

Appropriation Account 2021

Vote 7

Office of the Minister for Finance

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 7, 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 2021 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Finance, including the Paymaster-General's Office, for certain services administered by the Office of the Minister and for payment of certain grants.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2021, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year.

A surplus of €4.284 million is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

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, as set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in circulars 1 and 9 of 2022, have been applied in the preparation of the account, with the following exceptions.

Depreciation

Depreciation calculated annually is charged in full in the year of acquisition/commission. No depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

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.

Shared services

Payroll and human resource functions are provided on a shared basis by the National Shared Services Office (Vote 18). I have fulfilled my responsibilities in relation to the requirements of the service management agreement between this Department and the National Shared Services Office for the provision of HR and payroll shared services.

The Accounting Officer of the National Shared Services Office is responsible for the operation of controls within the Shared Services Centres.

The Accounting Officer of the National Shared Services Office has put in place an audit process to provide independent assurance on the operation of controls within shared services. This assurance is a combination of:

- Internal audit work performed by the National Shared Services Office's internal audit unit, and
- Audits conducted by a firm of accountants in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE 3402), designed to report to user departments and their auditors on the controls within shared services. These audits report on the effectiveness of controls operated in 2021.

The Accounting Officer for the National Shared Services Office has provided me with a letter of assurance on the internal control and audit arrangements and reports on the audits of the operation of controls during 2021. I take assurance from the system of control within shared services as reported to me by the Accounting Officer for the National Shared Services Office.

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.
- 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.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

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
- 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.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

I confirm that the Department uses the services of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform internal audit function under the terms of the service level agreement between the two Departments. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's internal audit unit operates under a written charter which has been approved by the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department of Finance is exposed and its annual internal audit plans (which are prepared in consultation with the Audit Committee and 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 have put procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

Non-compliance with procurement rules

I confirm that 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 relevant guidelines with the exception of one contract (in excess of €25,000).

A mobile phone service provider was sourced to provide handsets and international mobile services to the Department during Q4 2018. The total value of this contract was €39,996. The actual expenditure in 2021 was €9,500. A competitive tendering process was not undertaken as the Department urgently required specific international mobile service for those users with critical international business needs. A competitively procured contract is now in place following a competition undertaken by the Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) in 2021 whereby a supplier has been appointed from an Office of Government Procurement (OGP) framework. Expenditure on the old contract was incurred in 2021 during the period of migration to the new supplier contract.

The Department has provided details of eight non-competitive contracts in the annual return in respect of Circular 40/2002 to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Risk and control framework

The Department has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the Department and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Executive Board on a quarterly basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

Ongoing monitoring and review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes so that control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action, to management and the Executive Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

Review of effectiveness

I confirm that the Department has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The Department's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors and the senior management within the Department responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal financial control framework.

Internal financial control issues

No weaknesses in internal financial control were identified in relation to 2021 that require disclosure in the appropriation account.

Covid-19 control issues

In March 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, business continuity measures were put into effect to deal with the impact of Covid-19. This facilitated the Department in remaining fully operational during 2021 while becoming a predominantly remote working organisation.

Given the duration of the organisation-wide remote working, an emphasis has been placed on maintaining an effective control environment, through measures such as updated policies and guidelines (e.g. data protection, ICT, records management), additional cybersecurity including relevant training, management communications and a focus on staff engagement and well-being. There was also engagement with civil service sectoral groups and wider public sector organisations on targeted Covid-19 management/prevention measures.

Specific risks arising from the remote-working environment and appropriate mitigation have been considered at Executive Board and risk committee meetings and by the Department's Covid Response Management Group and subgroup.

John Hogan

Accounting Officer

Office for the Minister for Finance

30 March 2022

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance

Opinion on the appropriation account

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance for the year ended 31 December 2021 under section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.

In my opinion, the appropriation account

- properly presents the receipts and expenditure of Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance for the year ended 31 December 2021, and
- has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the appropriation account in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Office of the Minister for Finance and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on the statement on internal financial control, and on other matters

The Accounting Officer has presented a statement on internal financial control together with the appropriation account. My responsibilities to report in relation to the information in the statement, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Seamus McCarthy

Comptroller and Auditor General

6 September 2022

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer

The Accounting Officer is responsible for

- the preparation of the appropriation account in accordance with Section 22 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866
- ensuring the appropriation account complies with the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's *Public Financial Procedures*, and with other directions of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
- ensuring the regularity of transactions, and
- implementing such internal control as the Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the appropriation account free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities 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 account and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas stating whether, in my opinion, the account properly presents the receipts and expenditure related to the vote.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the appropriation account.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I assess whether the accounting provisions of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's *Public Financial Procedures* have been complied with.

