

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Account of the sum expended, in the year ended 31 December 2008, compared with the sum granted and of the sum which may be applied as appropriations-in-aid in addition thereto, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and for certain services administered by that Office, including grants-in-aid and contributions to International Organisations.

Service	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
ADMINISTRATION			
A.1. SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	104,237	98,599	(80)
A.2. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	8,517	7,324	82
A.3. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	5,943	6,507	(353)
A.4. POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	8,432	10,238	(915)
A.5. OFFICE MACHINERY AND OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES AND RELATED SERVICES	29,573	25,739	(441)
A.6. OFFICE PREMISES EXPENSES	35,863	34,555	(2,961)
A.7. CONSULTANCY SERVICES	470	244	—
A.8. VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS	100	36	—
OTHER SERVICES			
B. REPATRIATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DISTRESSED IRISH PERSONS ABROAD	79	36	—
C. SUPPORT FOR IRISH EMIGRANT SERVICES	15,183	15,183	—
D. INFORMATION SERVICES	578	648	6
E. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BODIES IN IRELAND FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (GRANTS-IN-AID)	320	320	—
F.1. NORTH-SOUTH AND ANGLO-IRISH CO-OPERATION	7,000	9,084	(75)
F.2. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND	195	195	—
G. CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (GRANT-IN-AID)	891	891	2
H. IRISH-AMERICAN ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD	28	13	—
I. CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	44,480	38,103	(6,341)
J. ACTIONS CONSEQUENT ON TITLE V OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION	582	582	(283)
K. ASSISTANCE TO EU AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES	1,715	1,193	(188)
L. ATLANTIC CORRIDOR PROJECT	250	250	—
M. ASIA STRATEGY	200	182	—
N. SUPPORT FOR IRELAND FUNDS	2,000	—	—
O. REFERENDUM ON EU REFORM TREATY	5,800	5,738	—
<i>Original</i>	5,800		
<i>Supplementary</i>	1	5,801	5,738

Foreign Affairs – Vote 28

Service	€000	Estimate Provision €000	Outturn €000	Closing Accruals €000
Gross Total				
<i>Original</i>	272,436			
<i>Supplementary</i>	1	272,437	255,660	(11,547)
Deduct:				
P. APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID		39,000	38,165	—
Net Total				
<i>Original</i>	233,436			
<i>Supplementary</i>	1	233,437	217,495	(11,547)
		€15,942,701		

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and Notes 1 to 12 form part of this Account.

NOTES

1 OPERATING COST STATEMENT FOR 2008

	€000	€000
Net Outturn		217,495
Changes in Capital Assets		
Purchases Cash	(14,702)	
Disposals Cash	55	
Depreciation	14,884	
Profit on Disposals	(24)	213
Changes in Net Current Assets		
Increase in Closing Prepayments	(4,650)	
Decrease in Stock	2,400	(2,250)
Direct Expenditure		215,458
Expenditure Borne Elsewhere		
Net Allied Services Expenditure	16,983	
Notional Rents	1,463	18,446
Operating Cost		<u>233,904</u>

2 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	€000	€000	€000
Capital Assets (Note 3)			164,971
Current Assets			
Stocks (Note 11)		2,754	
Prepayments		12,761	
Other Debit Balances:			
Mission and Headquarter Accounts	5,438		
Inter Government Department Accounts	2,336		
Imprest and Personal Suspense Accounts	939		
Foreign Salary Advance Accounts	236		
Miscellaneous	1,673	10,622	
PMG Balance and Cash	49		
Orders Outstanding	(18)	31	
Total Current Assets		<u>26,168</u>	
Less Current Liabilities			
Due to State (Note 12)		2,475	
Net Liability to the Exchequer (Note 4)		4,304	
Accrued Expenses		1,214	
Contributions to Bodies in Ireland (Grant-in-Aid) (Note 10)		48	
Cultural Relations with Other Countries Fund (Grant-in-Aid) (Note 10)		42	
Miscellaneous		3,784	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>11,867</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>14,301</u>
Net Assets			<u>179,272</u>

3 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Land and Buildings €000	Office Equipment €000	Furniture and Fittings €000	Totals €000
Cost or Valuation at 1 January 2008	138,538	71,845	42,987	253,370
Additions	7,299	4,791	1,598	13,688
Disposals	—	(406)	—	(406)
Gross Assets at 31 December 2008	<u>145,837</u>	<u>76,230</u>	<u>44,585</u>	<u>266,652</u>
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Opening Balance at 1 January 2008	—	59,648	27,524	87,172
Depreciation for the year	—	11,778	3,106	14,884
Depreciation on Disposals	—	(375)	—	(375)
Cumulative Depreciation at 31 December 2008	<u>—</u>	<u>71,051</u>	<u>30,630</u>	<u>101,681</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2008	<u>145,837</u>	<u>5,179</u>	<u>13,955</u>	<u>164,971</u>

Note: Fixed Assets included under Land and Buildings represent properties owned outside the State. In addition, the Department occupies twelve buildings within the State, of which one is State-owned and eleven are leased.

