

Vote 36

Defence

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 36, 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 Defence, including certain services administered by that Office; for the pay and expenses of the Defence Forces; 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 €9.948 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, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in circular 22 of 2022, have been applied in the preparation of the account, except for the following.

Inventory valuation

Military inventories are valued at average cost and include certain items that have been refurbished. Civil Defence inventories are valued at purchase price.

Capital assets

The threshold for inclusion of capital asset additions for government departments and offices in the statement of capital assets increased to €10,000 for an individual asset with effect from 1 January 2021. Since this date, the Department of Defence continues to record additions to capital assets at individual values of less than €10,000.

Land and buildings are not valued and are not included in capital assets (note 2.1). A schedule of land and buildings administered by the Department of Defence is shown in appendix A. These are used for Defence Forces purposes and include unique and dedicated properties.

Payments under certain programmes for the development of Defence Forces equipment, including the purchase of aircraft and the refurbishment of armoured personnel carriers, are recorded as prepayments until they are brought into use, at which stage they are recorded as capital assets.

Capital assets under development

Payments in respect of the development of land and buildings administered by the Department of Defence are included as part of note 2.2 – capital assets under development. When such projects are completed, they are removed from capital assets under development. There is no transfer to the asset register as, in line with the policy noted above, land and buildings are not included in capital assets.

Depreciation

Military assets and Civil Defence motor vehicles are depreciated to residual values at rates varying between 3% and 20% per annum using the straight line method.

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

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 shared services for human resources and payroll.

I rely on a letter of assurance from the Accounting Officer of the Vote for the National Shared Services Office that the appropriate controls are exercised in the provision of shared services to this Department.

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, with an independent Chair, 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.

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. The internal audit unit operates independently and 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 provided details of 138 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, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

Non-compliance with procurement rules

The Department complied with the guidelines with the exception of three contracts (in excess of €25,000), totalling €213,489 (exclusive of VAT), as set out below.

- €44,860 related to payments to one supplier where the contract went beyond its original term
- €168,629 related to payments to two suppliers where no formal contract was in place.

Each of these three procurements has been reviewed by the Department, and steps are being taken to bring them into compliance with the relevant procurement rules as quickly as possible.

The above contracts have been included in the 40/2002 annual return referenced above.

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 Management Board on a monthly 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 assigns responsibility for operation of controls 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.

Jacqui McCrum
Accounting Officer
Department of Defence

31 March 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Vote 36 Defence

Opinion on the appropriation account

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 36 Defence 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 36 Defence 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 Defence 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.

Stock management in the Defence Forces

Chapter 12 of my report on the accounts of the public services for 2022 reviews the adequacy of the controls in place to manage, value and correctly account for stocks held by the Defence Forces.

Seamus McCarthy

Comptroller and Auditor General

25 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 36 Defence

Appropriation Account 2022				
			2022	2021
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
Pro	ogramme expenditure			
Α	Defence policy and support, military capabilities and operational outputs	836,431	835,922	786,405
Gro	oss expenditure Deduct	836,431	835,922	786,405
В	Appropriations-in-aid	24,220	33,659	30,457
Net	t expenditure	812,211	802,263	755,948

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	9,948,066	29,513,137

Jacqui McCrum
Accounting Officer

Department of Defence

31 March 2023

Notes to the Appropriation Account

Note 1 Operating Cost Statement 2022				
		2022	2021	
	€000	€000	€000	
Programme cost		804,808	758,570	
Administration pay		22,069	20,905	
Administration non pay	_	9,045	6,930	
Gross expenditure Deduct		835,922	786,405	
Appropriations-in-aid		33,659	30,457	
Net expenditure	-	802,263	755,948	
Changes in capital assets				
Purchases cash	(117,651)			
Depreciation	63,077			
Loss on disposals	1,995			
Disposals cash	119	(52,460)	(42,662)	
Changes in assets under development				
Cash payments		(18,968)	(16,051)	
Changes in net current assets				
Decrease in closing accruals	(2,781)			
Increase in inventories	(20,926)	(23,707)	(21,582)	
Direct expenditure	-	707,128	675,653	
Expenditure borne elsewhere				
Net allied services expenditure (note 1.1)	12,729			
Notional rents	1,339			
		14,068	14,327	
Net programme cost	=	721,196	689,980	

1.1 Net allied services expenditure

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following amounts in relation to Vote 36 borne elsewhere, net of expenditure incurred in respect of other votes.