I communicate with the Accounting Officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the appropriation account to be readily and properly audited, or
- the appropriation account is not in agreement with the accounting records.

Reporting on the statement on internal financial control

My opinion on the appropriation account does not cover the Accounting Officer's statement on internal financial control, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the appropriation account, I am required under the ISAs to read the statement on internal financial control and, in doing so, consider whether the information contained therein is materially inconsistent with the appropriation account or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I am required to report under section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993 if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I am also required under the 1993 Act to prepare, in each year, a report on such matters arising from my audits of the appropriation accounts as I consider appropriate. In such cases, the certificates of opinion on the relevant appropriation accounts refer to the relevant chapter(s) in my annual *Report on the Accounts of the Public Services*.

Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance

Appropriation Account 2021

	2021		2020
	Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Programme expenditure			
A Economic and fiscal policy	26,076	24,014	23,573
B Banking and financial services policy	14,585	12,364	12,404
Gross expenditure	40,661	36,378	35,977
<i>Deduct</i>			
C Appropriations-in-aid	1,150	1,151	753
Net expenditure	39,511	35,227	35,224

Surplus

The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

	2021	2020
	€	€
Surplus to be surrendered	4,283,596	3,348,805

John Hogan

Accounting Officer
Office of the Minister for Finance

30 March 2022

Notes to the Appropriation Account

Note 1 Operating Cost Statement 2021

		2021	2020
	€000	€000	€000
Programme cost		9,925	13,070
Pay		22,144	19,649
Non pay		4,309	3,258
Gross expenditure		36,378	35,977
<i>Deduct</i>			
Appropriations-in-aid		1,151	753
Net expenditure		35,227	35,224
 Changes in capital assets			
Depreciation	15	15	42
 Changes in net current assets			
Decrease in closing accruals	(20)		
Increase in stock	(8)	(28)	181
 Direct expenditure		35,214	35,447
 Expenditure borne elsewhere			
Net allied services expenditure (note 1.1)		14,418	13,590
Notional rents		1,236	1,065
Net programme cost		50,868	50,102

1.1 Net allied services expenditure

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following amounts in relation to Vote 7 borne elsewhere, net of costs of shared services provided to other Votes.

		2021	2020
		€000	€000
Vote 12	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	14,079	12,941
Vote 13	Office of Public Works ^a	974	1,342
Vote 18	National Shared Services Office	35	33
Vote 43	Office of Government Chief Information Officer ^a	435	365
Central Fund - ministerial pensions		256	245
		<u>15,779</u>	<u>14,926</u>
Costs of shared services provided to other Votes ^a		<u>(1,361)</u>	<u>(1,336)</u>
		<u>14,418</u>	<u>13,590</u>

Note ^a These amounts include costs which are estimated with the actual cost being apportioned based on headcount.

Note 2 Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 €000	2020 €000
Capital assets	2.1	6	21
Current assets			
Bank and cash		1,194	1,659
Stocks	2.2	23	15
Prepayments	2.3	387	371
Other debit balances	2.4	125	28
Accrued income		—	29
Total current assets		1,729	2,102
Less current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	2.5	364	397
Other credit balances	2.6	857	1,501
Net Exchequer funding	2.7	462	186
Total current liabilities		1,683	2,084
Net current assets		46	18
Net assets		52	39
Represented by:			
State funding account	2.8	52	39

2.1 Capital assets

	IT equipment €000	Office equipment €000	Total €000
Gross assets			
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2021	222	223	445
Additions	—	—	—
Disposals	—	—	—
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2021	222	223	445
Accumulated depreciation			
Opening balance at 1 January 2021	204	220	424
Depreciation for the year	12	3	15
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2021	216	223	439
Net assets at 31 December 2021	6	—	6
Net assets at 31 December 2020	18	3	21

2.2 Stocks

at 31 December	2021 €000	2020 €000
Stationery	15	8
IT consumables	8	7
	23	15

2.3 Prepayments

at 31 December	2021 €000	2020 €000
IT licences and support	238	268
Training	70	59
Subscriptions	42	13
Other prepayments	37	31
	387	371

