

Vote 6: Office of the Minister for Finance

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 6, 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 the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Finance, including the Paymaster General's Office, for certain services administered by the Office of the Minister and for payment of certain grants and grants-in-aid.

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.

KEVIN CARDIFF
Accounting Officer
Department of Finance
31 March 2010

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of the Vote for the Office of the Minister for Finance 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. 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Buckley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOHN BUCKLEY
Comptroller and Auditor General
31 August 2010

Vote 6 Office of the Minister for Finance Appropriation Account 2009

Service	2009 Estimate provision	2009 Outturn	2008 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Administration			
A.1. Salaries, wages and allowances	40,230	39,693	40,433
A.2. Travel and subsistence	650	363	693
A.3. Incidental expenses	1,550	1,007	1,578
A.4. Postal and telecommunications services	1,325	966	1,411
A.5. Office machinery and other office supplies and related services	2,235	1,661	2,379
A.6. Office premises expenses	1,100	811	1,972
A.7. Consultancy services	20	—	52
A.8. Value for money and policy reviews	890	817	960
Other Services			
B. Economic and Social Research Institute - administration and general expenses (grant-in-aid)	3,300	3,300	5,500
C. Institute of Public Administration (grant-in-aid)	3,700	3,700	3,900
D. Gaeleagras na Seirbhíse Poiblí	450	413	413
E. Civil service arbitration and appeals procedures	70	67	58
F.1. Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Service	255	269	191
F.2. Public Service Benchmarking Body	5	33	44
F.3. Committee for Performance Awards	60	46	61
G. Centre for Management and Organisation Development	3,232	1,656	6,122
H.1. Structural Funds Technical Assistance and other costs	1,515	968	1,409
H.2. Technical Assistance costs of Regional Assemblies (grant-in-aid)	1,400	1,022	1,356
I. Committees and commissions	990	975	670
J. Payments to the promoters of certain charitable lotteries (National Lottery funded)	8,618	8,618	8,618
K. Change Management Fund	1,000	401	1,072

	2009 Estimate provision	2009 Outturn	2008 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
L.1. Peace Programme/Northern Ireland INTERREG	2,530	1,452	10,641
L.2. Special EU Programmes Body	1,565	1,200	1,102
M. Ireland/Wales and Transnational INTERREG	550	508	344
N. Civil Service Childcare Initiative	25	13	1,560
O. Procurement Management Reform	800	209	872
P. Consultancy and other services	5,420	6,092	1,945
	83,485	76,260	95,356
Gross Expenditure			
Deduct			
Q. Appropriations-in-aid	15,130	11,086	8,208
	68,355	65,174	87,148
Net Expenditure			
		€3,180,980	€10,011,748

Notes to the Appropriation Account

1 Operating Cost Statement 2009

		2009	2008
	Note	€000	€000
Expenditure on administration		45,318	49,478
Expenditure on services and programmes		30,942	45,878
Gross expenditure		<u>76,260</u>	<u>95,356</u>
Deduct			
Appropriations in aid		11,086	8,208
Net expenditure		<u>65,174</u>	<u>87,148</u>
Changes in capital assets			
Purchases cash		(190)	
Depreciation		3,296	
Loss on disposals		<u>2</u>	2,878
Changes in assets under development			
Cash payments		(268)	(567)
Changes in net current assets			
Increase in closing accruals		75	
Increase in stock		<u>(4)</u>	2
Direct expenditure		68,085	89,461
Net allied services expenditure	1.1	20,107	18,000
Notional rents		5,390	5,626
		<u>93,582</u>	<u>113,087</u>

1.1 Net Allied Services

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following estimated amounts in relation to Vote 6 borne elsewhere

Vote		2009	2008
		€000	€000
7	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	15,859	13,180
10	Office of Public Works	3,823	4,379
20	Garda Síochána	171	189
	Central Fund - Ministerial etc. pensions	254	252
		<u>20,107</u>	<u>18,000</u>

