

OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

Account of the sum expended, in the year ended 31 December 2007, 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 Public Works; for services administered by that Office including the Stationery Office as part of the Government Supplies Agency, and for payment of certain grants and for the recoupment of certain expenditure in connection with flood relief.

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

Service	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
ADMINISTRATION			
A.1. SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	42,589	38,367	-
A.2. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	2,289	1,854	236
A.3. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	1,258	2,184	45
A.4. POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	1,471	1,971	31
A.5. OFFICE MACHINERY AND OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES AND RELATED SERVICES	3,859	4,296	554
A.6. OFFICE PREMISES EXPENSES	1,170	1,373	163
A.7. CONSULTANCY SERVICES	232	258	4
A.8. VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS	201	159	-
OTHER SERVICES			
B. PRESIDENT'S HOUSEHOLD STAFF: WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	775	861	22
C.1. GRANT TO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND	4,000	4,000	-
C.2. GRANTS FOR CERTAIN REFURBISHMENT WORKS	4,300	6,700	-
C.3. GRANT TO LOUVAIN INSTITUTE	1,000	1,000	-
D. PURCHASE OF SITES AND BUILDINGS			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	38,000		
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<u>7,000</u>	45,000	73,448
E. NEW WORKS, ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS			
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	276,350		
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<u>23,965</u>	300,315	231,179
F.1. MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLIES	35,503	43,322	2,920
F.2. GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AGENCY	1,019	888	106
F.3. RENTS, RATES, ETC.	124,000	124,451	(6,420)
F.4. FUEL, ELECTRICITY, WATER, CLEANING MATERIALS, ETC.	1,700	1,278	404
G. PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE OF ENGINEERING PLANT AND MACHINERY AND STORES	3,029	3,102	39
H.1. HYDROMETRIC AND HYDROLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING	1,979	1,390	28
H.2. FLOOD RELIEF PROJECTS	32,000	23,115	(12,925)
H.3. DRAINAGE - MAINTENANCE	18,249	19,344	473
I.1. HISTORIC PROPERTIES	16,716	18,545	378
I.2. NATIONAL MONUMENTS	17,832	17,974	408
I.3. VISITOR SERVICES	<u>8,101</u>	<u>9,427</u>	<u>39</u>

	€000	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
Gross Total				
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	637,622			
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<u>30,965</u>	668,587	630,486	(7,865)
<i>Deduct :-</i>				
J. APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID		<u>21,360</u>	<u>26,238</u>	<u>7,858</u>
Net Total				
<i>Current Year Provision</i>	616,262			
<i>Deferred Surrender</i>	<u>30,965</u>	<u>647,227</u>	<u>604,248</u>	<u>(15,723)</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		€42,979,339		
DEFERRED SURRENDER under Section 91 of the Finance Act 2004		€35,650,000		
SURPLUS TO BE SURRENDERED		€7,329,339		

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and Notes 1 to 17 form part of this Account.

NOTES

1 EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Appropriation Account for Vote 10 - Office of Public Works is compiled in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles with exceptions listed here.

(a) Operating Cost Statement

This statement includes amounts for Notional Rents on State-owned office accommodation based on the estimated replacement cost of renting standard office accommodation. It does not include unique or prestige buildings or properties in the OPW property portfolio such as Áras an Uachtaráin, the Farmleigh Estate and Dublin Castle, to which standard rental values would not be applicable.

(b) Statement of Capital Assets : Valuation of Land and Buildings

- (i) For the major part of the portfolio, estimates are based on building cost norms and standard land values have been used.
- (ii) In 1999, State-owned properties occupied by OPW itself were valued on the "existing use" basis.
- (iii) Properties purchased since 1 January 1995, which have not been revalued using the method outlined at (ii) above, have been valued at acquisition cost.
- (iv) When a property is sold and its valuation has been based on building cost norms and standard land values, the property is revalued in the Assets Register to reflect actual disposal proceeds.
- (v) Enhanced values were ascribed to a number of prestige buildings, such as Dublin Castle.
- (vi) Estimates have not been included for a small number of miscellaneous properties and sites whose total value is insignificant in the context of the overall OPW property portfolio.
- (vii) The term "additions" for Land and Buildings in Note 4 - Statement of Capital Assets refers only to the purchase price of properties acquired or the construction cost of new buildings.
- (viii) The method of assessment of property values is reviewed by the OPW on an ongoing basis.

