

Vote 7: Superannuation and Retired Allowances

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 2009 for pensions, superannuation, occupational injuries, and additional and other allowances and gratuities under the Superannuation Acts 1834 to 2004 and sundry other statutes; extra-statutory pensions, allowances and gratuities awarded by the Minister for Finance, fees to medical referees and occasional fees to doctors; compensation and other payments in respect of personal injuries; fees to Pensions Board; payments in respect of Pensions Benefit System, miscellaneous payments, etc.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2009, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and notes 1 to 6 form part of the Account.

Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles

The standard accounting policies and principles for the production of Appropriation Accounts have been applied in the preparation of the Account.

Statement on Internal Financial Control

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

CIARAN CONNOLLY

Accounting Officer
Superannuation and Retired Allowances
3 March 2010

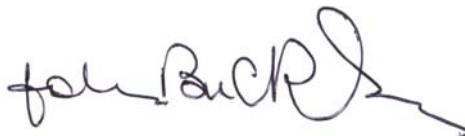
Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for Superannuation and Retired Allowances for 2009 under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993. The Account has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles. The duties of the Accounting Officer and of the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to the Appropriation Accounts, and the basis of the audit opinion, are set out in Part 1 to this volume.

I have obtained all the information and explanations I considered necessary for the purposes of my audit. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Department of Finance in respect of the Vote for Superannuation and Retired Allowances. The Appropriation Account is in agreement with the books of account.

In my opinion, the Appropriation Account properly presents the receipts and expenditure of the Vote for the year ended 31 December 2009.

Chapter 3 of my annual report refers to certain matters which I considered it appropriate to report on in accordance with Section 3 (10) of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Buckley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN BUCKLEY
Comptroller and Auditor General
2 September 2010

Vote 7 Superannuation and Retired Allowances Appropriation Account 2009

Service		2009 Estimate provision	2009 Outturn	2008 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000	€000
Administration				
A.	Superannuation allowances, compensation allowances, pensions and certain children's allowances			
	<i>Original</i> 224,000			
	<i>Supplementary</i> 18,000	242,000	238,915	216,749
B.	Payments under the contributory pensions schemes for spouses and children of civil servants, members of the judiciary and court officers	43,000	42,231	41,126
C.	Ex-gratia pensions for widows and children of civil servants, members of the judiciary and court officers	1,500	1,397	1,547
D.	Additional allowances and gratuities in respect of established officers and payments in respect of transferred service			
	<i>Original</i> 57,000			
	<i>Supplementary</i> 45,000	102,000	103,895	54,314
E.	Pensions, allowances and gratuities in respect of unestablished officers and their spouses and children and other pensions and payments in respect of transferred service			
	21,000			
	<u>2,000</u>	23,000	22,121	19,522
F.	Injury grants and medical fees	360	300	316
G.	Fees to Pensions Board and pensions benefit system	120	73	73
H.	Payments in respect of liability under Chapter 2C of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997	5	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Gross Expenditure	<i>Original</i> 346,985		
		<i>Supplementary</i> 65,000	411,985	408,932
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			411,985	408,932
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			411,985	408,932
	Deduct:			
I.	Appropriations-in-aid	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		78,250	89,926	82,533
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		78,250	89,926	82,533
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		78,250	89,926	82,533
	Net Expenditure	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		333,735	319,006	251,114
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		333,735	319,006	251,114
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		333,735	319,006	251,114
	Surplus to be surrendered		<hr/>	<hr/>
			€14,728,556	€14,044,886

Notes to the Appropriation Account

1 Operating Cost Statement 2009

This Note is not applicable as the administration costs of this Vote are borne on Vote 6 - Office for the Minister for Finance.

