

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

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 the expenses of the Health Service Executive and certain other services administered by the Executive, including miscellaneous grants.

Service	€000	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
ADMINISTRATION				
A.1. SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES OF CORPORATE HSE				
<i>Original</i>	57,849			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>4,900</u>	62,749	61,695	27,542
A.2. VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS				
<i>Original</i>	400			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>100</u>	500	450	-
SERVICES				
B.1 HSE - EASTERN REGIONAL AREA				
<i>Original</i>	2,696,095			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>43,000</u>	2,739,095	2,725,581	208,776
B.2 HSE - MIDLAND AREA				
<i>Original</i>	614,820			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>33,000</u>	647,820	654,883	55,656
B.3 HSE - MID-WESTERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	828,786			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>9,000</u>	837,786	821,935	72,523
B.4 HSE - NORTH EASTERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	830,456			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(2,000)</u>	828,456	827,699	79,418
B.5 HSE - NORTH WESTERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	726,733			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>16,000</u>	742,733	748,473	49,041
B.6 HSE - SOUTH EASTERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	1,049,114			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>6,000</u>	1,055,114	1,060,144	109,521
B.7 HSE - SOUTHERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	1,435,154			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(9,000)</u>	1,426,154	1,411,987	131,858
B.8 HSE - WESTERN AREA				
<i>Original</i>	1,195,049			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>16,000</u>	1,211,049	1,187,757	87,234
B.9 GRANTS IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN OTHER HEALTH BODIES INCLUDING VOLUNTARY AND JOINT BOARD HOSPITALS				
<i>Original</i>	2,017,220			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>87,000</u>	2,104,220	2,101,226	206,329
B.10 HSE - MEDICAL CARD SERVICES SCHEME				
<i>Original</i>	1,592,638			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>30,000</u>	1,622,638	1,631,442	265,337
B.11 HEALTH AGENCIES AND OTHER SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS (PART FUNDED BY NATIONAL LOTTERY)		7,358	5,960	1,089
B.12 HOSPITAL, IN-PATIENT, OUT-PATIENT AND COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE CONTRACTED HEPATITIS C FROM THE USE OF IMMUNOGLOBULIN ANTI-D AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE HEALTH (AMENDMENT) ACT 1996		15,296	15,994	-
B.13 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISADVANTAGED AND DISABILITY (DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUNDED)				
<i>Original</i>	10,000			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(6,000)</u>	4,000	3,660	-

Service	€000	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
SERVICES (cont'd)				
B.14. PAYMENT TO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE HEALTH (REPAYMENT) SCHEME ACT 2006				
<i>Original</i>	360,000			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(216,000)</u>	144,000	131,706	-
B.15. PAYMENT TO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE HEPATITIS C COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) ACT 2006 - INSURANCE SCHEME				
<i>Original</i>	1,500			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(1,000)</u>	500	-	-
CAPITAL SERVICES				
C.1 BUILDING, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND OF HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING DEGREE PROGRAMME		487,411	528,975	102,003
C.2 BUILDING, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF HEALTH FACILITIES (PART FUNDED BY NATIONAL LOTTERY)		2,539	2,539	-
C.3 INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED SERVICES FOR HEALTH AGENCIES				
<i>Original</i>	49,000			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(20,999)</u>	<u>28,001</u>	<u>24,034</u>	=
Gross Total				
<i>Original</i>	13,977,418			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(9,999)</u>	13,967,419	13,946,140	1,396,327
<i>Deduct:-</i>				
D. APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID				
<i>Original</i>	2,503,009			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>2,493,009</u>	<u>2,510,678</u>	<u>97,734</u>
Net Total				
<i>Original</i>	11,474,409			
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>1</u>	<u>11,474,410</u>	<u>11,435,462</u>	<u>1,298,593</u>
SURPLUS TO BE SURRENDERED		€38,948,144		

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

NOTES

1 EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Superannuation

Superannuation is met on a pay as you go basis and the amounts due in respect of the year are included in the outturn of the HSE. Superannuation contributions are credited to the HSE Vote as Appropriations in Aid. Eligible staff employed in the health service on establishment of the HSE are members of a variety of defined benefit superannuation schemes. Under Section 23 of the Health Act, 2004, the HSE is required to establish a new scheme in respect of new staff employed from 1 January 2005. The HSE has developed a new scheme which has been submitted to the Minister for Health and Children for approval.

Remuneration

Accrued expenses includes liabilities in respect of remuneration earned up to 31 December 2007.

