

## **Vote 23 Property Registration Authority**

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## **Introduction**

As Accounting Officer for Vote 23, 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 2011 for the salaries and expenses of the Property Registration Authority.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2011, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and notes 1 to 6 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;

#### ***Statement of Capital Assets - Depreciation***

Capital assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful life starting in the month placed in service.

### **Statement on Internal Financial Control**

Along with the Account, I have submitted a statement in the standard format on the system of internal financial control that operates in the Property Registration Authority.

**John O'Sullivan**  
Accounting Officer  
Property Registration Authority  
15 March 2012

## **Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

I have audited the Appropriation Account of Vote 23: Property Registration Authority for 2011 under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993. The Account has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles. The duties of the Accounting Officer and of the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to the Appropriation Accounts, and the basis of the audit opinion, are set out in Part 1 to this volume.

I have obtained all the information and explanations I considered necessary for the purposes of my audit. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Property Registration Authority. 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 2011.

**Seamus McCarthy**  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
25 July 2012

## Vote 23 Property Registration Authority Appropriation Account 2011

Service	2011 Estimate provision	2011 Outturn	2010 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
<b>Administration</b>			
A.1. Salaries, wages and allowances	27,138	26,046	26,831
A.2. Travel and subsistence	124	97	97
A.3. Incidental expenses	4,309	3,749	4,672
A.4. Postal and telecommunications services	1,450	794	932
A.5. Office machinery and other office supplies, and related services	2,742	1,436	3,004
A.6. Office premises expenses	580	696	832
A.7. Consultancy services	55	20	33
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>32,838</b>	<b>36,401</b>
<b>Deduct</b>			
A.8. Appropriations-in-aid	1,226	1,355	1,402
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>35,172</b>	<b>31,483</b>	<b>34,999</b>
<b>Surplus to be surrendered</b>		<b>€3,688,530</b>	<b>€3,749,588</b>

## Notes to the Appropriation Account

### 1 Operating Cost Statement 2011

	Note	€000	2011 €000	2010 €000
Expenditure on administration			32,838	36,401
<b>Gross expenditure</b>			<u>32,838</u>	<u>36,401</u>
Deduct				
<b>Appropriations-in-aid</b>			<u>1,355</u>	<u>1,402</u>
<b>Net expenditure</b>			<u>31,483</u>	<u>34,999</u>
<b>Changes in capital assets</b>				
Purchases cash		(222)		
Depreciation		3,772		
Loss on disposals		7	3,557	1,639
<b>Changes in net current assets</b>				
Increase in closing accruals		27		
Increase in stock		(23)		
			<u>4</u>	<u>(77)</u>
<b>Direct expenditure</b>			<u>35,044</u>	<u>36,561</u>
Net allied services expenditure	1.1		5,481	5,394
Notional rents			2,385	3,463
<b>Total operating cost</b>			<u><u>42,910</u></u>	<u><u>45,418</u></u>

#### 1.1 Net Allied Services

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following estimated amounts in relation to Vote 23 borne elsewhere

Vote		2011 €000	2010 €000
7	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	4,030	3,724
10	Office of Public Works	1,206	1,419
19	Justice and Equality - Financial Shared Services Centre	245	251
		<u>5,481</u>	<u>5,394</u>

## 2 Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2011

	Note	2011 €000	2010 €000
<b>Capital assets</b>	<b>2.1</b>	6,802	10,388
		<b>6,802</b>	<b>10,388</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	2.3	323	300
Prepayments		635	611
Accrued income		—	34
Other debit balances	2.4	556	129
Net liability from the Exchequer	2.6	483	250
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,324</b>
<b>Less current liabilities</b>			
Bank and cash	2.2	330	(351)
Accrued expenses		157	169
Other credit balances	2.5	709	730
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,196</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		801	776
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,603</b>	<b>11,164</b>
<b>Represented by :</b>			
<b>State funding account</b>		<b>7,603</b>	<b>11,164</b>