2.4 Other debit balances

at 31 December	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Recoupable travel expenditure	5	15
Recoupable travel pass expenditure	20	1
Other debit suspense items	100	12
	125	28

2.5 Accrued expenses

at 31 December	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Secondment costs	190	226
Office premises expenses	109	48
General administration	34	65
Consultancy and other services	31	58
	364	397

2.6 Other credit balances

at 31 December	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income tax	316	285
Pay related social insurance	199	192
Professional services withholding tax	1	54
Value added tax	38	29
Pension contributions	71	89
Local property tax	1	1
Universal social charge	63	57
	689	707
Payroll deductions held in suspense	69	85
Recoupable salaries	95	15
Other credit suspense items	4	694
	857	1,501

2.7 Net Exchequer funding

at 31 December	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	4,284	3,349
Exchequer grant undrawn	(3,822)	(3,163)
Net Exchequer funding	462	186
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Bank and cash	1,194	1,659
Debit balances: suspense	125	28
	1,319	1,687
Creditors		
Due to the State	(689)	(707)
Credit balances: suspense	(168)	(794)
	(857)	(1,501)
	462	186

2.8 State funding account

	Note	2021	2020
		€000	€000
Balance at 1 January		39	502
Disbursements from the Vote			
Estimate provision	Account	39,511	
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(4,284)	
Net vote		35,227	35,224
Expenditure (cash) borne elsewhere	1.1	14,418	13,590
Non-cash items – capital asset adjustment	2.1	—	(240)
Non cash expenditure – notional rent	1	1,236	1,065
Net programme cost	1	(50,868)	(50,102)
Balance at 31 December		52	39

2.9 Matured liabilities

at 31 December	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Estimate of matured liabilities not discharged at year end	2	1

2.10 Contingent liabilities

There is litigation in progress regarding Irish Bank Resolution Corporation (IBRC) and Permanent TSB. These actions are being defended and no estimate of the potential liability has been made.

Certain third party protections (in the form of warranties and indemnities) have been provided in connection with the sale of Irish Life Limited, the disposal of the Bank of Ireland contingent capital notes, the disposal of shares in Bank of Ireland and AIB and the liquidation of IBRC.

These do not represent a complete list of litigation or third party protections. These particular items have been included as at the time they were instigated or provided they were of particular significance to the Minister and the State.

Note 3 Vote Expenditure

Analysis of administration expenditure

Administration expenditure set out below has been apportioned across the programmes, to present complete programme costings.

		2021		2020
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
i	Salaries, wages and allowances	21,000	22,144	19,649
ii	Travel and subsistence	600	150	282
iii	Training and development and incidental expenses	1,976	2,669	1,510
iv	Postal and telecommunications services	280	215	228
v	Office equipment and external IT services	975	765	835
vi	Office premises expenses	1,020	510	403
vii	Consultancy and other services	5	—	—
		25,856	26,453	22,907

Significant variations

The following note presents an analysis of the administration expenditure of the Vote and outlines the reasons for significant variations (+/- 25% and €100,000).

ii Travel and subsistence

Estimate provision €600,000; outturn €150,000

The variance arises largely due to travel restrictions implemented to limit the spread of Covid-19.

iii Training and development and incidental expenses

Estimate provision €1.976 million; outturn €2.669 million

This overspend is driven by increased costs associated with negative interest on the Surplus Public Expenditure Monies (SPEM) account, which ran to €1.637 million in 2021 and which were higher than had been expected. For more information regarding SPEM refer to note 6.4.

vi Office premises expenses

Estimate provision €1.02 million; outturn €510,000

The variance of €510,000 was due to planned capital projects which were budgeted for, not taking place during the year as a result of the public health measures introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Programme A Economic and Fiscal Policy

		2021		2020
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
A.1	Administration – pay	11,000	11,976	10,238
A.2	Administration – non pay	2,886	3,135	2,043
A.3	Committee and commissions	570	426	289
A.4	Consultancy services and other services	620	268	1,033
A.5	Fuel grant	11,000	8,209	9,970
		26,076	24,014	23,573

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in programme expenditure (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme A was €2.062 million lower than provided. There was an overspend of €1.225 million on this programme which relates to administration expenditure and has already been explained and the underspend on this programme of €3.287 million was mainly due to the following:

A.3 Committee and commissions

Estimate provision €570,000; outturn €426,000

The estimate on this programme was provided to cover costs associated with the Commission on Taxation and Welfare and the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal. There was a slight underspend with both areas of work.

