

Vote 41: Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 41, 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 2010 for the provision of certain services in respect of children and youth affairs, including miscellaneous grants and grants-in-aid.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2010, 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 7 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 except for the following -

The charge under subhead A. relates to payments to the Department of Social and Family Affairs in respect of the Early Childcare Payment Scheme. The amount charged to the subhead is the amount paid to that Department in 2010.

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 Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

MICHAEL SCANLAN

Accounting Officer

Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

31 March 2011

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of Vote 41: Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs for 2010 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 Health and Children in respect of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth 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 2010.

Chapter 49 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

29 August 2011

Vote 41 Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
Appropriation Account 2010

Service	2010 Estimate provision	2010 Outturn	2009 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Childcare payments			
A. Early Childcare Payment	4,500	10,950	231,000
Childcare programmes			
B. National Childcare Investment Programme	105,078	97,369	131,578
C. Early Intervention Programme for Children (dormant accounts funded)	5,340	2,966	5,240
D. ECCE Pre-School Year Scheme	170,000	153,542	—
National Children's Strategy (NCS)			
E. NCS - National Longitudinal Study and other programmes	25,790	23,783	27,954
Youth Affairs			
F. Grant-in-aid fund for general expenses of youth organisations and other expenditure in relation to youth activities	8,000	8,000	8,772
G. Grant-in-aid fund for general expenses of youth organisations and other expenditure in relation to youth activities (part-funded by National Lottery)	38,600	38,599	39,340
Other Services			
H. Cost in connection with the holding of a constitutional referendum on children's rights	3,000	—	—
Gross Expenditure	360,308	335,209	443,884
Deduct :			
I Appropriations-in-aid	9,040	2,966	5,240
Net Expenditure	351,268	332,243	438,644
Surplus to be surrendered		€19,025,384	2,933,938

Notes to the Appropriation Account

1 Operating Cost Statement 2010

Note	€000	2010 €000	2009 €000
Expenditure on administration ¹		—	—
Expenditure on services and programmes		335,209	443,884
Gross expenditure		<u>335,209</u>	<u>443,884</u>
Deduct			
Appropriations-in-aid		2,966	5,240
Net expenditure		<u>332,243</u>	<u>438,644</u>
Changes in capital assets			
Purchases cash	—		
Depreciation	—		
		<u>—</u>	
Changes in net current assets			
Decrease in closing accruals	(6,398)		
Increase in stock	—		
		<u>(6,398)</u>	18,766
Direct expenditure		<u>325,845</u>	<u>457,410</u>
Total operating cost		<u><u>325,845</u></u>	<u><u>457,410</u></u>

Note: ¹Administration costs of this Office, including accommodation costs, are met from the Vote of the Department of Health and Children.

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2010

	Note	2010 €000	2009 €000
Capital Assets		—	—
		—	—
Current Assets			
Bank and Cash	2.2	27	44
Prepayments		483	1,090
Other debit balances	2.3	157	—
Total Current Assets		667	1,134
Less Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses		135	6,985
Other credit balances	2.4	20	29
Net Liability to the Exchequer	2.5	9	15
Total Current Liabilities		164	7,029
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		503	(5,895)
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		503	(5,895)

2.1 Statement of Capital Assets

Capital assets are reflected in the Appropriation Account of the Department of Health and Children.

2.2 Bank and Cash	2010	2009
at 31 December	€000	€000
PMG balances and cash	57	940
Orders outstanding	(30)	(896)
	<u>27</u>	<u>44</u>

2.3 Other Debit Balances	2010	2009
at 31 December	€000	€000
Other debit suspense items	2	—
Overpayments on ECCE pre school scheme	155	—
	<u>157</u>	<u>—</u>

2.4 Other Credit Balances	2010	2009
at 31 December	€000	€000

Amounts due to the State

Income Tax	—	—
Pay Related Social Insurance	—	—
Professional Services Withholding Tax	17	29
Value Added Tax	3	—
Pensions	—	—
	<u>20</u>	<u>29</u>

2.5 Net Liability to the Exchequer

at 31 December	2010	2009
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	19,025	2,934
Exchequer grant undrawn	(19,016)	(2,919)
Net liability to the Exchequer	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>

Represented by:**Debtors**

Debit balances: suspense	2	—
Bank and cash	27	44
	<u>29</u>	<u>44</u>

Creditors

Due to State	(20)	(29)
	<u>(20)</u>	<u>(29)</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>

2.6 Global Commitments

at 31 December

	2010	2009
	€000	€000
Commitments likely to arise in subsequent years for:		
Procurement subheads	29,333	36,324
Grant subheads	19,797	40,009
Total commitments	<u>49,130</u>	<u>76,333</u>

3 Variations in Expenditure

An explanation is provided below in the case of each expenditure subhead where the outturn varied from the amount provided, after any supplementary estimate adjustments, by more than €100,000, and by more than 5%.