(c) Capital Assets Under Development

Construction projects are valued on practical completion, therefore construction projects ongoing at 31 December 2007, are not shown as Capital Assets Under Development.

(d) Depreciation

Vehicles

The purchase price is depreciated by 25% in the year of purchase. For each succeeding year the written down value is reduced by 15%. This formula has been applied to most OPW vehicles. In the case of Heritage assets, plant and machinery is depreciated at 10% per annum. Engineering plant, such as excavators, are depreciated on the basis of use.

Other Capital Assets

Depreciation policy applied is determined locally. This is necessary because of the mix of assets concerned and in view of local knowledge and experience.

2 OPERATING COST STATEMENT FOR 2007

	€000	€000	€000
Net Outturn¹			604,248
Changes in Capital Assets			
Purchases Cash	(100,054)		
Disposals Cash ²	353		
Depreciation	7,259		
Gain on Disposals	<u>(15)</u>	(92,457)	
Assets under Development			
Cash Payments (Note 5)		(353)	
Changes in Net Current Assets			
Decrease in Closing Accruals	(7,605)		
Decrease in Stock	<u>117</u>	<u>(7,488)</u>	<u>(100,298)</u>
Direct Expenditure			503,950
Expenditure on services provided free to other Departments (Allied Services)	(312,520)		
Expenditure on services where OPW acts as client ³	<u>(54,536)</u>		<u>(367,056)</u>
Direct Expenditure (excluding Allied Services and services where OPW acts as client)			136,894
Expenditure Borne Elsewhere			
Vote 7 - Superannuation and Retired Allowances	23,839		
Notional Rents payable by OPW	<u>5,115</u>		<u>28,954</u>
Operating Cost⁴			<u>165,848</u>

Notes:

¹The Operating Cost figure is derived from the Net Outturn on Vote 10 only (€604.248m) whereas the total financial transactions of the OPW during 2007, including direct expenditure incurred by OPW and charged to other Votes, amounted to €783m.

²The Disposals Cash figure does not include proceeds from the sale of a number of properties in 2007, to the value of €3.54m, which were lodged directly to the Exchequer (Note 7 refers).

³The Direct Expenditure figure has been reduced by an amount of €54.536m which is the net cost of services where OPW acts as client in either carrying out or funding certain works on behalf of the State (e.g. drainage maintenance, flood relief, maintenance of heritage properties, grants for certain refurbishment works etc). The cost of such works and grants do not form part of the running costs of OPW.

⁴The Operating Cost figure does not include an amount for notional income

(i) Notional rents receivable by the OPW (i.e. the estimated total of all the rents which would be payable to OPW for the State-owned premises occupied by other Government Departments) are estimated at some €118m. If notional rents receivable by the OPW were included in the statement above the Operating Cost would work out at €47.848m

(ii) Amounts have not been included in the Statement in respect of notional income from client Departments in respect of services currently provided free of charge by the Office of Public Works.

3 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	€000	€000	€000
Capital Assets (Note 4)			2,763,541
Assets under Development (Note 5)			<u>775</u>
			2,764,316
Current Assets			
Stocks (Note 13)		1,672	
Prepayments		20,843	
Accrued Income		8,488	
Central Bank Account Balances	93,163		
Orders Outstanding	<u>(41,537)</u>	51,626	
Other Debit Balances:			
Suspense		<u>22,395</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>105,024</u>	
Less Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		12,978	
Deferred Income		630	
Other Credit Balances:			
Suspense	26,572		
Due to State (Note 14)	<u>1,593</u>	28,165	
Net Liability to the Exchequer (Note 6)		<u>45,856</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>87,629</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>17,395</u>
Net Assets			<u>2,781,711</u>

