

Appropriation Account 2022

Vote 11

**Office of the Minister for
Public Expenditure, National Development
Plan Delivery and Reform**

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 11, 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 2022, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform 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 2022, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year.

A surplus of €5.475 million is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and notes 1 to 7 form part of the account.

Change of Department name

On 1 February 2023, the Public Expenditure and Reform (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2023 came into operation to give legal effect to a name change announced by the Taoiseach on 17 December 2022. This changed the name of the Department from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

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, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in circular 22 of 2022, have been applied in the preparation of the account.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated and charged on a straight line monthly basis from the month of acquisition/commissioning.

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.

The position in regard to the financial control environment, the framework of administrative procedures, management reporting and internal audit is as follows.

Shared services

I have fulfilled my responsibilities in relation to the requirements of the service management agreement between this Department and the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) for the provision of HR, finance and payroll shared service.

I rely on a letter of assurance from the Accounting Officer of the Vote for the NSSO that the appropriate controls are exercised in the provision of shared services, including financial shared services, to this Department.

In April 2022, the NSSO Financial Shared Services (FSS) system went live for eight client bodies, including this vote. FSS replaced the existing financial system in use in the Department and this meant that there were two separate accounting systems in place during the accounting year 2022. The introduction of this cross-organisational financial management system brought with it some challenges, and in the context of preparing these accounts, additional manual checks were carried out by the Finance Unit within this Department to ensure that the figures being reported are accurate. In collaboration with the NSSO, the Department continues to work on addressing the challenges.

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.
- The Statement of Internal Financial Control for the Department of Finance is also relevant given that the Department of Finance provides certain services on a shared basis to Vote 11.
- 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.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

I confirm that the Department has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter which I have approved. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department is exposed and its annual internal audit plans, 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.

Procurement

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 has recorded one non-competitive procurement in its annual return in respect of Circular 40/2002 to the Comptroller and Auditor General. However, this contract with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) for a review of the 2016 *Consultation Principles and Guidance*, which had a value of €39,300, was compliant with procurement rules as a result of the Teckal exemption pursuant to Regulation 12 of SI 284/2016. This exemption meant that the contract could be awarded to the IPA in compliance with procurement legislation without going to public tender.

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 high level risks facing the Department are reviewed and updated by the Management 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 and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Management 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 2022 that require disclosure in the appropriation account.

David Moloney

Accounting Officer

Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

21 March 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Vote 11 Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

Opinion on the appropriation account

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 11 Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform for the year ended 31 December 2022 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 11 Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform for the year ended 31 December 2022, and
- has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery 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 Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform 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

1 September 2023

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, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform's *Public Financial Procedures*, and with other directions of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery 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 appropriation account is 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 appropriation account 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, National Development Plan Delivery 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 audit reports on the relevant appropriation accounts refer to the relevant chapter(s) in my annual *Report on the Accounts of the Public Services*.

Vote 11 Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

Appropriation Account 2022

		2022	2021
	Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Programme expenditure			
A Public expenditure and sectoral policy	25,932	23,318	21,119
B Public service management and reform	23,498	21,584	21,359
Gross expenditure	49,430	44,902	42,478
<i>Deduct</i>			
C Appropriations-in-aid	2,905	3,852	2,952
Net expenditure	46,525	41,050	39,526

Surplus

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

	2022	2021
	€	€
Surplus to be surrendered	5,474,721	3,148,074

David Moloney

Accounting Officer

Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

21 March 2023

Notes to the Appropriation Account

Note 1 Operating Cost Statement 2022

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Programme cost	17,929	16,646
Pay	24,911	24,695
Non pay	2,062	1,137
Gross expenditure	44,902	42,478
<i>Deduct</i>		
Appropriations-in-aid	3,852	2,952
Net expenditure	41,050	39,526
Changes in capital assets		
Purchases cash	(411)	
Depreciation	274	(137)
		251
Changes in net current assets		
Decrease in closing accruals	136	
Decrease in closing inventories	26	162
		110
Direct expenditure	41,075	39,887
Expenditure borne elsewhere		
Net allied services expenditure (note 1.1)	11,860	9,303
Notional rents	2,512	2,512
Net programme cost	55,447	51,702

1.1 Net allied services expenditure

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following amounts in relation to Vote 11 borne elsewhere.