Statement of Capital Assets

Tangible fixed assets comprise Land, Buildings, Work in Progress, Equipment and Motor Vehicles. Tangible fixed asset additions since 1 January 2005 are stated at historic cost less accumulated depreciation. The carrying values of tangible fixed assets taken over from the predecessor bodies by the HSE are stated at book value on establishment day, 1 January 2005. Lands are valued at the Department of Health and Children valuation established in 2002.

Depreciation is calculated to write-off the book value of each tangible fixed asset over its useful economic life on a straight line basis at the following rates:

Land: land is not depreciated.

Buildings: depreciated at 2.5% per annum.

Modular buildings (i.e. prefabricated buildings): depreciated at 10% per annum.

Work in progress: no depreciation.

Equipment - computers: depreciated at 33.33% per annum.

Equipment - other: depreciated at 10% per annum.

Motor Vehicles: depreciated at 20% per annum.

Statement of Capital Assets under Development

A separate Statement has not been included as Capital Assets under Development are included as Work in Progress in the Statement of Capital Assets.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated proceeds of sales less costs to be incurred in the sale of stock.

2 OPERATING COST STATEMENT FOR 2007

	€000	€000	€000
Net Outturn			11,435,462
Changes in Capital Assets			
Purchases Cash	(404,273)		
Disposals Cash	15,206		
Depreciation	157,343		
Loss on Disposals	<u>6,394</u>	(225,330)	
Changes in Net Current Assets			
Increase in Closing Accruals	106,061		
Increase in Stock	<u>(7,110)</u>	<u>98,951</u>	<u>(126,379)</u>
Operating Cost			11,309,083
Reconciliation of Operating Cost to Expenditure Recognised in the Annual Financial Statements			
Operating Cost			11,309,083
Expenditure Met from Other Income			2,627,482
Capital Expenditure charged to Income and Expenditure Account			404,273
Depreciation			(157,343)
Loss on Disposals			<u>(6,394)</u>
Expenditure per Income and Expenditure Accounts			<u>14,177,101</u>
Revenue Expenditure per Revenue Income and Expenditure Account			13,541,204
Capital Expenditure per Capital Income and Expenditure Account			<u>635,897</u>
Expenditure per Income and Expenditure Accounts			<u>14,177,101</u>

3 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	€000	€000	€000
Capital Assets (Note 4)			4,835,703
Financial Assets			3
Current Assets			
Stocks (Note 15)	127,325		
Debtors and Prepayments	106,625		
Debit Balances: Suspense	93,365		
Debit Balances: Long Stay	11,777		
Bank and Cash	665		
PMG Balance	<u>86,179</u>		
Total Current Assets		<u>425,936</u>	
Less Current Liabilities			
Creditors	1,395,795		
Credit Balances: Suspense	28,851		
Credit Balances: Special I & E	14,898		
Deferred Income	<u>5,276</u>	1,444,820	
Other Credit Balances:			
Due to State (Note 16)	114,699		
EU Funding	-	114,699	
Net Liability to the Exchequer (Note 5)		<u>33,538</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,593,057</u>	
Net Current Liabilities			<u>(1,167,121)</u>
Net Assets			<u>3,668,585</u>

4 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Land €000	Buildings €000	Work-in Progress €000	Equipment €000	Vehicles €000	Totals €000
Cost or Valuation at 1 January 2007	2,019,649	2,256,851	376,382	941,501	73,999	5,668,382
Additions	17,840	52,299	196,630	132,746	4,758	404,273
Transfers from Work-in-Progress	-	119,673	(128,684)	-	9,011	-
Disposals	(12,740)	(2,984)	(9)	(47,962)	(2,741)	(66,436)
Gross Assets at 31 December 2007	<u>2,024,749</u>	<u>2,425,839</u>	<u>444,319</u>	<u>1,026,285</u>	<u>85,027</u>	<u>6,006,219</u>
Accumulated Depreciation:						
Opening Balance at 1 January 2007	-	407,315	-	595,078	55,616	1,058,009
Depreciation for the year	-	55,787	-	91,337	10,219	157,343
Depreciation on Disposals	-	(655)	-	(41,891)	(2,290)	(44,836)
Cumulative Depreciation at 31 December 2007	-	<u>462,447</u>	-	<u>644,524</u>	<u>63,545</u>	<u>1,170,516</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2007	<u>2,024,749</u>	<u>1,963,392</u>	<u>444,319</u>	<u>381,761</u>	<u>21,482</u>	<u>4,835,703</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 2007

	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered		38,948
Exchequer Grant Undrawn		(5,410)
Net Liability to the Exchequer		<u>33,538</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Net PMG Position and Cash	86,844	
Debit Balances: Long Stay	11,777	
Debit Balances : Suspense	<u>93,365</u>	191,986
Creditors		
Due to State (Note 16)	(114,699)	
Credit Balances: Special I & E	(14,898)	
Credit Balances: Suspense	<u>(28,851)</u>	<u>(158,448)</u>
		<u>33,538</u>

6 EXTRA EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS

Extra Exchequer Receipts totalling €15.160m in respect of the sale of land and buildings were paid to the Exchequer in 2007.