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2009

	Note	2009 €000	2008 €000
Capital Assets	2.1	5,898	8,751
Capital Assets under Development	2.2	244	231
		6,142	8,982
Current Assets			
Bank and cash	2.3	1,597	1,735
Stocks	2.4	53	49
Prepayments		749	736
Accrued income		18	18
Other debit balances	2.5	319	475
Total Current Assets		2,736	3,013
Less Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses		339	402
Other credit balances	2.6	1,944	1,827
Net Liability from/(to) the Exchequer	2.7	(28)	383
Total Current Liabilities		2,255	2,612
Net Current Assets		481	401
Net Assets		6,623	9,383

2.1 Capital Assets

	IT Equipment €000	Furniture and Fittings €000	Office Equipment €000	Total €000
Gross assets				
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2009	23,373	5,218	2,214	30,805
Additions	397	29	19	445
Disposals	—	—	(9)	(9)
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2009	<u>23,770</u>	<u>5,247</u>	<u>2,224</u>	<u>31,241</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
Opening balance at 1 January 2009	16,616	3,442	1,996	22,054
Depreciation for the year	2,919	283	94	3,296
Depreciation on disposals	—	—	(7)	(7)
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2009	<u>19,535</u>	<u>3,725</u>	<u>2,083</u>	<u>25,343</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2009	<u>4,235</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>5,898</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2008	<u>6,757</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>8,751</u>

2.2 Capital Assets under Development

	In-House Computer Applications €000
Amounts brought forward at 1 January 2009	231
Cash payments for the year	268
Transferred to asset register	(255)
Amounts carried forward at 31 December 2009	<u>244</u>

2.3 Bank and Cash

at 31 December	2009 €000	2008 €000
PMG balances and cash	1,604	1,817
Orders outstanding	(7)	(82)
	<u>1,597</u>	<u>1,735</u>

2.4 Stocks

at 31 December	2009 €000	2008 €000
Stationery	19	24
IT consumables	34	25
	<u>53</u>	<u>49</u>

2.5 Other Debit Balances	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Advances to OPW	16	31
Recoupable salaries	94	264
Recoupable travel expenditure	26	37
Recoupable travel pass scheme expenditure	118	117
Other debit suspense items	65	26
	<u>319</u>	<u>475</u>

2.6 Other Credit Balances	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income Tax	585	713
Pay Related Social Insurance	282	234
Professional Services Withholding Tax	605	303
Value Added Tax	118	56
Pension Contributions	3	85
Income Levy	50	—
	<u>1,643</u>	<u>1,391</u>
Payroll deductions held in suspense	284	317
Other credit suspense items	17	119
	<u>1,944</u>	<u>1,827</u>

2.7 Net Liability from/(to) the Exchequer	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	3,181	10,012
Exchequer grant undrawn	(3,209)	(9,629)
Net liability from/(to) the Exchequer	<u>(28)</u>	<u>383</u>

Represented by:**Debtors**

Bank and cash	1,597	1,735
Debit balances: suspense	319	475
	<u>1,916</u>	<u>2,210</u>

Creditors

Due to State	(1,643)	(1,391)
Credit balances: suspense	(301)	(436)
	<u>(1,944)</u>	<u>(1,827)</u>
	<u>(28)</u>	<u>383</u>

2.8 Commitments	2009	2008
at 31 December	€000	€000
Total of legally enforceable commitments	498	815

3 Variations in Expenditure

An explanation is provided below in the case of each expenditure subhead where the outturn varied from the amount provided by more than €100,000, and by more than 5% (25% in the case of administration subheads).

Sub-head	Less/ (more) than provided €000	Explanation
A.2.	287	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
A.3.	543	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
A.4.	359	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
A.5.	574	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
A.6.	289	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
G.	1,576	Savings arose as a result of measures implemented following a Government decision on expenditure in July 2008.
H.1.	547	Savings arose due to reduction, suspension and/or delay of programmes.
H.2.	378	Costs were less than anticipated due to a delay in submission of claims by Regional Assemblies.
K	599	The drawdown of funds by Departments was less than anticipated.
L.1.	1,078	Savings arose due to delayed spending and lower than anticipated funding rates on some projects.
L.2.	365	Savings mainly arose due to favourable exchange rates.
O	591	Savings arose due to lower than expected cost levels on e-tenders and delayed work on other projects.
P	(672)	Excess arose due to additional costs associated with the Bank Guarantee Scheme.