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance	1,457	942
Vote 12 Superannuation and Retired Allowances	7,585	6,224
Vote 13 Office of Public Works	1,957	1,583
Vote 18 National Shared Services Office	211	42
Vote 20 Garda Síochána	223	—
Vote 43 Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	427	512
	11,860	9,303

Note 2 Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €000	2021 €000
Capital assets	2.1	2,182	2,045
Current assets			
Bank and cash		3,497	806
Inventories	2.2	—	26
Prepayments	2.3	262	337
Accrued income	2.4	—	10
Other debit balances	2.5	276	58
Total current assets		4,035	1,237
Less current liabilities			
Accrued expenses		190	139
Other credit balances	2.6	1,168	1,024
Net Exchequer funding	2.7	2,605	(160)
Total current liabilities		3,963	1,003
Net current assets		72	234
Net assets		2,254	2,279
Represented by:			
State funding account	2.8	2,254	2,279

2.1 Capital assets

	IT equipment €000	Total €000
Gross assets		
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2022	4,855	4,855
Additions ^a	411	411
Capital assets under development brought into service	—	—
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2022	5,266	5,266
Accumulated depreciation		
Opening balance at 1 January 2022	2,810	2,810
Depreciation for the year	274	274
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2022	3,084	3,084
Net assets at 31 December 2022	2,182	2,182
Net assets at 31 December 2021	2,045	2,045

Note ^a Of the additions in 2022, €349,000 related to the development of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) portfolio management system and €62,000 represents additions to two existing assets: the Civil Service Learning Content Manager and the eCohesion system.

2.2 Inventories

at 31 December	2022 ^a €000	2021 €000
Stationery	—	18
IT consumables	—	8
	—	26

Note ^a Commencing in 2022, high-volume, low-value items are fully expensed in the year, and are no longer classified as stock items.

2.3 Prepayments

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
IT costs	109	126
Education fees	48	120
International institutions	55	55
Subscriptions	42	27
Insurance	7	8
Miscellaneous	1	1
	262	337

2.4 Accrued income

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
National Lottery Regulator pension contributions	—	10
	—	10

2.5 Other debit balances

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Recoupable travel pass expenditure	28	28
VAT refund due	154	—
Other debit suspense items	94	30
	276	58

2.6 Other credit balances

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income tax	491	495
Pay related social insurance	242	224
Professional services withholding tax	22	13
Value added tax	28	15
Pension contributions	86	83
Local property tax	2	2
	<u>871</u>	<u>832</u>
Payroll deductions held in suspense	96	83
Other credit suspense items	201	109
	<u>1,168</u>	<u>1,024</u>

2.7 Net Exchequer funding

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	5,475	3,148
Exchequer grant undrawn	(2,870)	(3,308)
Net Exchequer funding	<u>2,605</u>	<u>(160)</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Bank and cash	3,497	806
Debit balances: suspense	276	58
	<u>3,773</u>	<u>864</u>
Creditors		
Due to the State	(871)	(832)
Credit balances: suspense	(297)	(192)
	<u>(1,168)</u>	<u>(1,024)</u>
	<u>2,605</u>	<u>(160)</u>

2.8 State funding account

	Note	2022	2021
		€000	€000
Balance at 1 January		2,279	2,652
Disbursements from the Vote			
Estimate provision	Account	46,525	
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(5,475)	
Net vote		41,050	39,526
Expenditure (cash) borne elsewhere	1.1	11,860	9,303
Non cash items - capital assets adjustment		—	(12)
Non cash expenditure – notional rent	1	2,512	2,512
Net programme cost		(55,447)	(51,702)
Balance at 31 December		2,254	2,279

Note 3 Vote Expenditure

Analysis of administration expenditure

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

		2022		2021
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
i	Salaries, wages and allowances	26,543	24,912	24,695
ii	Travel and subsistence	257	189	60
iii	Training and development	421	492	457
iv	Professional, consultancy and other services	29	74	29
v	Operating expenses	561	408	377
vi	Premises and accommodation expenses	251	333	164
vii	Communication and marketing expenses	22	18	19
viii	Asset and equipment expenses	433	548	31
		28,517	26,974	25,832

Note Changes were made to the administration subheads to facilitate the new single cross Government chart of accounts for all Votes. Eight votes, including this vote, moved to the new chart of accounts in 2022. Four subheads were retired and five new subheads were created. The figures for 2021 have been re-analysed to align with the new subheads.