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

Sub-head	Less/(More) Than Provided €000	Explanation
A.2.	50	Expenditure incurred on Value for Money and Policy Reviews has also been charged to Subheads B.1. to B.8.
B.11.	1,398	National Lottery Grants are not paid until the conditions of the grant are fulfilled. Approved grants unpaid at 31 December 2007 amounted to €1.089m.
B.13.	340	Payments are based on requests for funding received from Pobal who administer the scheme.
B.14.	12,294	Payments to the Special Account are based on the estimated number and amount of offers of repayment accepted by the claimant and processed for payment by year end. The estimated number of offers and acceptances did not materialise.
B.15.	500	The life assurance element of the scheme was launched in September 2007. A further element, providing for travel insurance will be available from March 2008. Payments to the Special Account are due to commence in 2008.

Sub-head	Less/(More) Than Provided €000	Explanation
C.1.	(41,564)	The overspend is as a result of the progression of capital projects ahead of the anticipated stage development process agreed at the outset for the respective projects. This resulted in cash payments in excess of the original projections. In addition, minor capital payments were €20m higher than anticipated.
C.3.	3,967	ICT projects amounting to €42.38m were sanctioned by the Department of Finance in 2007. The ICT capital underspend is in respect of work to be completed on these projects in 2008 and implementation of a new project approval process.

8 APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID

	€	Estimated €	Realised €
1. Receipts from health contributions		1,265,734,000	1,298,199,252
2. Recovery of cost of Health Services provided under regulations of the European Community		450,000,000	450,000,000
3. Receipts from certain excise duties on tobacco products		167,605,000	167,605,000
4. Recovery from the UK Department of Health and Social Security of their share of the Leopardstown Park Hospital		170,000	173,260
5. Recoupment of certain Ophthalmic Services Scheme costs from the Social Insurance Fund		5,000,000	5,736,995
6. Recoupment of certain Dental Treatment Services Scheme costs from the Social Insurance Fund		8,500,000	9,088,137
7. Charges for maintenance in public and semi-private accommodation in public hospitals			
<i>Original</i>	286,000,000		
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(4,000,000)</u>	282,000,000	257,415,335
8. Dormant Accounts - Economic & Social Disadvantage			
<i>Original</i>	3,500,000		
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	2,000,000	2,007,514
9. Dormant Accounts - Disability			
<i>Original</i>	6,500,000		
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(4,500,000)</u>	2,000,000	1,652,345
10. Superannuation		200,000,000	198,153,049
11. Miscellaneous Receipts		<u>110,000,000</u>	<u>120,646,779</u>
Total			
<i>Original</i>	2,503,009,000		
<i>Supplementary</i>	<u>(10,000,000)</u>	<u>2,493,009,000</u>	<u>2,510,677,666</u>

Explanation of Variation

5. The number of claimants was higher than anticipated.
6. The number of claimants was higher than anticipated.
7. The amendment to the charging regime for long-stay charges resulted in lower than expected receipts.
9. Receipts for the Dormant Accounts Fund are based on payments made to Pobal.
11. Miscellaneous receipts were higher than anticipated.

9 COMMITMENTS

Global Commitments	€000
Commitments likely to arise in subsequent years for:	
Procurement Subheads	257,577
Operating Leases	35,009
Finance Leases	41,648