4 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Land and Buildings €000	Plant and Machinery €000	Office Equipment €000	Furniture and Fittings €000	Totals €000
Cost or Valuation at 1 January 2007	2,607,527	42,497	18,276	12,318	2,680,618
Adjustments	(681)	(3,558)	(3,663)	(1,712)	(9,614)
Additions	128,470	5,472	613	1,290	135,845
Disposals	<u>(318)</u>	<u>(2,545)</u>	=	=	<u>(2,863)</u>
Gross Assets at 31 December 2007	<u>2,734,998</u>	<u>41,866</u>	<u>15,226</u>	<u>11,896</u>	<u>2,803,986</u>
Accumulated Depreciation					
Opening Balance at 1 January 2007	-	22,986	12,976	6,977	42,939
Depreciation on Adjustments	-	(2,719)	(3,608)	(1,264)	(7,591)
Depreciation for the year	-	4,051	2,145	1,063	7,259
Depreciation on Disposals	=	<u>(2,162)</u>	=	=	<u>(2,162)</u>
Cumulative Depreciation at 31 December 2007	=	<u>22,156</u>	<u>11,513</u>	<u>6,776</u>	<u>40,445</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2007	<u>2,734,998</u>	<u>19,710</u>	<u>3,713</u>	<u>5,120</u>	<u>2,763,541</u>

In 2007 OPW carried out a review of its existing capital asset register in advance of the changeover to the computerised assets register under the Management Information Framework project. As a result of this review values for Cost and Accumulated Depreciation have been adjusted.

5 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Plant and Machinery €000	In House Computer Applications €000	Totals €000
Amounts brought forward at 1 January 2007	85	387	472
Cash Payments for the Year	245	108	353
Transferred to Asset Register	(45)	-	(45)
Adjustment	(5)	-	(5)
Amounts carried forward at 31 December 2007	<u>280</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>775</u>

6 NET LIABILITY TO THE EXCHEQUER

Reconciliation of Surplus to be Surrendered at year end to Debtor and Creditor Balances held at 31 December 2007

	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered		7,329
Surplus to be surrendered for previous years		6,327
Deferred surrender		35,650
Exchequer Grant undrawn		<u>(3,450)</u>
Net Liability to the Exchequer		<u>45,856</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Net Central Bank Position	51,626	
Debit Balances: Suspense	<u>22,395</u>	74,021
Creditors		
Due to State (Note 14)	(1,593)	
Credit Balances: Suspense	<u>(26,572)</u>	<u>(28,165)</u>
		<u>45,856</u>

7 EXTRA RECEIPTS PAYABLE TO THE EXCHEQUER

	€
Proceeds from sale of Property	3,540,000

8 EXPLANATION OF THE CAUSES OF VARIATION BETWEEN OUTTURN AND ESTIMATE PROVISION

Sub-head	Less/(More) Than Provided €000	Explanation
A.3.	(926)	The excess relates mainly to increased expenditure in a number of areas particularly in respect of short-term temporary workers and training.
A.4.	(500)	The excess is primarily due to the cost of upgrading telephone lines to regional offices.
B.	(86)	Greater than anticipated level of activity and events being held in Aras an Uachtarain led to excess expenditure.

Sub-head	Less/(More) Than Provided €000	Explanation
C.2.	(2,400)	Additional grants to Irish College Paris, Pontifical College Rome and Maynooth College Chapel including virement of funding from Subhead E. was sanctioned by the Department of Finance during 2007.
D.	(28,448)	The Office was successful in completing the acquisition of a greater number of sites and buildings than anticipated.
E.	69,136	The primary saving on Vote 10 in 2007 related to the Subhead E. Decentralisation allocation for the provision/build of accommodation. The saving was due mainly to a number of leased solutions replacing build solutions and delays experienced in relation to planning and certain other matters.
F.1.	(7,819)	The excess was due to unanticipated end lease refurbishment works and expenditure on essential maintenance works in order to comply with Health and Safety legislation.
F.2.	131	Savings due to less than anticipated demands for services.
F.4.	422	Increases in utility bill charges were not as significant as anticipated.
H.1.	589	Expenditure on contracts for the purchase of water level recording equipment was less than anticipated.
H.2.	8,885	The saving was due to some delays in commencing works at major schemes in Mallow, Clonmel and Ennis as a result of detailed design difficulties, ongoing negotiations with local authorities and post-tender negotiations with contractors. There was also less than anticipated expenditure on the Strategic Information Development Programme and delays in settling some major compensation claims.
H.3.	(1,095)	The excess is due to the greater than expected cost of materials for refurbishing flood embankments.
I.1.	(1,829)	An increase in the maintenance costs for Historic Properties, including pay, resulted in an excess.
I.3.	(1,326)	The excess was due to the settlement of a long-standing pay claim for industrial staff, and secondly increased expenditure on essential supplies.