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations (+/- 25% and €100,000).

v Operating expenses

Estimate provision €561,000; outturn €408,000

While it was expected that operating expenses would return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, savings of €153,000 were realised as operating expenses did not increase as anticipated.

viii Asset and equipment expenses

Estimate provision €433,000; outturn €548,000

The increase of €115,000 relates to expenditure on two EU IT systems which support the timely drawdown of EU funds. The eCohesion system was enhanced and a new European Regional Development Fund management system was built. The expenditure on these systems was partly offset by a delay in procuring a new patient management system for the Civil and Public Service Chief Medical Officer, which is now expected to be built in 2024.

Programme A Public Expenditure and Sectoral Policy

		2022		2021
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
A.1	Administration – pay	11,965	11,292	11,186
A.2	Administration – non pay	869	1,155	502
A.3	Economic and Social Research Institute – administration and general expenses	3,000	3,000	3,000
A.4	Structural funds technical assistance and other costs	1,654	1,169	1,023
A.5	Technical assistance costs of Regional Assemblies	1,125	992	669
A.6	Special EU Programmes Body and North/South programmes	4,850	3,147	2,283
A.7	Ireland/Wales and Transnational INTERREG	220	217	150
A.8	Consultancy and other services	349	188	687
A.9	Funding for pensions for bodies under the aegis of the Department	1,150	1,505	1,410
A.10	Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service	250	172	193
A.11	Construction innovation support	500	481	16
		25,932	23,318	21,119

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in programme expenditures (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, the expenditure in relation to Programme A was €2.614 million lower than the sum provided.

A.2 Administration – non pay

Estimate provision €869,000; outturn €1.155 million

The increase of €286,000 partially relates to an increase in premises costs and training and development costs. As detailed in the asset and equipment expenses variance explanation above, there was also expenditure on two EU IT systems. The eCohesion system was enhanced and a new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) portfolio management system was built. These systems will support the timely drawdown of EU funds.

A.4 Structural funds technical assistance and other costs

Estimate provision €1.654 million; outturn €1.169 million

This saving of €485,000 is due to pay savings in the Internal and EU Audit Unit due to lower than anticipated staffing levels in 2022. Additionally, profiled expenditure for the running costs of the eCohesion system were less than expected.

A.5 Technical assistance costs of Regional Assemblies

Estimate provision €1.125 million; outturn €992,000

There was an increase in the estimate from 2021 to 2022 of €455,000 to provide the assemblies with sufficient technical support to allow them to process new applications for EU grant funding. The technical support required in 2022 was €133,000 less than expected.

A.6 Special EU Programmes Body and North/South programmes

Estimate provision €4.85 million; outturn €3.147 million

This underspend of €1.703 million is due to the delayed launch of the PEACEPLUS project. This programme expenditure should commence in 2023.

A.8 Consultancy and other services

Estimate provision €349,000; outturn €188,000

This saving of €161,000 is due to spending on events, training and engagement being lower than previous years.

A.9 Funding for pensions for bodies under the aegis of the Department

Estimate provision €1.15 million; outturn €1.505 million

The excess in expenditure of €355,000 is primarily due to a number of lump sum payments associated with retirements in these bodies that were not forecast by the bodies at the time of the Revised Estimates in late 2021.

Programme B Public Service Management and Reform

		2022		2021
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
B.1	Administration – pay	14,578	13,619	13,508
B.2	Administration – non pay	1,105	907	635
B.3	Institute of Public Administration	2,725	2,725	2,725
B.4	Civil service arbitration and appeals procedure	44	23	37
B.5	Consultancy and other services	369	457	138
B.6	Public Service Innovation Fund	750	747	746
B.7	Reform agenda	693	436	603
B.8	Employee assistance officer shared service	1,498	1,434	1,320
B.9	Public pay determination support	100	8	36
B.10	Civil service learning and development programme	846	607	457
B.11	Single public service pension administration project	200	71	34
B.12	Implementation of Protected Disclosures Act	285	285	220
B.13	Non-profit sector data project	305	265	900
		23,498	21,584	21,359

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 €1.914 million lower than provided. Savings in administration expenditure totalled €1.157 million. The balance of the variance was mainly due to the following:

B.7 Reform agenda

Estimate provision €693,000; outturn €436,000

The saving in expenditure of €257,000 relative to the estimate provision was due to a combination of smaller savings over a number of policy and programme areas, particularly in civil service HR resourcing, policy and capacity.