2022	2021
€000	€000
(486)	(448)
(86)	(88)
issioners 44	24
12,915	13,094
600	579
ice 929	1,018
(1,787)	(1,728)
ef 460	404
140	133
12,729	12,988
	(486) (86) issioners 44 12,915 600 fice 929 (1,787) ief 460 140

Note 2 Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2022				
	Note	2022 €000	2021 €000	
Capital assets	2.1	564,970	583,534	
Capital assets under development	2.2	5,952	11,032	
		570,922	594,566	
Current assets				
Bank and cash	2.3	19,562	27,467	
Inventories	2.4	254,969	234,043	
Prepayments	2.5	274,819	200,656	
Accrued income	2.6	4,041	3,305	
Other debit balances	2.7	1,351	512	
Total current assets		554,742	465,983	
Less current liabilities				
Accrued expenses	2.8	5,392	4,306	
Deferred income	2.9	48	40	
Other credit balances	2.10	15,726	10,464	
Net Exchequer funding	2.11	5,187	17,515	
Total current liabilities		26,353	32,325	
Net current assets		528,389	433,658	
Net assets		1,099,311	1,028,224	
Represented by:				
State funding account	2.12	1,099,311	1,028,224	

2.1 Capital assets

	Military equipment	Civil Defence equipment	Office furniture and IT equipment	Total
	€000	€000	€000	€000
Gross assets (cost or valuation)				
At 1 January 2022	1,327,183	4,751	55,003	1,386,937
Additions	43,138	129	3,360	46,627
Disposals	(15,151)	(158)	(2,536)	(17,845)
At 31 December 2022	1,355,170	4,722	55,827	1,415,719
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	754,648	2,797	45,958	803,403
Depreciation for the year	59,507	339	3,231	63,077
Depreciation on disposals	(13,214)	(124)	(2,393)	(15,731)
At 31 December 2022	800,941	3,012	46,796	850,749
Net assets at 31 December 2022 ^a	554,229	1,710	9,031	564,970
Net assets at 31 December 2021	572,535	1,954	9,045	583,534

Note a The Department of Defence administers land holdings (approx. 8,300 hectares) and buildings at numerous locations throughout the country, being a mix of operational military facilities, training lands, married quarters and other properties, as set out in Appendix A – Schedule of land and buildings.

2.2 Capital assets under development

	Construction contracts €000
Amounts brought forward at 1 January 2022	11,032
Cash payments in the year	18,968
Projects completed ^a	(24,048)
Amounts brought forward at 31 December 2022	5,952

Note a As projects to develop land and buildings are completed, they are removed from capital assets under development.

There is no transfer to the asset register as land and buildings are not included in capital assets.

2.3 Bank and cash

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
PMG balance	18,083	26,364
Other bank and cash account balances	1,479	1,103
	19,562	27,467

Non-Vote bank accounts

There are 13 other bank accounts managed by Defence Forces personnel to administer the casual meals system in barracks. No funding from the Vote is issued to these bank accounts. The amount held at the end of 2022 was €28,306 (2021: €22,795). This balance is not included in the 'bank and cash' amount shown above.

2.4 Inventories

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Military inventories ^a	254,083	232,907
Civil Defence	886	1,051
Stationery ^b	_	15
IT consumables ^b	_	70
	254,969	234,043

- Note ^a Write-offs and obsolete military inventory in the year amounted to €2.259 million.
 - b From 2022, stationery and IT consumables are expensed when purchased in line with the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform circular 22 of 2022.

2.5 Prepayments

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Maritime patrol aircraft	185,109	162,340
Military transport aircraft	27,206	
Inshore patrol vessels	18,593	_
Aircraft maintenance and training	7,277	7,277
Modernisation of primary armament	6,101	6,156
Mid-life refit of LÉ Niamh	5,878	3,587
Armoured personnel carrier fleet	4,344	6,103
maintenance and upgrade programme		
Troop carrying vehicles	3,700	3,700
Other	16,611	11,493
	274,819	200,656

2.6 Accrued income

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Troop/equipment funding due from overseas missions	3,500	3,200
Due for services	541	105
	4,041	3,305

2.7 Other debit balances

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Payroll	6	_
Imprests	354	291
Cycle to work scheme	240	168
Travel pass scheme	38	
Other suspense	713	53
	1,351	512