9 APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID

	Estimated €	Realised €
1. Rents, Licence fees, etc.	3,500,000	4,257,217
2. Dublin Castle Receipts	850,000	888,029
3. Receipts by Government Supplies Agency for publication services	1,200,000	1,426,670
4. Recoveries for services carried out on repayment or agency basis	8,760,000	10,032,376
5. Sales at National Monuments and Historic Properties Visitor Centres	850,000	855,403
6. Admission charges at National Monuments and Historic Properties	4,700,000	5,050,379
7. Miscellaneous, including fees, disposals etc.	500,000	2,302,089
8. Receipts in respect of Bank Interest, Penal Interest, etc.	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,425,353</u>
Total	<u>21,360,000</u>	<u>26,237,516</u>

Explanation of Variations

- Rental income was greater than anticipated due to the receipt of rental arrears payments.
- Proceeds from Government Publication sales were greater than anticipated.
- The excess is due to continued billing of Building Maintenance Services.
- Surplus arose due to higher visitor numbers at some centres.
- The excess is due to a number of unanticipated receipts on concession fees, sale of plant and the cancellation of prior year payable orders.
- The excess is due to greater than anticipated bank interest received on cash balances.

10 COMMITMENTS

(A) Global Commitments

The global figure for non-capital commitments likely to arise in 2008 and subsequent years is estimated to be €2,702,396.

(B) Multi-annual Capital Commitments

The following table details expenditure in 2007 and commitments to be met in subsequent years on foot of capital projects where legally enforceable contracts were in place at 31 December 2007.

	€
Expenditure in 2007	207,355,727
Commitments to be met in subsequent years	237,113,461

(C) Major Capital Projects

Expenditure was incurred on eighteen major projects during 2007 where the total estimated cost of the individual project will exceed €6.5m. Particulars of these projects are as follows:

Project	Cumulative Expenditure to 1 Jan 2007 €	Expenditure 2007 €	Subsequent Years €	Total Estimated Project Cost €
Marine Institute, Galway	47,017,835	2,432,990	500,000	49,950,825
Department of Agriculture - New Laboratory, Backweston	114,294,831	2,079,432	300,000	116,674,263
Department of Finance - 7-9 Merrion Row	6,853,603	17,701,221	2,212,000	26,766,824
Department of Agriculture - Longtown Farm Project	948,049	727,606	13,200,000	14,875,655
Department of Agriculture Offices at Backweston	4,205,123	13,070,239	13,090,000	30,365,362
Ballymun Garda HQ & D/Social & Family Affairs Offices	2,305,720	16,582,669	9,111,611	28,000,000
Garda College, Templemore	19,714,494	628,588	-	20,343,082
Kilkenny Drainage Scheme	43,053,390	625,387	4,121,223	47,800,000
Roscommon Government Offices	9,730,868	538,704	-	10,269,572
NMI Collins Barracks - Military History Exhibition	7,462,967	188,201	146,202	7,797,370
Clonakilty Decentralisation	174,394	3,426,009	19,506,000	23,106,403
Trim Decentralisation	269,096	3,926,700	34,440,000	38,635,796
Wexford Decentralisation	9,285	4,079,738	15,884,000	19,973,023
Killarney Decentralisation	294,350	5,372,588	10,220,000	15,886,938
Sligo Decentralisation	9,580,528	2,517,892	150,000	12,248,420
Athlone Education Decentralisation	-	9,808,052	3,297,000	13,105,052
Longford Decentralisation	8,359,413	9,202,079	200	17,561,692
Buncrana Site Decentralisation	88,265	988,207	8,200,000	9,276,472

There were commitments outstanding at the end of 2007 in respect of rental of leased properties - longer term leases would normally have a specific provision or minimum notice period for early termination. Figures have not been included for such theoretical commitments in this Account.