Sub-head	Less/(more) than provided €000	Explanation
A.	(6,450)	The excess arose because the residual payments to claimants providing for arrears and appeals under the Early Childcare Payment were higher than expected.
B.	7,709	The funding required for the capital element of projects included in the National Childcare Investment Programme was less than anticipated due to delays encountered by some applicants in meeting the pre-contractual requirements, such as planning permission, property leases and liens. The total savings amounted to €5 million on the capital provision. In addition, the overall value of the Appropriations-in-Aid in 2010 fell below the level specified in the Vote by €6.074 million and the shortfall was partly offset by a reduction of €2.7 million in the gross expenditure under this Subhead.
C.	2,374	Savings of €1.75 million arose because of the delay in obtaining clarification on legal procedural requirements relating to disbursements from the Dormant Accounts Fund which had a consequential impact on spending under the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme. A further saving of €0.624 million arose because the grant approvals under the Youth Café Funding Scheme were not announced until 6 December 2010 and it was not possible to discharge payments pending the formalisation of contracts.
D.	16,458	Expenditure on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme was lower than anticipated because enrolment under the Scheme in its first short contract period was less than had been provided for in the estimate allocation. Of the €16.458 million savings, the sum of €6.45 million was vired (with the sanction of the Department of Finance) to Subhead A to offset a shortfall in the original estimate provision for that Subhead.
E.	2,007	Savings relate to a number of programmes including (i) the National Longitudinal Study reflected by reduced pay costs and the rescheduling of fieldwork; (ii) the decommitment of a project under the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund and (iii) slower than anticipated fund drawdowns related to the Centre for Effective Services and the National Children's Advisory Council.
H.	3,000	The savings arose because a decision has yet to be taken on a date for the holding of the Constitutional Referendum on Children.

4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid	2010	2010	2009
	Estimated	Realised	Realised
	€000	€000	€000
1. EU Receipts	3,700	—	—
2. Dormant Account Funding	5,340	2,966	5,240
Total	9,040	2,966	5,240

Explanation of significant variations

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

Heading	Less/(more) than estimated €000	Explanation
1.	3,700	The Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000-2006 is co-funded by the EU. A rigorous process of reporting, verifying and certifying expenditure by grant beneficiaries is required before the EU contribution can be reclaimed by the State. The timing of rebates is largely outside the control of the Office and is dependent on the proper certification of expenditure through a number of authorities to the EU Commission.
2.	2,374	Recoupment from the Dormant Accounts Fund is linked to expenditure under Subhead C which was lower than expected due to reduced expenditure outlays under the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme and the Youth Café Funding Scheme.

5 Employee Numbers and Pay

Staffing and pay costs in relation to the vote funded activities are accounted for in the appropriation account for Vote 39 Health and Children.

6 Miscellaneous Items

6.1 National Lottery Funding

Subhead Description	2010	2010	2009
	Estimate	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
G Grant-in-aid fund for general expenses of youth organisations and other expenditure in relation to youth activities (part-funded by National Lottery)	38,600	38,599	39,340
	<u>38,600</u>	<u>38,599</u>	<u>39,340</u>

A list of the recipients of the funding, and the amounts paid is given on the Office's website 'www.omc.gov.ie'.

6.2 Agency services

Agency services are provided to this Office by the Department of Social and Family Affairs in respect of costs charged to Subhead A and by Pobal in respect of services charged to Subhead B.

7 Miscellaneous Accounts

Grant-in-Aid Funds

Subhead Description	2010	2010	2009
	Estimate	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
F. Grant-in-aid fund for general expenses of youth organisations and other expenditure in relation to youth activities.	8,000	8,000	8,772
G Grant-in-aid fund for general expenses of youth organisations and other expenditure in relation to youth activities (part-funded by National Lottery).	38,600	38,599	39,340
	<u>46,600</u>	<u>46,599</u>	<u>48,112</u>