B.10 Civil service learning and development programme

Estimate provision €846,000; outturn €607,000

This saving of €239,000 can be mainly attributed to delays in finding suitable alternative classroom facilities to replace OneLearning's Mountjoy Square classrooms. The lease on the Mountjoy Square premises expired on 31 December 2020. The remaining variance is due to less course development than planned in 2022.

B.11 Single public service pension administration project

Estimate provision €200,000; outturn €71,000

The saving in expenditure of €129,000 is due to a delay in the planned design and development work for a future central ICT system to support the administration of the Single Pension Scheme across the Public Service.

Note 4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid

		2022		2021
		Estimated	Realised	Realised
		€000	€000	€000
1	EU programmes	1,300	1,925	1,109
2	Pension cash flow surpluses	130	177	170
3	Miscellaneous	65	173	95
4	Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration	1,410	1,577	1,578
Total		2,905	3,852	2,952

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in appropriations-in-aid (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, appropriations-in-aid were €947,000 more than the original estimate. Explanations for variances are set out below:

1 EU programmes

Estimate €1.3 million; realised €1.925 million

The increase of €625,000 is due to the challenges in accurately estimating the timing as well as the value of reimbursements pertaining to EU programmes.

3 Miscellaneous

Estimate €65,000; realised €173,000

Miscellaneous receipts are by their nature difficult to forecast. The increase of €108,000 is mainly due to a grant refund from Benefacts of €87,000.

4 Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration

Estimate €1.41 million; realised €1.577 million

The increase of €167,000 can be attributed to an increase in wages under the Building Momentum extension which was agreed in October 2022 and partially backdated to February 2022. This increased the value of superannuation contributions.

4.2 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Balance at 1 January	—	—
Voluntary surrender of ministerial salaries	37	37
EU receipt – Interreg refund	—	7
Transferred to the Exchequer	(37)	(44)
Balance at 31 December	—	—

Note 5 Staffing and Remuneration

5.1 Employee numbers

Full time equivalents	2022	2021
Number of staff at year end	<u>364</u>	<u>362</u>

5.2 Pay

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Pay	25,249	24,447
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	256	272
Other allowances	10	9
Overtime	7	36
Employer's PRSI	<u>2,131</u>	<u>1,984</u>
Total pay ^a	<u>27,653</u>	<u>26,748</u>

Note ^a The total pay figure is distributed across subheads A.1 and B.1. The Department does not directly fund the pay costs of any of the bodies under its aegis.

5.3 Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Highest individual payment	
			2022	2021
			€	€
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	33	7	33,876	39,157
Other allowances	2	—	9,723	9,293
Overtime	11	—	4,404	32,258
Extra remuneration in more than one category	3	3	21,674	42,426

5.4 Department staffing by pay band

The number of Department employees whose total employee benefits (including basic pay, allowances, overtime; excluding employer PRSI, employer pension costs) for the financial year fell between €20,000 and €59,999 and within each band of €10,000 from €60,000 upwards are as follows:

Pay bands (€)		Number of employees	
From	To	2022	2021
20,000	59,999	213	223
60,000	69,999	35	34
70,000	79,999	21	26
80,000	89,999	39	38
90,000	99,999	42	36
100,000	109,999	11	15
110,000	119,999	15	13
120,000	129,999	5	—
130,000	139,999	1	1
140,000	149,999	—	—
150,000	159,999	2	—
160,000	169,999	—	2
170,000	179,999	1	1
180,000	189,999	—	1
190,000	199,999	1	—
200,000	209,999	—	—
210,000	219,999	—	—
220,000	229,999	1	—

5.5 Other remuneration arrangements

In 2022, expenditure of €195,174 (2021: €220,626) was incurred in respect of three officers (2021: three officers) who were serving outside the Department for all or part of 2022 and whose salary was paid by the Department.

5.6 Payroll overpayments

at 31 December	Number of recipients	2022 €	2021 €
Overpayments	33	115,915	145,797
Recovery plans in place	7	19,402	28,764

Three individuals with recovery plans in place to a value of €2,802 transferred to other Departments in the year. Recovery of the outstanding amounts will be collected by their respective Departments.