11 DETAILS OF EXTRA REMUNERATION

	Amount Paid €	Number of Recipients	Recipients of €6,350 or more	Max. Individual Payment of €6,350 or more €
Higher, special or additional duties for civil service grades	341,235	113	12	12,527
Overtime for civil service grades	302,619	79	14	24,959
Higher, special or additional duties for OPW grades ¹	594,396	872	6	12,975
Overtime for OPW grades ¹	7,900,238	1,739	421	60,997
Miscellaneous	<u>67,667</u>	53	4	15,400
	<u>9,206,155</u>			

Notes:

Certain individuals received extra remuneration in more than one category.

¹ Extra remuneration for grades specific to OPW.

12 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Compensation and associated legal and miscellaneous costs totalling €239,655 and ranging from €1,222 to €133,803, were paid in six cases of personal injury claims by employees (Department of Finance delegated sanctions of 5/5/88, 8/8/91 and sanction of the State Claims Agency apply).

Sums totalling €171,224 and ranging from €1,249 to €70,064 were paid in settlement of ten claims for injuries to persons on State Property (Department of Finance delegated sanction of 8/8/91 and sanction of the State Claims Agency apply).

Three *ex-gratia* payments totalling €58,345 and ranging from €267 to €31,815 were made in respect of loss or damage arising from the activities of this Office (Department of Finance delegated sanction of 8/8/91 and sanction of the State Claims Agency apply).

Nine payments totalling €33,453 and ranging from €202 to €21,826 were made in respect of accidents involving State vehicles (Department of Finance delegated sanction of 8/8/91 and sanction of the State Claims Agency apply).

The outturn for subhead I.2. includes a payment of €12,500 in settlement of an Employment Appeals Tribunal case taken by a former employee of this Office.

Following a proposal from the Office's Partnership Committee, the merit pay element of the staff's remuneration package was put into a fund and used to pay for a social function for all staff of the Office (Administrative Budget Agreement paragraph 8.1.4).

The outturn for Subhead A.8. includes expenditure of €159,078 in 2007 in respect of the salaries of two officers participating in the Masters Programme in Public Policy Analysis without repayment, Department of Finance Circular 18/2005 refers.

Four retired civil servants in receipt of civil service pensions were re-employed and paid directly by OPW at a total cost of €35,178.

Penalty interest payments amounting to €35,352 were made by OPW in 2007 under the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, in respect of late payments. The total value of payments made by OPW in 2007 amounted to €783m.

As agreed with the Department of Finance under the delegated administrative budget scheme, a carryover of €2.123m from the Vote for 2007 was included in the Estimate for 2008.

Under the provisions of Section 91 of the Finance Act 2004, €35.65m of unspent allocation in respect of the capital elements of Subhead E. was carried forward to 2008.

In addition to expenditure on Vote 10, the OPW also acts as an agent, and incurs expenditure, on behalf of other Government Departments and Agencies. Funding for this expenditure is provided to OPW by the sponsoring Department/Agency and appears as a charge on the account of the client organisation. The main areas of expenditure in 2007 were Major Capital Works (€52m), Health & Safety Works (€41m), Maintenance Works (€22m), Prison Projects (€12m), Purchase of Sites and Buildings (€15m) and Leasing of Accommodation (€10m). Total expenditure in 2007 was €153m.

13 STOCKS

Stocks at 31 December 2007 comprised:	€000
Engineering Stocks	857
Heritage Depot Stocks	351
Building Materials	335
Paper and Stationery	103
Miscellaneous Stocks	<u>26</u>
	<u>1,672</u>

14 DUE TO THE STATE

The amount due to the State at 31 December 2007 consisted of:	€000
Withholding Tax	1,194
Income Tax	4
Value Added Tax	178
Pension Contributions	52
Receipts from Sales of State Property	28
Loan Repayments	<u>137</u>
	<u>1,593</u>