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2009

	Note	2009 €000	2008 €000
Current Assets			
Bank and cash	2.1	2,328	5,399
Other debit balances	2.2	52	46
Total Current Assets		2,380	5,445
Less Current Liabilities			
Credit balances	2.3	4,386	3,459
Net Liability from/(to) the Exchequer	2.4	(2,006)	1,986
Total Current Liabilities		2,380	5,445
Net Current Assets		—	—
Net Assets		—	—

2.1 Bank and Cash at 31 December	2009 €000	2008 €000
PMG balances and cash	4,022	8,413
Orders outstanding	(1,694)	(3,014)
	2,328	5,399

2.2 Other Debit Balances at 31 December	2009 €000	2008 €000
Recoupable pensions owed by other departments	51	34
Other	1	12
	52	46

2.3 Credit Balances	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income Tax	2,310	1,979
Pay Related Social Insurance	334	120
Income Levy	283	—
	<u>2,927</u>	<u>2,099</u>
Voluntary pension deductions held in suspense	1,459	1,360
	<u>4,386</u>	<u>3,459</u>
2.4 Net Liability from/(to) the Exchequer	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	14,729	14,045
Exchequer grant undrawn	(16,735)	(12,059)
Net liability from/(to) the Exchequer	<u>(2,006)</u>	<u>1,986</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Bank and cash	2,328	5,399
Debit balances: suspense	52	46
	<u>2,380</u>	<u>5,445</u>
Creditors		
Due to the State	(2,927)	(2,099)
Credit balances: suspense	(1,459)	(1,360)
	<u>(4,386)</u>	<u>(3,459)</u>
	<u>(2,006)</u>	<u>1,986</u>

3 Variations in Expenditure

An explanation is provided below in the case of an expenditure subhead where the outturn varied from the amount provided by more than €100,000, and by more than 5%.

Sub-head	Less/(more) than provided €000	Explanation
C	102	The variation was due to an overestimation of the numbers applying for ex-gratia payments in 2009

4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid		2009 Estimated €000	2009 Realised €000	2008 Realised €000
1	Receipt from the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 1993 (No. 38 of 1993) in respect of pension liability of staff	28,000	28,000	24,000
2	Receipts in respect of pension liability of staff on loan, etc. Contributions to Spouses' and Children's Pension Scheme for Civil Servants and others.	1,050	1,672	1,865
3	Scheme for Civil Servants and others	23,000	24,465	23,936
4	Receipts in respect of the Contributory Scheme introduced for established Civil Servants who were appointed on and after 6 April 1995 (Circular 6/95).	22,000	26,057	22,483
5	Repayment of Gratuities, etc.	1,050	1,154	2,185
6	Purchase of notional service.	3,045	7,967	7,097
7	Miscellaneous	105	611	967
		78,250	89,926	82,533

Explanation of significant variations

An explanation is provided below in the case of each heading where the outturn varied from the amount estimated by more than €100,000, and by more than 5%.

Heading	Less/(more) than estimated €000	Explanation
2	622	The number of staff on loan can vary from year to year making estimation difficult.
3	1,464	The variation was due to an underestimation of the number of contributors and the level of contributions.
4	4,057	The variation was due to an underestimation of the number of contributors and the level of contributions.
5	104	It is not possible to accurately forecast the number and value of gratuities repaid each year.
6	4,922	It is difficult to accurately predict the number of officers who will avail of the purchase scheme each year.
7	506	It is difficult to accurately predict the level of miscellaneous receipts.

5 Employee Numbers and Pay

All staff employed in the administration and payment of superannuation charged to this Vote are paid by Vote 6 - Office of the Minister for Finance.

6 Miscellaneous Items

6.1 Abatement of Pensions

The Pensions (Abatement) Act, 1965 provides that the pensions of civil servants who are retained or re-employed after normal retirement age are abated as necessary to ensure that their total pay in the period of retention or re-employment does not exceed the remuneration which they would have received if they had remained in the posts they had held on the last day of their reckonable service. The Act also provides that such abatements may be waived at the discretion of the Minister for Finance.

In 2009, in the case of one retired civil servant, fees were determined without reference to the former salary of that civil servant. There were no waivers of abatement of pension.