A.4 Consultancy services and other services

Estimate provision €620,000; outturn €268,000

Due to the nature of this subhead, the work programme cannot be predicted with certainty and budgets must be set at a prudent level to allow the units to address issues as they arise.

A.5 Fuel grant

Estimate provision €11 million; outturn €8.209 million

An estimate of €11 million was provided for the fuel grant under the Disabled Drivers and Passengers (Tax Concessions) Scheme. The grant is paid in respect of fuel used in the previous 12 months but claims can be made for use in any of the previous four years. Spend on the fuel grant is dependent on a number of factors such that there will be some variance between actual versus estimated spend. However, the large variance in 2021 is likely driven by reduced fuel use due to travel restrictions and public health measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Programme B Banking and Financial Services Policy

		2021		2020
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
B.1	Administration – pay	10,000	10,168	9,411
B.2	Administration – non pay	1,970	1,175	1,215
B.3	Committees and commissions	30	16	20
B.4	Consultancy and other services	2,015	438	990
B.5	Office of the Financial Services Ombudsman	570	567	768
		14,585	12,364	12,404

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in programme expenditures (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme B was €2.221 million lower than originally provided. €627,000 of this related to administration expenditure and has already been explained and the balance of the variance of €1.594 million was mainly due to the following:

B.4 Consultancy and other services

Estimate provision €2.015 million; outturn €438,000

Due to the nature of this subhead, the work programme cannot be predicted with certainty and budgets must be set at a prudent level to allow the units to address issues as they arise.

Note 4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid

		2021		2020
		Estimated	Realised	Realised
		€000	€000	€000
1	Recoupment of certain expenses in relation to the stabilisation of the banking sector	150	240	61
2	Miscellaneous	150	179	79
3	Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration	850	732	613
Total		1,150	1,151	753

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in appropriations-in-aid (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, appropriations-in-aid were €1,000 more than the estimate as forecast.

3 Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration

Estimate €850,000; realised €732,000

The variance of €118,000 was a result of timing of recruitment and also changes to the calculation of pension related deductions made as a result of the Public Service Stability Agreement which weren't factored into the 2021 estimate.

4.2 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Balance at 1 January	—	—
Collected	1	2
Transferred to the Exchequer	(1)	(2)
Balance at 31 December	—	—

Note 5 Staffing and Remuneration

5.1 Employee numbers

Full time equivalents	2021	2020
Number of staff at year end	<u>324</u>	<u>313</u>

5.2 Pay

	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Pay	19,246	17,461
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	167	108
Other allowances	899	477
Overtime	128	115
Employer's PRSI	1,704	1,488
Total pay	<u>22,144</u>	<u>19,649</u>

5.3 Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Highest individual payment	
			2021	2020
			€	€
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	14	5	25,707	35,516
Other allowances	92	—	7,096	6,597
Overtime	48	2	17,245	17,246
Extra remuneration in more than one category	10	4	20,704	20,704

5.4 Other remuneration arrangements

This account includes expenditure of €589,092 in respect of five officers who were serving outside the Department for all or part of 2021 and whose salaries were paid by the Department.

5.5 Payroll overpayments

at 31 December	Number of recipients	2021 €	2020 €
Overpayments	19	30,917	35,136
Recovery plans in place	4	5,418	9,178

5.6 Severance/redundancy

During 2021, one staff member whose employment was terminated, received redundancy payments of €4,644 and severance payments of €27,449. No early payment of pension, additional added years of notional service, or any other enhancement to the accrued pension terms have been granted.

5.7 Salary of Accounting Officer

As at 31 December 2021, the Accounting Officers current salary is at the grade of Secretary General Level I, with an annual gross salary of €214,000 (as at 31 December 2020, €212,000).

Note 6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Banking system functions

The Minister for Finance delegated a number of banking system functions to the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) under statutory instrument (SI) 115 of 2010. This delegation was revoked with effect from 5 August 2011 under SI 395 of 2011 and the NTMA Banking Unit has since been seconded to the Department of Finance. At the direction of the Minister, the costs of the unit, comprising staff costs and certain consultancy costs, continue to be met by the NTMA.