15 NEW WORKS, ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS**Analysis of Major Expenditure in 2007**

Project Title:	Estimated Provision €	Outturn €
1. Garda Stations - Building Programme	30,000,000	30,212,762
2. Templemore Garda College	440,000	372,404
3. Office Provision and Rationalisation	45,000,000	41,239,580
4. Universal Access Programme	5,000,000	4,125,354
5. Health and Safety Programme	2,000,000	2,061,181
6. Cultural Institutions Programme	5,000,000	4,853,848
7. Decentralisation Programme	135,000,000	63,388,409
8. Minor New Works Programme	20,000,000	33,939,273
9. National Conference Centre	500,000	839,721
10. Marine Institute Galway	3,400,000	2,432,990
11. State Laboratories and Department of Agriculture and Food Laboratories	3,500,000	2,089,172
12. Land Registry - Santry Warehouse	3,450,000	2,417,733
13. Other Projects	1,460,000	13,220,802
14. Leinster House Projects	1,500,000	5,531,004
15. Ballymun Garda HQ and Department of Social and Family Affairs	8,000,000	16,582,669
16. Forensic Science Laboratory, Garda HQ	8,000,000	1,026,748
17. Mountjoy Redevelopment	2,100,000	643,486
18. Heritage Projects	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>6,201,935</u>
Total	<u>276,350,000</u>	<u>231,179,071</u>

16 SERVICES SUPPLIED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS 2007 (SUBHEAD F.3. - RENTS, RATES ETC.)

Departments, etc	Estimate Provision €	Outturn €
Oireachtas	1,228,000	1,512,326
Taoiseach	328,000	305,833
Finance	3,684,000	3,886,783
Central Statistics Office	252,000	1,141,540
Comptroller and Auditor General	567,000	723,788
Revenue	27,828,000	23,283,693
Office of Public Works	5,158,000	2,260,069
Attorney General	63,000	83,456
Director of Public Prosecutions	1,085,000	1,075,501
Valuation Office	1,785,000	1,633,236
Public Appointments Service	2,156,000	2,095,654
Ombudsman	1,172,000	1,135,723
Chief State Solicitor's Office	674,000	722,088
Justice, Equality & Law Reform	14,569,000	16,443,196
Garda Síochána	4,568,000	7,274,031
Prisons	1,979,000	1,074,711
Court Services	943,000	924,041
Property Registration Authority	1,953,000	1,855,031
Charitable Donations	115,000	56,250
Environment, Heritage & Local Government	2,400,000	2,435,406
Education & Science	5,383,000	6,041,267
Foreign Affairs	5,619,000	5,879,830
Social and Family Affairs	15,347,000	14,703,467
Health and Children	2,117,000	2,615,188
Agriculture and Food	6,303,000	6,604,288
Enterprise, Trade and Employment	6,044,000	6,620,489
Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	3,433,000	3,292,578
Transport	4,421,000	5,560,330
Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	1,457,000	1,683,381
Arts, Sport and Tourism	852,000	1,018,215
National Gallery	13,000	21,970
Defence	<u>504,000</u>	<u>487,771</u>
Total	<u>124,000,000</u>	<u>124,451,130</u>

17 ENHANCING INTERNAL CONTROLS

A statement on internal financial controls in the standard format for the year ended 31 December 2007 has been submitted with this account to the Comptroller and Auditor General. The following actions have been taken or are planned to enhance the system of internal control as regards staff training, risk management, security of information and communications technology and ongoing review of the effectiveness of administrative and financial controls.

The Office of Public Works operates the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) which assists in identifying staff training needs for financial management and accounting skills and facilitates the organisation and sourcing of training needs.

A Risk Management Committee has been established in the Office of Public Works and a risk assessment and management regime covering business, financial and accounting risks is in place.

The Office has up-to-date computer desk-top hardware and software, with modern networks, servers and systems and this infrastructure is managed and secured to current best practice. In addition, the Office introduced a new Financial Management System in 2006 and is well advanced in implementing the Management Information Framework (MIF).

Finally, the structures within the Office at both managerial and audit level, including Internal Audit and the Audit Committee, provide for ongoing review of the effectiveness of the Office's system of administrative and financial controls.

SEÁN BENTON
Accounting Officer
OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS
27 March 2008

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for the Office of Public Works for 2007 under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993. The Appropriation Account has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles on pages v-viii. The responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the basis of the audit opinion are set out on pages iii-v.

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 Office of Public Works. 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 2007. Attention is drawn to Chapter 4 of the report for 2007 prepared by me pursuant to Section 3 of the Act.



JOHN BUCKLEY
Comptroller and Auditor General
19 September 2008