5.7 Remuneration and benefits of Accounting Officer

The Accounting Officer's remuneration and taxable benefits for the financial year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Basic pay	225	210

The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above. The Accounting Officer is a member of the pre-1995 superannuation scheme for established civil servants and his entitlements to retirement benefits do not extend beyond the terms of that scheme. The figure for 2021 has been restated and now shows the remuneration received, as required by circular 22/2022.

Note 6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Committees, commissions and special inquiries

	Year established	2022 €000	2021 €000
Civil Service Arbitration Board ^a	1950/51	23	21
Top Level Appointments Committee ^b	1984	72	44
		95	65

Notes ^a The Civil Service Arbitration Board provides means acceptable both to the State and to its employees for dealing with claims and proposals relating to the conditions of service of civil servants and to secure the fullest co-operation between the State, as employer, and civil servants, as employees, for the better discharge of public business.

^b The Top Level Appointments Committee (TLAC) was established in 1984. The Committee's function is to recommend candidates to Ministers and Government for the most senior positions in the civil service – at Assistant Secretary level and upwards. By carrying out this function in an independent manner and by making its decisions strictly on the basis of the relative merit of the candidates for the positions concerned, TLAC aims to strengthen the management structure of the civil service, and to provide a means by which the best candidates can aspire to fulfilling their potential.

6.2 EU funding

The outturn shown in Subheads A.4, A.5 and A.6 includes payments in respect of activities which are co-financed by the EU. Estimates of expenditure and actual outturns were as follows:

Subhead	Description	2022 Estimate €000	2022 Outturn €000	2021 Outturn €000
A.4	Structural funds technical assistance and other costs	1,654	1,169	732
A.5	Technical assistance costs of Regional Assemblies	1,125	992	669
A.6	6 Special EU Programmes Body and North/South programmes	4,850	3,147	1,228
		7,629	5,308	2,629

6.3 Arbitration and conciliation costs

There were no arbitration or conciliation costs for the Department in 2022 (2021: one case costing €460,000).

6.4 Land Development Agency

As provided for in section 25 of the Land Development Agency Act 2021, the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (the Ministers) are the sole shareholders in the Land Development Agency (LDA), holding shares with an issue value of €99 million and €1 million, respectively.

In March 2022, the Minister for Finance directed the NTMA to transfer €100 million out of the assets of the Irish Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) to the LDA, to discharge the Ministers' liability arising from the subscription for shares.

On 15 February 2023, the Minister for Finance directed the NTMA to transfer a further €250 million out of the assets of ISIF to the LDA for the purpose of discharging the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform's liability arising from the Minister's subscription for further shares in the LDA with a nominal value of €250 million.

Note 7 Contingency Fund

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Balance at 1 January	1,200	1,200
Receipts	—	—
Payments	—	—
Balance at 31 December	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The Contingency Fund is a non-statutory fund formed in 1923. The fund is available for use to facilitate the defraying of urgent or unforeseen expenditure which is not covered by the ordinary Votes and for which it may be impracticable to seek the immediate approval of Dáil Éireann e.g. during recess.

The procedures in relation to the operation of the fund are set out in *Public Financial Procedures* (Sections C.1.5 to C.1.12).

The size of the fund is reviewed every five years. Following a review in 2020, it was decided that the fund should remain at its existing level.

Appendix A Accounts of bodies and funds under the aegis of the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

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, as at the date of signing, 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
Economic and Social Research Institute	2021	31 May 2022	11 Aug 2022	11 Aug 2022
Institute of Public Administration	2021	14 Sep 2022	11 Dec 2022	11 Dec 2022
Ireland-United States Educational Fund	2021	8 Nov 2022	8 Nov 2022	8 Dec 2022
Regulator of the National Lottery	2021	24 Jun 2022	9 Aug 2022	17 Oct 2022
Special EU Programmes Body	2021	23 Dec 2022	15 Feb 2023	Pending
State Property Miscellaneous Deposit Account	2021	15 Nov 2022	15 Nov 2022	8 Dec 2022
Traveller's Protection Fund	2021	6 Dec 2022	7 Dec 2022	8 Dec 2022