6.2 Committees and commissions

	2021 €000	2020 €000
Permanent commission		
Credit Union Advisory Committee ^a	16	20
Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal ^b	312	289
Fixed purpose commission		
Commission on Taxation and Welfare ^c	114	—
	442	309

- Note ^a The Committee's statutory function (under section 180 of the Credit Union Act 1997) is to advise regarding
- improvement of the management of credit unions
 - protection of the interest of members and creditors of credit unions and
 - other matters relating to credit unions upon which the Minister, the Central Bank or such other persons may be specified by the Minister, may from time to time seek by way of advice from the Committee.
- ^b The Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal acts as an appeal body for those applicants refused a primary medical certificate by a senior medical officer in respect of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers (Tax Concessions) Scheme. The Board was established in 1989.
- ^c The Commission on Taxation and Welfare was established to independently consider how best the taxation and welfare systems can support economic activity and promote increased employment and prosperity, while ensuring that there are sufficient resources available to meet the costs of public services and supports in the medium and longer term.

6.3 Compensation and legal costs

Payments/costs paid by the Department in the year

	Claims by		Total	Total
	employees	members of the public	2021	2020
Number of cases	—	3	3	4
	€000	€000	€000	€000
Department's own legal costs	—	110	110	173
Payments by/on behalf of Department				
Compensation	—	—	—	572
Legal costs	—	1	1	—
Other costs	—	—	—	—
2021 Total	—	111	111	745
2020 Total	—	745	745	

Note The 2020 comparative figures were restated to comply with circular 22/2020: requirements for appropriation accounts 2020.

6.4 Surplus Public Expenditure Monies (SPEM) Account

	2021	2020
	€000	€000
Negative interest charge	1,637	593

Note Negative interest has been charged on Central Bank accounts since 2014. This arose from a 2014 European Central Bank Decision. The Surplus Public Expenditure Monies (SPEM) Account was opened in 2018 to record the borrowings and repayments of surplus funds held in the Supply Account of the Paymaster General, and replaced the Deposit Monies Investment Account (DMIA). Negative interest charges on the SPEM are a charge on Vote 7.

Appendix A Accounts of bodies and funds under the aegis of the Department of Finance

The following table lists the bodies and funds under the aegis of the Department where the Department has an obligation to present financial statements. It indicates, at the end of March 2022, the period to which the last audited financial statements relate and the date on which they were presented to the Oireachtas.

Body/Departmental fund	Last accounting period	Date of audit report	Date received by Minister/ Department	Date presented to the Oireachtas
Central Bank	2020	13 Apr 2021	30 Apr 2021	1 Jun 2021
Credit Union Fund	2020	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2021	2 Jul 2021
Credit Union Restructuring Board ^a	2017	17 Nov 2021	22 Nov 2021	6 Dec 2021
Finance Accounts	2020	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2021	21 Jul 2021
Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman	2020	13 Oct 2021	18 Nov 2021	14 Jan 2021
Intestate Estates Fund Account	2020	16 Dec 2021	16 Dec 2021	17 Dec 2021
Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal	2020	26 Mar 2021	30 Mar 2021	4 May 2021
Irish Fiscal Advisory Council	2020	3 Sep 2021	6 Sep 2021	16 Nov 2021
Home Building Finance Ireland and one subsidiary	2020	26 Apr 2021	29 Apr 2021	30 Jun 2021
Hepatitis C and HIV Compensation Tribunal Special Account	2020	30 Sep 2021	5 Oct 2021	8 Oct 2021
Hepatitis C and HIV Compensation Tribunal Reparation Fund	2020	30 Sep 2021	5 Oct 2021	8 Oct 2021
Land Bond (Winding Up) Account	2020	16 Nov 2021	17 Nov 2021	17 Nov 2021
Local Loans Accounts	2020	23 Nov 2021	23 Nov 2021	24 Nov 2021
National Asset Management Agency	2020	27 Apr 2021	17 May 2021	9 Jun 2021
National Asset Management Agency Subsidiaries (13)	2020	25 Jun 2021	13 Jul 2021	21 Jul 2021
National Treasury Management Agency	2020	11 May 2021	27 May 2021	21 Jun 2021
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland	2020	5 May 2021	17 May 2021	16 Jun 2021
Sundry Moneys Deposit Account	2020	5 Nov 2021	10 Nov 2021	11 Nov 2021

Note ^a The Credit Union Restructuring Board (ReBo) was operationally wound down on 31 July 2017. A caretaker board was in place until ReBo was dissolved by the Credit Union Restructuring Board (Dissolution) Act 2020.