2.8 Accrued expenses

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Programme accruals – current	2,060	2,237
Programme accruals – capital Administration expenses	3,146 186	1,833 236
	5,392	4,306

2.9 Deferred income

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Rental income	48	40
	48	40

2.10 Other credit balances

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Amounts due to the State	€000	€000
Income tax	4	4
Pay related social insurance	(1)	15
Professional services withholding tax	406	366
Value added tax	14,092	9,642
Pension contributions	15	(5)
Universal social charge	1	1
Relevant contracts tax	64	143
	14,581	10,166
Payroll deductions held in suspense	5	8
Other credit suspense items	1,140	290
	15,726	10,464

2.11 Net Exchequer funding

at 31 December	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	9,948	29,513
Exchequer grant undrawn	(4,761)	(11,998)
Net Exchequer funding	5,187	17,515
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Bank and cash	19,562	27,467
Debit balances: suspense	1,351	512
	20,913	27,979
Creditors		
Due to the State	(14,581)	(10,166)
Credit balances: suspense	(1,145)	(298)
	(15,726)	(10,464)
	5,187	17,515

2.12 State funding account

	Note		2022	2021
		€000	€000	€000
Balance at 1 January			1,028,224	959,608
Disbursements from the Vote				
Estimate provision	Account	812,211		
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(9,948)	_	
Net Vote			802,263	755,948
Expenditure (cash) borne elsewhere	1.1		12,729	12,988
Capital assets under development completed in the	2.2		(24,048)	(11,679)
year Non cash expenditure – notional rents	1		1,339	1,339
Net programme cost	1		(721,196)	(689,980)
Balance at 31 December			1,099,311	1,028,224

2.13 Commitments

a) Legally enforceable commitments at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Procurement of goods and services	6,271	9,282
Capital projects	191,632	141,405
Total of legally enforceable commitments	197,903	150,687

b) Major capital projects

., ,	Cumulative expenditure to 31 December 2021	Expenditure in 2022	Project commitments in subsequent years	Expected total spend lifetime of project 2022	Expected total spend lifetime of project 2021
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Maintenance and upgrade programme for armoured personnel carriers	83,741	7,584	6,804	98,129	95,000ª
Mid-life refit of LÉ Róisín	12,107	212	_	12,319	12,300
Mid-life refit of LÉ Niamh	5,611	4,515	2,174	12,300	12,300
Maritime patrol aircraft	162,340	22,769	43,190	228,299	228,299
3/4 tonne, 4x4 fleet replacement (FFR)	13,108	6,072	_	19,180	18,178 ^b
Troop carrying vehicles	15,045	_	9,555	24,600	24,600
Next Generation Working Environment (NGWE)	_	609	18,891	19,500	_
Military transport aircraft	_	27,206	40,809	68,015	_
Inshore patrol vessels	_	18,593	22,426	41,019	_
Upgrade former USAC block	_	417	9,612	10,029	_
Total	291,952	87,977	153,461	533,390	390,677

Note ^a The increase of €3.129 million is due to inflationary pressures on variations to contract for vehicles delivered in 2022 and forecasted costs for remaining vehicles.

The increase of €1.002 million is due to additional equipment specifications and agreed increase in costs.

2.14 Matured liabilities

at 31 December	2022 €000	2021 €000
Estimate of matured liabilities not discharged at year end	122	389

2.15 Contingent liabilities

The Department is involved in a number of pending legal proceedings which may generate liabilities, depending on the outcome of the litigation. Any actual amount or the timing of the potential liabilities is uncertain.

Note 3 Vote Expenditure

Analysis of administration expenditure

Administration expenditure set out below is included in Programme A to present complete programme costings.

		2022	2021
	Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
i Salaries, wages and allowances	22,500	22,069	20,905
ii Travel and subsistence	650	726	443
iii Training and development and incidental expenses	500	558	388
iv Postal and telecommunications services	575	438	462
 V Office equipment and external IT services 	4,660	6,181	4,368
vi Office premises expenses	1,865	910	1,193
vii Consultancy services and value for money and policy reviews	500	232	76
	31,250	31,114	27,835

Significant variations

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

v Office equipment and external IT services

Estimate provision €4.66 million; outturn €6.181 million

The overspend of €1.521 million was due to the carryover of some expenditure from 2021 due to delays in delivery of ICT equipment and higher spend on software licences.

vi Office premises expenses

Estimate provision €1.865 million; outturn €910,000 The underspend of €955,000 was mainly due to the deferral of some maintenance projects.

vii Consultancy services and value for money and policy reviews

Estimate provision €500,000; outturn €232,000

The underspend of €268,000 was due to some projects not progressing as anticipated and also an expected payment did not arise as the project has extended into 2023.

