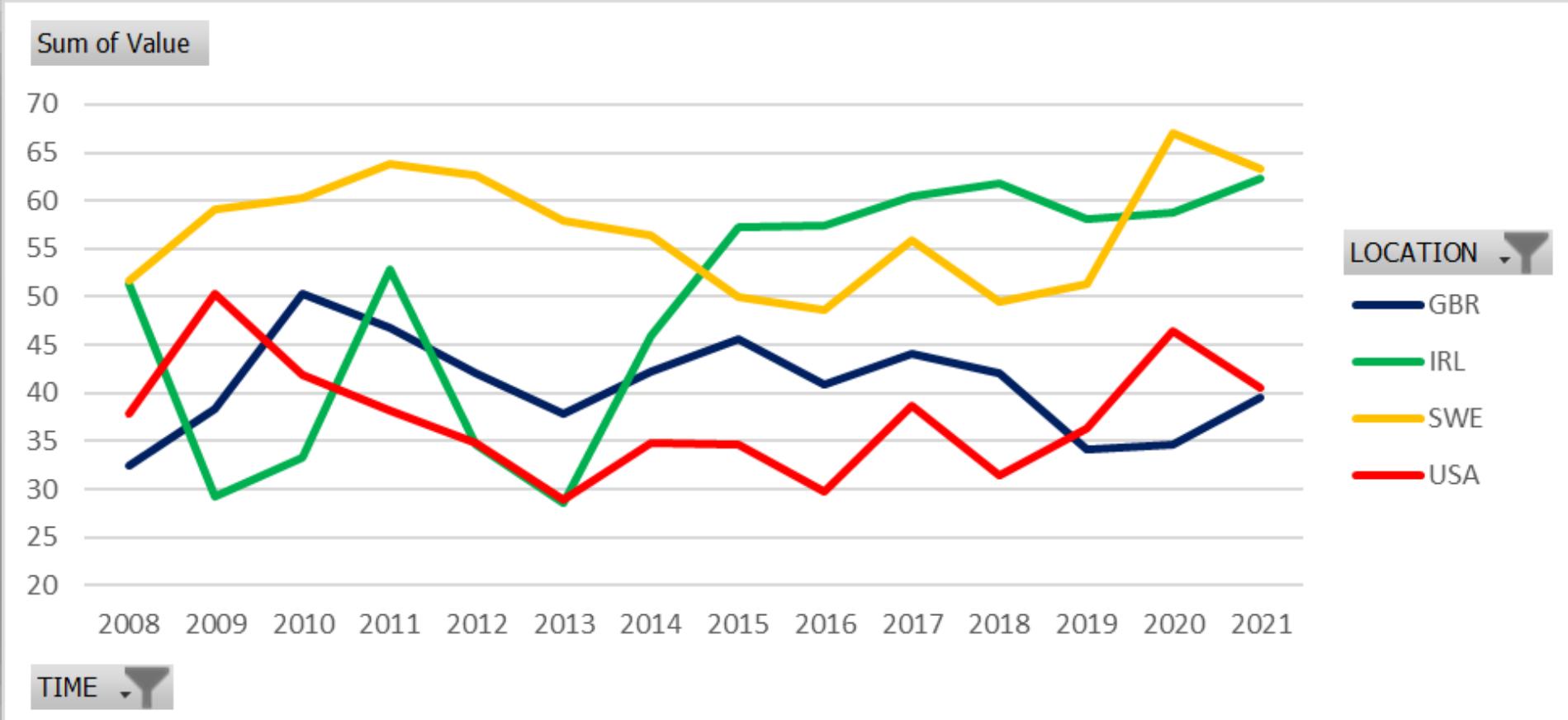


Trust in government (international survey) - 2021

OECD data



Trust in Government – over time



Public trust versus mistrust

unethical value for money loss

Standards of Behaviour extravagance

transparent waste accountability

culture oversight impropriety fraud

conflicts of interest credible Good Governance

integrity values corruption



Establishing public trust

Risks

- Fraud
- Loss / waste
- Corruption
- Impropriety
- Unethical behaviour
- Conflicts of interest

Expectations

- Appropriate behaviour (e.g. integrity, honesty, professionalism, avoiding personal gain)
- Good Governance
- Transparency (processes/ decision making)
- Compliance with rules
- Value for money
- Proper stewardship and oversight
- Accountability