4 NET LIABILITY TO THE EXCHEQUER**Reconciliation of Surplus to be Surrendered at year end to Debtor and Creditor Balances held at 31 December 2008**

	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered		15,943
Exchequer Grant Undrawn		<u>(11,639)</u>
Net Liability to the Exchequer		<u>4,304</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Net PMG position and cash	31	
Debit Balances: Suspense	<u>10,622</u>	10,653
Creditors		
Due to State	(2,475)	
Credit Balances: Suspense	(3,784)	
Credit Balances: Other	<u>(90)</u>	(6,349)
		<u>4,304</u>

5 EXPLANATION OF THE CAUSES OF VARIATION BETWEEN OUTTURN AND ESTIMATE PROVISION

Sub-head	Less/(More) than provided €000	Explanation
A.1.	5,638	Savings in overtime, allowances to officers working at Missions abroad and reduced payroll costs of local staff at Missions abroad, savings in allowances including officers' rent overseas due to the strength of the euro.
A.2.	1,193	Savings on air fares and general travel costs.

Sub-head	Less/(More) than provided €000	Explanation
A.3.	(564)	Overspend due to currency exchange adjustments, offset by savings on State/official entertainment.
A.4.	(1,806)	Overspend due to additional costs of communication equipment linking Missions abroad to Headquarters in Dublin.
A.5.	3,834	Savings on capital purchases, consumables, equipment maintenance, printing and stationery.
A.6.	1,308	Savings on capital purchases, partly offset by higher spending on maintenance costs.
A.7.	226	The level of engagement with external consultants was lower than initially expected.
F.1.	(2,084)	It was decided to meet in full the Government's commitment to the Blair Chair; the additional €4m disbursed was offset by savings elsewhere, including the decision to defer progress on the North/South peace monument.
I.	6,377	Savings arose due to lower than expected demand for contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping budget.
K.	522	Lower level of grants to training institutes relating to new EU member states.
N.	2,000	Issues regarding the nature of possible legislation required were still under consideration and, accordingly, the allocated funds were not spent.

6 APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID

	Estimated €	Realised €
1. Passport, Visa and other Consular Services	37,170,000	35,885,863
2. Repayment of Repatriation and Maintenance Advances	30,000	7,255
3. VAT refunds to Diplomatic Missions	1,200,000	1,658,261
4. Miscellaneous	600,000	613,859
	<u>39,000,000</u>	<u>38,165,238</u>

Explanation of Variations

- Receipts are dependent on the level of demand for passports and visas.
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- It is difficult to predict the level of refunds.

7 COMMITMENTS

The estimated total figure for commitments at 31 December 2008 and likely to materialise in the following year is €20.1m relating to property rental payments abroad and a contract for the printing of passport booklets.

8 DETAILS OF EXTRA REMUNERATION

	Amount paid	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Max. individual payment of €10,000 or more
	€			€
Higher, special or additional duties	398,563	89	11	24,313
Overtime and extra attendance	1,367,191	465	24	35,104
Miscellaneous	484,368	208	6	12,000
Total extra remuneration	<u>2,250,122</u>			

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

9 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Payments totalling €19,226 were paid to four retired civil servants in receipt of civil service pensions whose services were employed on specialised tasks.

The Administrative Budget Agreement provides for the recognition of exceptional performance by staff. A total of €764,625 was paid in performance related and merit pay awards in 2008 consisting of 217 individual awards and 25 group awards.

Merit awards amounting to €2,500 were also paid to 13 staff for attendance on bank holidays to issue urgent passports.

A total of €57,954 was paid in ex-gratia payments to 9 staff.

A payment of €5,592 was made in settlement of a claim for wages arrears by a civilian driver formerly employed by the Department.

Payments totalling €19,047 were made to the State Claims Agency in relation to four claims arising from accidents.

10 MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS**1. Repatriation Advances****Account of receipts and payments during year ended 31 December 2008**

	€	€
Add		
Balance Outstanding at 1 January 2008		158,690
Advances/expenditure 2008 (Subhead B)		<u>35,790</u>
		194,480
Less		
Amounts written off	(169,136)	
Amounts Recovered (Subhead P)	<u>(7,255)</u>	(176,391)
		<u>18,089</u>

2. Contributions to Bodies in Ireland for the furtherance of International Relations (Grant-in-Aid)**Account of receipts and payments during year ended 31 December 2008**

		€
Balance at 1 January 2008		35,000
Grant-in-Aid 2008 (Subhead E)		<u>320,000</u>
		355,000
Expenditure 2008		<u>307,205</u>
		<u>47,795</u>

3. Cultural Relations with Other Countries (Grant-in-Aid)**Account of receipts and payments during year ended 31 December 2008**

		€
Balance at 1 January 2008		4,416
Grant-in-Aid 2008 (Subhead G)		<u>891,000</u>
		895,416
Expenditure 2008		<u>853,721</u>
		<u>41,695</u>

11 STOCKS

Stocks at 31 December 2008 comprised:

	€000
Passport booklets	2,499
Protocol stocks	150
Stationery	45
Prepaid postage	13
IT consumables	<u>47</u>
	<u>2,754</u>

12 DUE TO THE STATE

The amount due to the State at 31 December 2008 consisted of:

	€000
Income Tax	1,146
Pay Related Social Insurance	502
Pension contributions	174
Voluntary Surrender of Pay	12
VAT	529
Withholding Tax	112
	<u>2,475</u>

DAVID COONEY

Accounting Officer
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
31 March 2009

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for Foreign Affairs for 2008 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 Foreign Affairs. 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 2008.

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

JOHN BUCKLEY
Comptroller and Auditor General
4 September 2009