Programme A Defence policy and support, military capabilities and operational outputs

			2022	2021
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
A.1	Administration - pay	22,500	22,069	20,905
A.2	Administration – non pay	8,750	9,045	6,930
A.3	Permanent Defence Force: pay	455,500	429,017	419,471
A.4	Permanent Defence Force: allowances	48,000	48,686	51,990
A.5	Reserve Defence Force: pay, etc.	2,000	1,924	1,830
A.6	Chaplains and officiating clergy: pay and allowances	1,250	1,086	1,098
A.7	Defence Forces civilian support: pay and allowances, etc.	23,500	21,085	20,583
A.8	Defence Forces: capability development	91,000	117,482	91,307
A.9	Air Corps: equipment and support	19,470	25,689	26,776
A.10	Military transport	21,790	21,323	23,483
A.11	Naval Service: equipment and support	13,500	18,237	16,600
A.12	Barrack expenses and engineering equipment	15,650	19,840	15,269
A.13	Defence Forces built infrastructure: construction and maintenance	45,000	29,078	24,938
A.14	Defence Forces uniforms, clothing, equipment and catering	14,500	14,471	14,729
A.15	Defence Forces communications and IT	13,940	17,228	16,688
A.16	Military education and training	3,050	2,679	2,564
A.17	Defence Forces logistics and travel	3,500	5,378	2,470
A.18	Defence Forces medical and healthcare support	7,130	7,427	7,569
A.19	Lands	786	797	629
A.20	Equitation	1,000	1,122	1,195
A.21	Litigation and compensation costs	7,500	6,153	5,557
A.22	Miscellaneous expenditure	4,000	5,770	5,132
A.23	Costs arising directly from Ireland's participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy	7,000	4,094	2,873
A.24	Civil Defence (including dormant accounts fund)	5,140	5,267	4,844
A.25	Irish Red Cross Society	975	975	975
	-	836,431	835,922	786,405

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in programme expenditure (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, gross expenditure was €509,000 less than the estimate.

A.3 Permanent Defence Force: pay

Estimate provision €455.5 million; outturn €429.017 million

The underspend of €26.483 million was due to lower than projected recruitment in 2022, leading to lower than anticipated numbers of personnel serving in the Permanent Defence Force.

A.6 Chaplains and officiating clergy: pay and allowances

Estimate provision €1.25 million; outturn €1.086 million The underspend of €164,000 was due to lower than anticipated recruitment of chaplains in 2022.

A.7 Defence Forces civilian support: pay and allowances, etc.

Estimate provision €23.5 million; outturn €21.085 million

The underspend of €2.415 million was due to the number of civilian employees being less than provided for in the estimate and lower than anticipated recruitment and greater than anticipated retirements.

A.8 Defence Forces: capability development

Estimate provision €91 million; outturn €117.482 million

The overspend of €26.482 million was mainly due to a downpayment for a military transport aircraft. Also, a greater number of ammunition orders than anticipated were delivered in 2022.

A.9 Air Corps: equipment and support

Estimate provision €19.47 million; outturn €25.689 million
The overspend of €6.219 million was due to higher external aircraft maintenance costs and an increase in specialised training costs.

A.11 Naval Service: equipment and support

Estimate provision €13.5 million; outturn €18.237 million

The overspend of €4.737 million was due mainly to an increase in fuel prices and the procurement of additional parts and maintenance services.

A.12 Barrack expenses and engineering equipment

Estimate provision €15.65 million; outturn €19.84 million

The overspend of €4.19 million was due to the procurement of additional engineering and barrack service equipment.

A.13 Defence Forces built infrastructure: construction and maintenance

Estimate provision €45 million; outturn €29.078 million

The underspend of €15.922 million was due to delays in the procurement process for the capital programme coupled with supply chain issues.

A.15 Defence Forces communications and IT

Estimate provision €13.94 million; outturn €17.228 million

The overspend of €3.288 million was mainly due to the requirement for additional procurement of essential telecommunications equipment.

A.16 Military education and training

Estimate provision €3.05 million; outturn €2.679 million

The underspend of €371,000 was mainly due to delays in the supply of training equipment.