**2.1 Statement of Capital Assets**

	Office equipment €000	Furniture and fittings €000	Total €000
<b>Gross assets</b>			
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2011	40,329	4,312	44,641
Additions	168	25	193
Disposals	(615)	(155)	(770)
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2011	39,882	4,182	44,064
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
Opening balance at 1 January 2011	30,451	3,802	34,253
Depreciation for the year	3,653	119	3,772
Depreciation on disposals	(609)	(154)	(763)
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2011	33,495	3,767	37,262
<b>Net assets at 31 December 2011</b>	<b>6,387</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>6,802</b>
<b>Net assets at 31 December 2010</b>	<b>9,878</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>10,388</b>

**2.2 Bank and Cash**

	2011 €000	2010 €000
at 31 December		
PMG balances and cash	198	473
Orders outstanding	(528)	(122)
	(330)	351

**2.3 Stocks**

	2011 €000	2010 €000
at 31 December		
Stationery	151	100
Miscellaneous supplies	18	17
IT consumables	154	183
	323	300

**2.4 Other Debit Balances**

	2011 €000	2010 €000
at 31 December		
Suspense	533	32
Advances to OPW	18	94
Imprests	5	3
	556	129

<b>2.5 Other Credit Balances</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
at 31 December	<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>

**Amounts due to the State**

Income Tax	343	257
Retention Tax	1	1
Pay Related Social Insurance	160	219
Valued Added Tax	21	58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	525	535
Payroll deductions	184	195
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	709	730
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**2.6 Net Liability from the Exchequer**

at 31 December	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>
Surplus to be surrendered	3,688	3,749
Exchequer grant undrawn	(4,171)	(3,999)
Net liability from the Exchequer	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(483)	(250)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Represented by:****Debtors**

Debit balances: suspense	556	129
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	556	129

**Creditors**

Bank and cash	(330)	351
Due to State	(525)	(535)
Credit balances: suspense	(184)	(195)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(1,039)	(379)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(483)	(250)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**2.7 Commitments**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>
<b>Global Commitments</b>		
Total of legally enforceable commitments	104	133

**2.8 Matured Liabilities**

Matured liabilities not discharged at year end amounted to €732 (2010 - €1,452).



### 3 Variations in Expenditure

An explanation is provided below in the case of each expenditure subhead where the outturn varied from the amount provided by more than €100,000, and by more than 25%.

Subhead	Less/(more) than provided €000	Explanation
A.4.	656	The PRA continues to modernise its telephone arrangements which is yielding sustainable savings. In addition there was a reduced volume of postal activity in 2011.
A.5.	1,306	The underspend arose as there were no major IT capital projects commenced in 2011.

### 4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid	2011 Estimated €000	2011 Realised €000	2010 Realised €000
Pension-related deduction on public service remuneration	1,226	1,355	1,402

#### 4.2 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

	2011 Estimated €000	2011 Realised €000	2010 Realised €000
Land Registry fees	24,000	23,330	28,646
Registry of Deeds fees	2,000	1,359	1,733
Ground rent fees	100	77	83
	<b>26,100</b>	<b>24,766</b>	<b>30,462</b>

Fee income continued to decline in 2011 as a result of a lower level of activity in the property market.

## 5 Employee Numbers and Pay

	2011	2010
<b>Number of Staff at Year End</b> (full time equivalents)	573	586
	<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>
Pay	24,481	24,932
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	—	(3)
Other allowances	86	79
Overtime	153	479
Employer's PRSI	1,326	1,344
<b>Total pay</b>	<b>26,046</b>	<b>26,831</b>

### 5.1 Allowances and Overtime Payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Maximum individual payment 2011 €	Maximum individual payment 2010 €
Higher, special or additional duties	—	—	—	—
Other allowances	44	—	7,870	7,879
Overtime	32	2	13,075	13,905

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

## 6 Compensation Payments

All titles registered on the Land Register are guaranteed by the State. Section 120 of the Registration of Title Act, 1964 provides for the payment of compensation to a person who suffers a loss through reliance on the Register where the loss is not caused or substantially contributed to by the act, neglect or default of himself or his agent. Thirty two compensation payments (27 - 2010) totalling €208,627 were paid in 2011 (2010 - € 167,557).