4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid	2009	2009	2008
	Estimated	Realised	Realised
	€000	€000	€000
1. Receipts from computer services rendered by the Centre for Management and Organisation Development.	115	72	114
2. Receipts from Departments in respect of foreign language classes	90	12	90
3. EU Programmes	5,500	5,471	7,350
4. Recoupment of certain expenses under the Bank Guarantee Scheme	6,620	2,496	—
5. Receipts from pension-related deductions on public service remuneration	2,700	2,820	—
6. Miscellaneous	105	215	654
	15,130	11,086	8,208

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	Explanation
	€000	
4	4,124	Activities under the scheme were less than anticipated due to resources being diverted to other priority areas.
6	(110)	Receipts under this heading fluctuate and are difficult to estimate accurately.

4.2 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

Other receipts totalling €126,142 were transferred to the Exchequer during the year. The main receipt under this heading was €124,767 in respect of voluntary surrender of salary under Section 483 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.

5 Employee Numbers and Pay

	2009	2008
Number of staff at year end (full time equivalents)	563	611
	2009	2008
	€000	€000
Pay	40,094	40,138
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	306	327
Other allowances	288	543
Overtime	414	689
Employer's PRSI	1,663	1,739
Total pay	42,765	43,436

Note: The total pay figure is inclusive of pay in subheads A.1, A.8, D, E, F.1, F.2, F.3, H.1, I, L.2, P and Q.

5.1 Allowances and Overtime Payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Maximum individual payment	Maximum individual payment
			2009	2008
			€	€
Higher, special or additional duties	56	17	19,149	18,878
Other allowances	95	17	32,752	46,233
Overtime	178	2	29,626	33,374

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

5.2 Performance and Merit Payments

Three officers received ex-gratia payments in recognition of exceptional performance. The total of the three payments made was €7,500.

Under the terms of the AHCPs 1% PCW restructuring agreement, a total of €118,536 was paid in 66 instances, in respect of Seniority Allowances and Special Service Payments.

5.3 Other Remuneration Arrangements

Four retired civil servants in receipt of civil service pensions were re-engaged on a fee basis at a total cost of €161,512.

This account includes expenditure of €537,372 in respect of ten officers who were serving outside the Department for all or part of 2009 and whose salaries were paid from the main salary subhead of the Department.

6 Miscellaneous Items

6.1 National Lottery Funding

	2009 Estimate €000	2009 Outturn €000	2008 Outturn €000
Subhead			
J. Payments to promoters of certain charitable lotteries	8,618	8,618	8,618
Details are available on the Department of Finance website " www.finance.gov.ie "			

6.2 EU Funding

The outturn shown in Subheads H.1. and H.2 includes payments in respect of activities which are co-financed from the ERDF. Estimates of expenditure and actual outturns were as follows:

Subhead Description	2009 Estimate €000	2009 Outturn €000	2008 Outturn €000
H.1. Structural Funds Technical Assistance and other costs	977	768	971
H.2. Technical Assistance costs of Regional Assemblies (grant-in-aid)	1,400	1,022	1,356
L.1. Peace Programme/Northern Ireland INTERREG	—	—	10,641
	<u>2,377</u>	<u>1,790</u>	<u>12,968</u>

6.3 Commissions and Inquiries

	Year of appointment	2009 €000	2008 €000
Civil Service Arbitration Board	1950/51	50	49
Credit Union Advisory Committee	1967	30	37
Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Service	1969/70	269	191
Disabled Drivers Appeals Board	1989	371	320
Civil Service Appeals Board	1993	17	9
Public Service Benchmarking Body	2000	33	44
Commission on Taxation	2008	520	313
		<u>1,290</u>	<u>963</u>