Legally Enforceable Capital Commitments	NHO/PCCC	Cumulative spend to 31 Dec 2007 €m	To be paid in subsequent years €m	Total €m
Capital Projects over €6.35 million:				
University College Hospital Galway - Phase 2	NHO	99.03	1.85	100.88
Cork University Hospital - Cardiac Renal	NHO	13.53	59.93	73.46
Cork University Hospital - A & E & DPU	NHO	26.94	1.36	28.30
Cork University Hospital - Infrastructure upgrade	NHO	20.78	1.40	22.18
Cork University Hospital - Amalgamated Maternity Unit	NHO	76.43	3.59	80.02
Bessboro , Co Cork - Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Unit	PCCC	0.35	6.80	7.15
COPE Foundation, Cork - Disability Services	PCCC	1.63	4.90	6.53
Tralee Community Nursing Unit	PCCC	3.87	5.49	9.36
An Daingean Community Hospital	PCCC	2.06	10.63	12.69
St Dymphna's, Kelvin Grove, Carlow - Intellectual Disability Unit	PCCC	1.39	6.73	8.12
St John's Hospital, Wexford, Phase 2 Development	PCCC	5.20	10.16	15.36
St Vincent's Hospital, Dungarvan, Co Waterford - Day Hospital	PCCC	2.37	7.83	10.20
Integrated Patient Management System	NHO	18.53	11.69	30.22
Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown - Surgical Block	NHO	9.62	2.00	11.62
St Ita's Portrane, Co Dublin - Residential Development	PCCC	4.11	11.83	15.94
St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park - Community Nursing Unit	PCCC	4.44	11.56	16.00
St Joseph's Raheny - Community Nursing Units	PCCC	-	15.96	15.96
Bloomfield Hospital, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16	PCCC	1.72	12.00	13.72
Community Nursing Units, Cherry Orchard, Ballyfermot, Dublin 20	PCCC	21.08	1.00	22.08
Clonbrusk, Athlone, Co Westmeath - Disability Day Service	PCCC	0.33	7.56	7.89
Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise - New A & E Unit	NHO	5.20	1.00	6.20
Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore - Construction	NHO	111.74	1.40	113.14
Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore - Equipment & Commissioning	NHO	14.95	5.72	20.67
General Hospital, Mullingar - Phase 2B	NHO	14.85	9.30	24.15
Clonskeagh CNU, Dublin 14 - Community Nursing Unit	PCCC	0.13	15.00	15.13
St Vincent's University Hospital - Phase 1	NHO	190.09	2.00	192.09
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children - MRI/Oncology/Haematology	NHO	10.50	0.40	10.90
Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital, Clontarf - Phase 2 Development	PCCC	4.89	9.80	14.69
Radiation Oncology Suites	NHO	5.72	7.00	12.72
Ambulance Services	NHO	<u>11.16</u>	<u>8.00</u>	<u>19.16</u>
Total		<u>682.64</u>	<u>253.89</u>	<u>936.53</u>

10 MATURED LIABILITIES UNDISCHARGED AT YEAR END

The total amount of matured liabilities undischarged at 31 December 2007 was €48,209,140.

11 DETAILS OF EXTRA REMUNERATION

	Amount Paid €	Number of Recipients	Recipients of €6,350 or more	Max. individual payment of €6,350 or more €
Allowances	123,839,520	48,511	3,279	153,481
Overtime	219,698,015	33,866	8,317	140,986
Night duty	72,885,447	36,757	2,206	40,548
Weekends	193,417,810	61,465	7,557	32,755
On-Call	57,246,990	7,999	2,189	170,426
Other	<u>44,566,194</u>	27,122	653	124,629
Total extra remuneration	<u>711,653,976</u>			

Note 1: Certain individuals received extra remuneration in more than one category.

Note 2: HSE extra remuneration costs above relate to HSE employees only.

12 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The HSE paid €26,036,910 in respect of insurance policies in 2007 and this is reflected in the outturn for Subhead A.1.

There were a total of 2,346 outstanding claims against the HSE with Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd. at the end of 2007.

The HSE paid a further €2,167,061 in respect of various claims brought against it and settled in 2007 which were not covered under insurance.

The HSE had 179 outstanding claims for compensation at 31 December 2007.

Other ex-gratia payments made during 2007 amounting to €892,252 were also paid.

The cost of severance awards paid in 2007 totalled €844,866.

Payments to retired staff for services in 2007 amounted to €10,653,282.

Gratuities (excluding lump sums) amounted to €1,824,234 while other payments amounted to €1,546,986.

Performance related pay in 2007 was €2,008,165.

During 2007 the HSE wrote off bad debts to the value of €14,097,217 and other write offs for obsolete stocks etc. amounted to €276,678.

Prompt Payment Interest paid by the HSE in 2007 was €533,567.

Payments of €256,803 were made in 2007 arising from Labour Relations Commission/Rights Commissioners awards.

In addition to amounts expended under Subheads B.1. – B.8. €4,594,447 was received from the Change Management Fund, Subhead M. of the Vote of the Minister for Finance.