A.17 Defence Forces logistics and travel

Estimate provision €3.5 million; outturn €5.378 million

The overspend of €1.878 million was mainly due to increased travel and freight costs associated with overseas operations in UNIFIL and UNDOF.

A.20 Equitation

Estimate provision €1 million; outturn €1.122 million

The overspend of €122,000 was mainly due to an increase in the upkeep of the horses in the Army Equitation School. There was also a slight increase in riders competing at international shows.

A.21 Litigation and compensation costs

Estimate provision €7.5 million; outturn €6.153 million

The underspend of €1.347 million arose because this expenditure is difficult to predict as it is subject to a number of unpredictable variables, including the timing of court hearings, the progress of cases, and the number, value and timing of awards and settlements.

A.22 Miscellaneous expenditure

Estimate provision €4 million; outturn €5.77 million

The overspend of €1.77 million was mainly due to costs associated with the Independent Review Group and additional advertising costs associated with the military recruitment campaigns.

A.23 Costs arising directly from Ireland's participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy

Estimate provision €7 million; outturn €4.094 million

The underspend of €2.906 million was mainly due to the postponement of plans to carry out a rebasing project in Mali due to the security situation.

Note 4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid

			2022	2021
		Estimated	Realised	Realised
		€000	€000	€000
1	Receipts from United Nations in respect of overseas allowances, etc.	8,113	14,026	12,769
2	Receipts from EU in respect of fishery protection costs	_	_	_
3	Receipts from banks and other organisations	1,300	1,360	1,364
4	Receipts from occupation of official quarters	90	174	160
5	Receipts from rations on repayment	450	877	623
6	Receipts from other issues on repayment	20	21	24
7	Receipts for aviation fuel	40	1	13
8	Receipts on discharge by purchase	50	154	129
9	Lands and premises			
	(a) rents, etc.	462	473	443
	(b) sales	200	300	_
10	Sale of surplus stores	100	203	395
11	Refunds in respect of services of seconded personnel	50	182	168
12	Miscellaneous	300	869	440
13	Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration	12,295	14,036	12,986
14	Dormant accounts receipts	750	983	943
	Total	24,220	33,659	30,457

Significant variations

The following outlines the reasons for significant variations in appropriations-in-aid (+/- 5% and €100,000). Overall, appropriations-in-aid were €9.439 million more than the estimate.

1 Receipts from United Nations in respect of overseas allowances, etc.

Estimate €8.113 million; realised €14.026 million

The surplus of €5.913 million was due to higher than anticipated UN receipts in respect of troop and equipment costs. The timing of receipts from the UN is difficult to predict. See note 6.1.

5 Receipts from rations on repayment

Estimate €450,000; realised €877,000

The surplus of €427,000 was due to more than anticipated repayment of rations.

8 Receipts on discharge by purchase

Estimate €50,000; realised €154,000

The surplus of €104,000 was due to higher than anticipated numbers of Defence Force members discharging within their service contract duration.

9 Land and premises

Estimate €662,000; realised €773,000

The surplus of €111,000 was mainly because the proceeds from the sale of a barracks, which took place in 2021, were not received by the Department until 2022.

10 Sale of surplus stores

Estimate €100,000; realised €203,000

The surplus of €103,000 arose due to trade-ins of vehicles as a result of fleet upgrades.

11 Refunds re services of seconded personnel

Estimate €50,000; realised €182,000

The surplus of €132,000 was due to timing of receipts for secondments.

12 Miscellaneous

Estimate €300,000; realised €869,000

The surplus of €569,000 was mainly due to receipts in respect of refunds for education and training fees.

13 Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration

Estimate €12.295 million; realised €14.036 million

The surplus of €1.741 million arose because receipts from additional superannuation contributions are difficult to accurately estimate, particularly in the Defence Forces given the range of issues that can impact on the calculations, including pay increases, enlistments, retirements, range of allowances, etc.

14 Dormant accounts receipts

Estimate €750,000; realised €983,000

The surplus of €233,000 arose primarily because funding approved in the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan which could not proceed in 2021 owing to the impact of Covid-19 was instead utilised in 2022.