Standards/rules

- Legislation (ethics, accounting and audit, accountability)
- Enforcement
- Governance codes
- Standards of behaviour
- Spending codes/public financial procedures
- Procurement legislation and rules

Public reporting

- Accounts comply with relevant standards
- Statement on Internal Controls including disclosures on procurement, material losses, etc
- Governance Statement (incl. expenditure areas)

Seven principles of public life



Nolan Report UK 1995



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How do we as auditors promote public trust

Help improve performance by public bodies

Published C&AG reports

Ensure accountability

Enhance transparency

Public accountability process

Foster the efficient and effective receipt and use of public resources

Maintain credibility



Principles underpinning trust in public audit

Independence

- appointment/removal
- exercise of judgement

Broad scope

- range of audit/examination powers
- discretion in topic selection

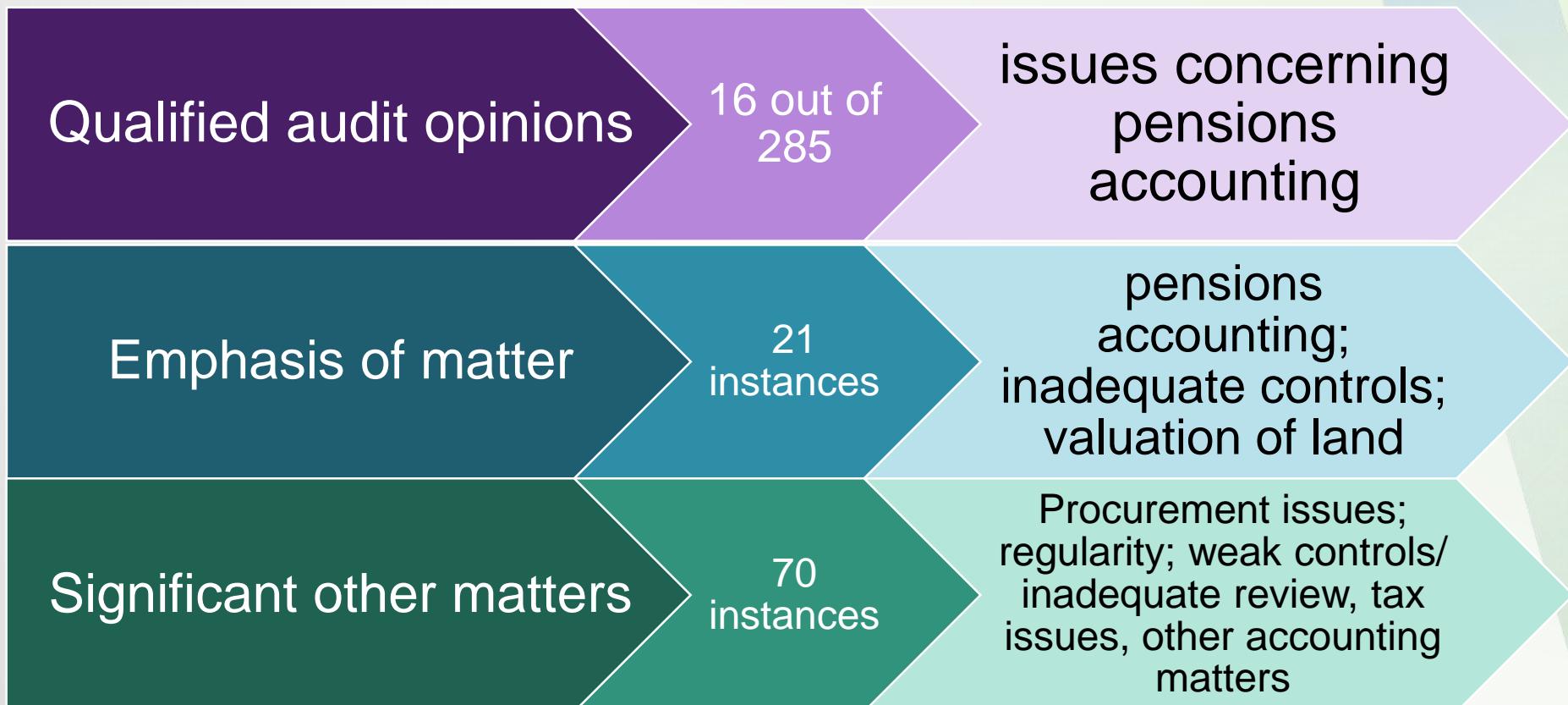
Transparency

- public reporting arrangements
- public examination

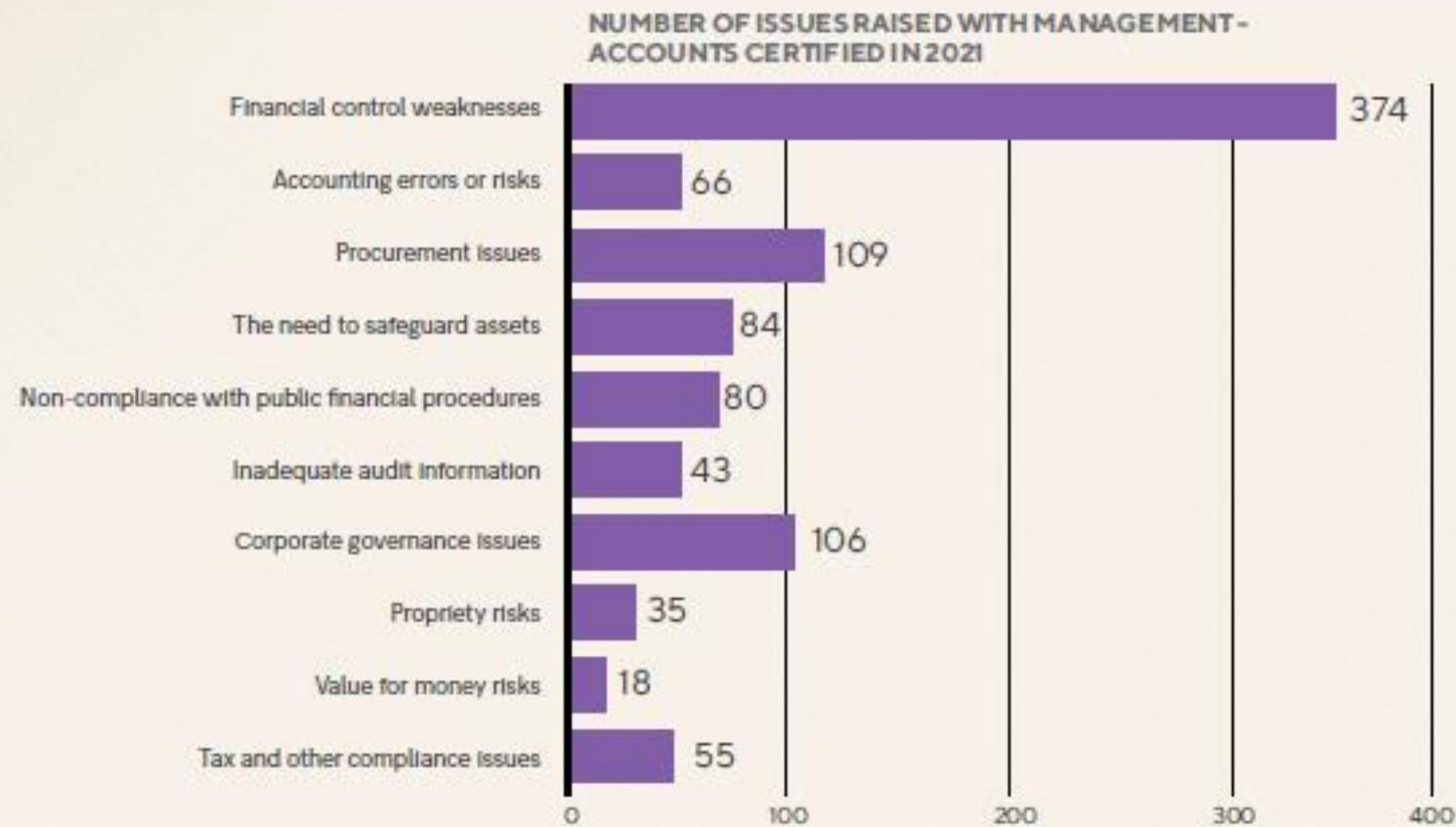
Relevance

- responsive
- impact

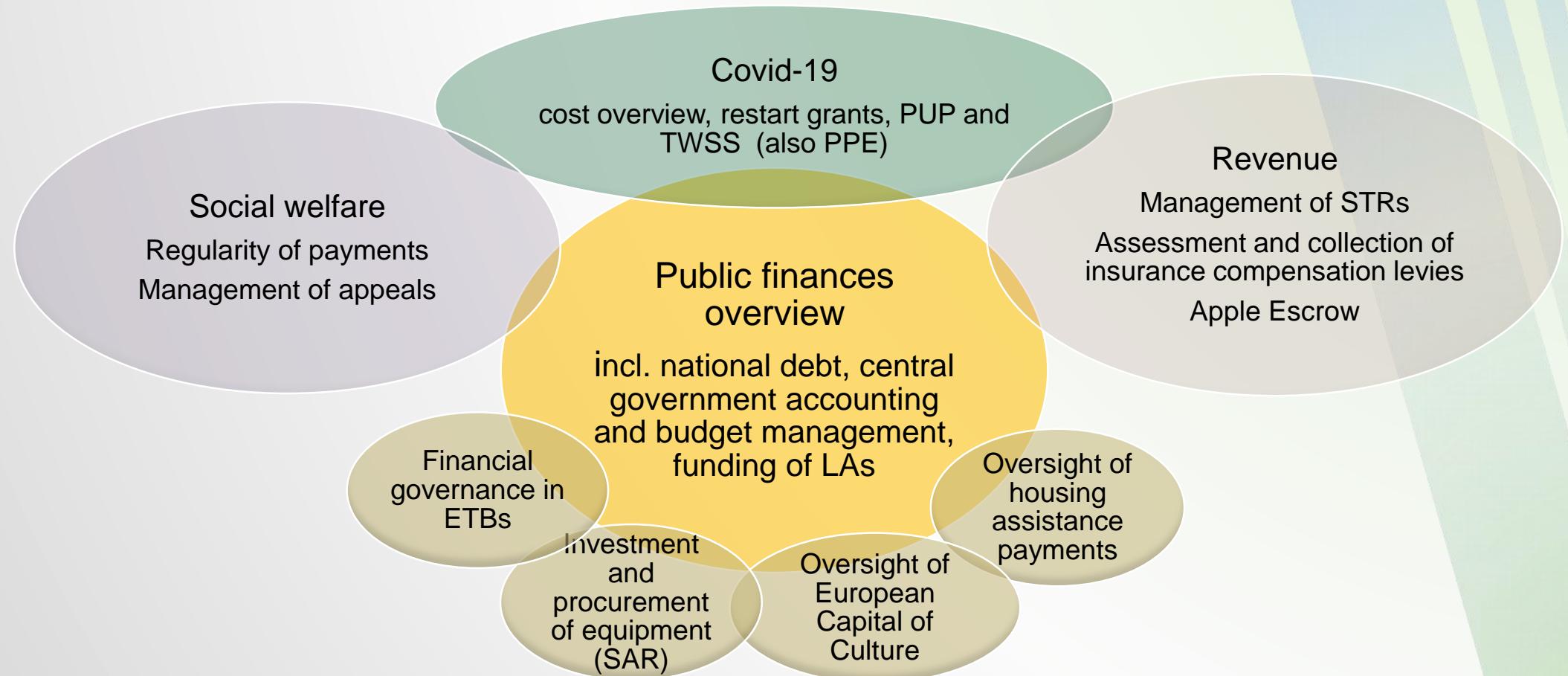
Measuring audit impact – financial audits 2021



Financial audit – other deficiencies identified



C&AG examinations and reports 2021



Main criteria when selecting topics for examination

Impact on citizens

Risks to value for money

Longer term sustainability

Emerging risks

Current systemic challenges

IMF fiscal transparency assessment

progress

- Budget process
- Recognition of wider range of assets and liabilities
- Financial reporting



Recognition and valuation of non-financial assets; recognition of changes in value of public sector assets, liabilities and contingencies

Modernise accounting rules and standard setting; consolidated government account

Final thoughts

“ The administration of government, like a guardianship ought to be directed to the good of those who confer, not of those who receive the trust.” Cicero

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