The HSE is insured against employers liability and public liability risks up to an indemnity limit, under both retro-rated and flat-rated basis. Under the retro-rated basis, the final premium is not determined until the end of the coverage period and is based on the HSE's loss experience for that same period. The retro-rated adjustment payable by the HSE is subject to maximum and minimum limits. At 31 December 2007, it was not possible to accurately quantify the liability, if any, which may arise as a result of future retro-rating. The maximum liabilities for retro-rated claims still outstanding, based on agreed levels of each insurable risk, is €144,370 and €6,232,520 for employers liability and public liability respectively. All insurance premiums from 1 January 2001 have been paid on a flat basis only and no retro-rating applies to cover from this date forward.

The HSE is involved in a number of claims involving legal proceedings which may generate liabilities, depending on the outcome of the litigation. It is the policy of the HSE to defend all appropriate cases and in pursuit of this policy it may enter into without prejudice settlements not involving the admission of liability. The HSE has insurance cover for public and employer liability, fire and specific all-risk claims. In most cases such insurance would be sufficient to cover all costs, but this cannot be certain.

The Health Repayment Scheme closed to new applicants on 31 December 2007 and 14,500 applications have been received in respect of living patients and 24,300 applications in respect of estates. The Scheme is now estimated to cost in the region of €400m. The Scheme received some applications relating to patients in private nursing homes which were turned down on the basis that they were not contemplated within the scope of the Scheme. Proceedings have been instituted in 283 cases, involving patients who spent time in private nursing homes. None of the cases have yet proceeded to a hearing. Consequently, it is considered inappropriate to attempt to estimate any potential future liability or to detail the uncertainties attaching thereto since to do so might prejudice the outcome of court proceedings.

13 EU FUNDING

The outturn shown for Subhead C.1. includes expenditure which was co-financed under the INTERREG III A Initiative from the European Development Fund.

14 NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

Payments in the year ended 31 December 2007

Block Allocations to HSE Areas	€
Eastern Regional Authority	2,349,651
Midland	940,480
Mid Western	540,532
North Western	215,111
North Eastern	424,526
South Eastern	581,791
Southern	471,905
Western	<u>435,807</u>
Total	<u>5,959,803</u>

15 STOCKS

Stocks at 31 December 2007 comprised:

	€000
Medical, Dental and Surgical Supplies	37,351
Laboratory Supplies	6,943
Pharmacy Supplies	21,251
High Tech Pharmacy Stocks	21,850
Pharmacy Dispensing Stocks	2,473
Blood and Blood Products	1,406
Vaccine Stocks	23,397
Household Services	9,602
Stationery and Office Supplies	2,616
Sundries	<u>436</u>
Total	<u>127,325</u>

16 DUE TO THE STATE

The amount due to the State at 31 December 2007 consisted of:

	€000
Income Tax	53,440
Pay Related Social Insurance	37,161
Withholding Tax	22,798
Value Added Tax	<u>1,300</u>
Total	<u>114,699</u>

17 ENHANCING INTERNAL CONTROLS

A Statement of 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.

In 2007, I commissioned a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control in the HSE. This review was conducted by a project team comprising senior managers who have specific expertise in the areas of finance, audit and control. The project team was advised and assisted by the Institute of Public Administration. The formal review of internal control in 2006 established a template which has been followed in carrying out a similar review in 2007.

The current review involved a number of steps as follows:

- Assessment of progress with the implementation of the guidance for action contained in the 2006 report;
- Consideration of Controls Assurance Statement completed by each National Director;
- Assessment of management's mitigation of potential risks identified by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG);
- Review of Internal Audit Reports and C&AG management letters;
- Structured bilateral interviews with a representative sample of 50 senior managers including members of the corporate management team and other managers randomly selected from across the organisation.

The report of the project team was circulated to senior management in March 2008. This report was reviewed and discussed by the Audit Committee at its March 2008 meeting. In summary, the overall conclusion from this review is that while the control environment, control and risk management processes and assurance arrangements remain largely effective, there are a number of areas where specific action is recommended to increase effectiveness and consolidate on the improvements which are in evidence since the previous report. A structured plan for the implementation of these recommendations is being followed up by management.

PROFESSOR BRENDAN DRUMM

Accounting Officer
HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE
28 March 2008

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for the Health Service Executive 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 Health Service Executive. 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 14 of the report for 2007 prepared by me in pursuance of Section 3 of the Act.



JOHN BUCKLEY
Comptroller and Auditor General
19 September 2008