Note 5 Staffing and Remuneration

5.1 Employee numbers

Full time equivalents	2022	2021
Number of staff at year end	8,796	9,298

5.2 Pay

Remuneration of all staff		
	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Pay	427,857	417,690
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	235	211
Overtime	450	286
Shift and roster allowance	295	271
Military and other allowances	41,215	44,945
Employer's PRSI	43,374	42,721
Total pay ^{a, b}	513,426	506,124

Notes

- The overall totals do not include the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces which accounts for four personnel and total pay of €316,110. That office produces a separate account.
- ^b Total pay represents the pay elements of subheads A.1, A.3, A.4, A.6 and A.7.

5.3 Civil servants

	2022	2021
Full time equivalents		
Number of staff at year end ^a	379	370

Note

Fourteen of these personnel are embedded in Defence Forces' units and are employed full time in providing support to those units.

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Pay	20,325	19,407
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	159	122
Other allowances	65	52
Overtime	139	61
Employer's PRSI	1,381	1,263
Total pay	22,069	20,905

Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of	Recipients of €10,000	Highest ind payme	
	recipients	or more	2022	2021
			€	€
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	14	8	22,755	22,002
Other allowances	12	1	12,660	9,248
Overtime	57	2	12,388	8,930
Extra remuneration in more than one category	10	4	27,612	24,700

5.4 Civilian employees

	2022	2021
Full time equivalents		
Number of staff at year end	414	440
	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Pay	17,566	17,349
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	76	89
Overtime	311	225
Shift and roster allowances	295	271
Travel time allowance	415	421
Tool and other allowances	228	213
Employer's PRSI	1,868	1,839
Total pay	20,759	20,407

Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of	Recipients of €10,000	Highest individua payment	
	recipients	or more	2022	2021
			€	€
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	54	_	8,967	8,853
Overtime	127	3	17,616	9,304
Shift and roster allowances	43	4	14,680	14,821
Travel time allowance	56	18	13,964	13,335
Tool and other allowances	246	_	3,235	3,235
Extra remuneration in more than one category	161	37	27,869	27,995

5.5 Permanent Defence Force (including Army Nursing Service and Chaplaincy)

	2022	2021
Full time equivalents		
Number of staff at year end	8,003	8,488
	2002	0004
	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Pay and military service allowance	389,966	380,934
Overseas allowances	21,270	20,934
Security duty allowances	12,550	17,230
Border duty allowance	1,849	2,042
Patrol duty allowance	2,253	1,663
Miscellaneous allowances	2,585	2,390
Employer's PRSI	40,125	39,619
Total pay	470,598	464,812

Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of	Recipients of €10,000	Highest ind payme	
	recipients	or more	2022	2021
			€	€
Overseas allowances	1,913	1,035	41,263	42,950
Security duty allowances	6,846	49	22,592	20,551
Border duty allowance	417	_	9,984	26,384
Patrol duty allowance	556	19	11,311	12,435
Miscellaneous allowances	841	102	13,815	10,974
Extra remuneration in more than one category	2,788	1,121	38,865	37,995

5.6 Staffing by pay band

The number of 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 baı	nds (€)	Number of e	mployees
From	То	2022	2021
20,000	59,999	7,645	8,100
60,000	69,999	501	383
70,000	79,999	285	313
80,000	89,999	228	197
90,000	99,999	117	93
100,000	109,999	68	48
110,000	119,999	38	25
120,000	129,999	21	18
130,000	139,999	13	7
140,000	149,999	10	3
150,000	159,999	3	3
160,000	169,999		_
170,000	179,999	_	_
180,000	189,999		_
190,000	199,999		_
200,000	209,999	1	1
210,000	219,999	2	1

5.7 Other remuneration arrangements

A total of €1,157,009 was paid to 35 retired Defence Force personnel in receipt of Defence Forces pensions, ranging from €174 to €76,451, who were re-employed on various duties during 2022. In addition, a total of €65,245 ranging from €600 to €7,200 was paid to 22 retired public servants in receipt of public service pensions, who were re-employed on various duties during 2022. Appropriate procedures are in place with regard to payments to retired personnel in accordance with section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

5.8 Seconded staff

This account includes expenditure of €378,044 in respect of four officers who were serving outside the Department for all or part of 2022 and whose salaries were not recouped by the Department.

This account does not include expenditure in respect of one officer who was serving outside the Department for all or part of 2022 in another Government office whose salary was paid by the office in which they were serving.

5.9 Payroll overpayments

At 31 December	2022	2021
Number of recipients	129	106
Recovery plans in place	28	24
	€	€
Overpayments	168,477	171,872
Value of recovery plans	43,072	56,769

No overpayments were transferred from the Department of Defence to any other department/office in 2022.

5.10 Medical treatment

Inpatient and outpatient services were provided to enlisted personnel and their dependants in public hospitals without application of the statutory charge.

5.11 Severance/redundancy

No severance or redundancy payments were made in 2022.

5.12 Remuneration and benefits of Accounting Officer

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

mandar year was as follows.	2022 €000	2021 €000
Basic pay	212	200

The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above. The Accounting Officer is a member of the single public service pension scheme and her entitlements to retirement benefits do not extend beyond the standard terms of that scheme.

Note 6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Overseas missions

This account includes the sums indicated below in respect of the remuneration of military personnel serving with UN and EU peace support operations and various organisations, together with travel and subsistence and transportation costs.

	2022	2021
	€000	€000
UN and EU missions		
UNIFIL (Lebanon)	33,672	32,084
UNDOF (Golan Heights)	12,758	13,088
KFOR (Kosovo)	1,519	1,420
EUFOR (Bosnia Herzegovina)	682	589
Other UN and EU missions	5,457	5,423
	54,088	52,604
Other		
Military representatives and advisors	2,661	2,653
German Battlegroup	_	314
EU Battlegroup	76	
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe	261	247
Mediterranean operations (search and rescue)	334	658
ECAT Kabul	3	21
Total	57,423	56,497

Of the sum of €54.1 million for UN and EU missions, €6.4 million relates to missions the full costs of which are borne by the State. The remaining €47.7 million relates to UNIFIL, UNDOF and MINUSMA (Mali) in respect of which arrangements for the re-imbursement of certain costs have been agreed with the UN and the German Armed Forces. The timing of re-imbursements from the UN is dependent on various factors including the funding available to that organisation.

The moneys received by way of appropriations-in-aid in 2022 amounted to €14 million, made up of €7.2 million for personnel costs and €6.8 million for equipment costs. The amount outstanding at year end was €3.5 million (€1.8 million personnel costs and €1.7 million equipment costs).

6.2 Committees, commissions and special inquiries

Fixed purpose commission	Year of appointment	Cumulative expenditure to the end of 2022	2022	2021
		€000	€000	€000
Commission on the Defence Forces ^a	2020	468	110	358
Independent Review Group on Dignity and Equality Issues in the Defence Forces ^b	2022	697	697	_
		_	807	358

Note

- The Commission on the Defence Forces was established in December 2020 and reported in February 2022. Its terms of reference included the consideration of appropriate capabilities, structures and staffing for the Army, the Air Corps, the Naval Service and the Reserve Defence Force.
- The Independent Review Group on Dignity and Equality Issues in the Defence Forces was established in January 2022 and the report was presented to An Tánaiste on 2 February 2023.

6.3 Support for Defence Forces' representative associations

This account includes a total of €537,780 in respect of the remuneration of military personnel seconded to representative associations and certain related administrative costs.

6.4 Write-offs

The following sums were written off within the year	r.	
	2022	2021
	€000	€000
Damage to military vehicles	1	49
Debt write-off	28	38
	29	87

6.5 Fraud and suspected fraud

	Number	2022	2021
	of cases	€000	€000
Suspected fraud/irregularity			33 33

The Department has not been made aware of any suspected fraud/irregularity cases during 2022 (2021: two).

6.6 Compensation and legal costs

Payments/costs paid by the Department in the year

	Claims by				Total	Total
	Em	Employees Members of the public		2022	2021	
	Personal injuries	Breach HR/ employment policies	Personal injuries	Other		
Number of cases	263	117	16	15	411	423
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Department's own legal costs	1,002	133	25	_	1,160	958
Payments by/on b	ehalf of Dep	partment				
Compensation	2,886	380	21	32	3,319	2,873
Legal costs	978	407	57	_	1,442	1,622
Other costs	278	9	9	1	297	181
2022 total	5,144	929	112	33	6,218	5,634
2021 total	4,515	890	229		5,634	

Note At 31 December 2022, 495 claims were outstanding (2021: 521 claims).

Cumulative costs of cases completed in 2022

Claims by Members of the Total **Employees** public **Personal Breach HR/** Personal Other injuries injuries employment policies Number of cases 73 10 20 103 €000 €000 €000 €000 €000 Department's own 360 26 386 legal costs Payments by/on behalf of Department Compensation 55 32 2,275 2,188 992 Legal costs 955 37 Other costs 2 120 107 11 129 Total 3,610 34 3,773

6.7 Arbitration and conciliation

In 2022, costs of €8,500 were incurred (2021: €7,389) in relation to five arbitration and conciliation cases (2021: three cases).

Appendix A Schedule of land and buildings

1. Vested in the Minister for Defence

Property	Area (hectares) ^a
Clare	
Knockalisheen Camp	51.24
Cork	
Murphy Barracks, Ballincollig	0.89
Collins Barracks, Cork	24.22
Portion of Camp Field, Collins Barracks	_
Old Barracks and Graveyard, Fermoy	3.98
Fitzgerald Camp, Fermoy	0.40
RDF premises, Kilcrohane	0.40
Michael Collins Memorial Plot, Béal na Bláth	0.004
RDF premises, Skibbereen	0.20
RDF premises, Mallow	0.03
Dublic	
Dublin Cooperat Accordance Reldennel including sowage plant on	276.93
Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel including sewage plant on adjacent land	270.93
Esplanade, Collins Barracks	0.20
Site at Islandbridge, Dublin 8	0.26
Cho at lolalitage, Dabilit C	0.20
Galway	
Oranmore Rifle Range	216.10
Springfield water supply to Oranmore Range	
Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa, Galway	29.95
Kerry	
Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee	6.07
Fort Shannon, Tarbert	0.81
RDF premises, Kilorglin	0.10
T.D. Promises, raiorgini	0.10
Kildare	
Curragh Camp and lands	1,968.12
Curragh Lands – Kildare by-pass	_
Nos. 2, 78 and 96 Orchard Park, Curragh	0.06
Magee Barracks, Kildare	1.99
Lands at Blackrath, Curragh	14.37
Kilkenny	
Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny	5.67
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Property	Area (hectares) ^a
Louth	
Red Barns Rifle Range, Dundalk	5.46
Meath	
Gormanstown Camp and Aerodrome	105.62
RDF premises, Navan	0.20
Offaly	
Former Military Barracks, Birr	0.20
Roscommon	
Rifle Range, Carna	114.53
Tipperary	
Rifle Range, Kilcoran	5.46
Waterford	
Military Barracks, Waterford	0.28
Westmeath	
Columb Barracks, Mullingar	9.61
Custume Barracks, Athlone	5.26
Garrynafela Lands, Athlone	5.97
Wicklow	
Glen of Imaal Artillery Range	2,698.85
Coolmoney Camp and Lands	97.53
Rockbrae House and Lands, Bray	1.38
Range Warden's Post, Seskin	0.40

Note ^a Hectares stated are approximate. Most of the properties contain buildings thereon.

2. Vested in the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform

Property	Area (hectares) ^a
Clare	
RDF premises, Ennis	0.10
Cork	
Kilworth Camp and Range	1,377.55
Portion at Kilworth Camp for provision of road services to TII	10.69
Bere Island	91.05
Naval Base, Haulbowline	33.99
Fort Davis, Whitegate	22.04
Fort Templebreedy, Crosshaven	14.97
Furious Pier, Castletownbere	
Landing Pier, Cobh	_
Donegal	
Finner Camp, Bundoran	337.01
Dublin	
Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin 6	18.62
Nos. 17-28, Cathal Brugha Apartments, Rathmines, Dublin 6	0.27
McKee Barracks, Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin 7	18.21
64 McKee Park, Dublin 7	0.02
St Bricin's Hospital, Dublin 7	3.24
Old School House, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7	
2 Tomar Court, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7	0.01
Laois	
RDF premises, Portlaoise	0.03
Limerick	
Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick	5.99
Louth	
Aiken Barracks, Dundalk	7.28
Darracing Barracin	7.20
Roscommon	
Rifle Range, Cushla	56.25
Military Barracks, Boyle	0.20

Property	Area (hectares) ^a
Tipperary	
Military Barracks, Nenagh	1.20
Part of McCann Barracks, Templemore	0.16
Wexford	
Military Barracks, Wexford	0.40
Wicklow	
Kilbride Camp and Rifle Range	636.98

Notes ^a Hectares are approximate. Most of the properties contain buildings thereon.

Appendix B Accounts of bodies and funds under the aegis of the Department of Defence

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 end of March 2023, 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
Ombudsman for the Defence Forces	2021	5 Sep 2022	7 Sep 2022	12 Sep 2022
Defence Forces Canteen Board	2021	28 Apr 2022	19 May 2022	27 May 2022