

Appropriation Account 2025

Vote 7

Office of the Minister for Finance

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 2025 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Minister for Finance, including certain services administered by that Office, and for payment of certain grants.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums

- granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2025, including the amount that could be used as appropriations-in-aid of expenditure for the year, and
- provided for capital supply services in 2025 out of unspent 2024 appropriations, under the deferred surrender arrangements established by section 91 of the Finance Act 2004.

A surplus of €1.37 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, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in circular 25 of 2025 have been applied in the preparation of the account. This includes the application of a number of Central Government Accounting Standards (CGAS) brought into effect for periods of account commencing from 1 January 2025.

Depreciation of capital assets

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and amortisation of intangible assets are calculated and charged in accordance with CGAS 17 and CGAS 31 respectively.

The useful lives and associated rates of depreciation/amortisation of major classes of capital assets are as follows.

<i>Asset class</i>	<i>Useful life</i>	<i>Rate of depreciation/ amortisation</i>
Intangible assets	10 years	10%
IT equipment	5 years	20%

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.

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 human resources, finance and payroll shared services.

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

Financial control environment

A control environment comprising 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 to advise me in discharging my responsibilities for the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.
- The statement on internal financial control for the National Shared Service Office is also relevant given that the National Shared Service Office provides certain services on a shared basis to Vote 7.

Administrative controls and management reporting

A framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place, including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability.

- 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.
- 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.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

The Department uses the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation internal audit function under the terms of the service level agreement between the two Departments. The internal audit unit operates under a written charter which has been approved by the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department of Finance is exposed and its annual internal audit plans (which are prepared in consultation with the Audit Committee and 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

The Department ensures that there is an appropriate focus on good procurement practice in the award of all contracts and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant guidelines. Expenditure on goods, professional and other contracted services, amounted to a total of €5.05 million in 2025.

The Department has provided details of eight non-competitive but compliant contracts in excess of €25,000 in the annual return in respect of circular 40/2002 to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

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 by the Risk Committee and the Executive Board on a quarterly 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 responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

Ongoing monitoring and review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes so that control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action, to management and the Executive 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

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 controls were identified in relation to 2025 that require disclosure in the appropriation account.

John Hogan

Accounting Officer

Office of the Minister for Finance

9 March 2026

Comptroller and Auditor General Report for presentation to Dáil Éireann

Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance Opinion on the appropriation account

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance for the year ended 31 December 2025 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 7 Office of the Minister for Finance for the year ended 31 December 2025, and
- has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

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 Finance 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.

I have nothing to report in this regard

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

15 July 2026

Appendix to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

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, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation's *Public Financial Procedures*, and with other directions of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.
- 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 Dáil Éireann 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, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation'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.

Appendix to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (continued)**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 7 Office of the Minister for Finance

Appropriation Account 2025

		2025		2024
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
Programme expenditure				
A	Economic, fiscal, banking and financial services policy			
	<i>Original</i>	51,644		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	110		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	1		
		51,755	50,706	44,924
Gross expenditure		51,755	50,706	44,924
<i>Deduct</i>				
B	Appropriations-in-aid	965	1,287	7,537
Net expenditure				
	<i>Original</i>	50,679		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	110		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	1		
		50,790	49,419	37,387

Surplus

The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer. Under section 91 of the Finance Act 2004, all or part of any unspent appropriations for capital supply services may be carried over for spending in the following year.

	2025	2024
	€	€
Surplus	1,370,544	5,156,985
Deferred surrender	—	(110,000)
Surplus to be surrendered	1,370,544	5,046,985

John Hogan

Accounting Officer

Office of the Minister for Finance

9 March 2026

Notes to the Appropriation Account

Note 1 Operating Cost Statement 2025

	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Programme cost	15,859	12,597
Pay	30,792	28,153
Non pay	4,055	4,174
Gross expenditure	50,706	44,924
<i>Deduct</i>		
Appropriations-in-aid	1,287	7,537
Net expenditure	49,419	37,387
Changes in capital assets		
<i>Property, plant and equipment (note 2.1)</i>		
Purchases	(32)	
Depreciation	13	
Disposals	60	
Depreciation on disposals	(60)	
<i>Intangible assets (note 2.2)</i>		
Purchases	—	
Amortisation	16	
	(3)	833
Changes in net current assets		
Decrease in prepayments	25	
Increase in accrued expenses	607	
	632	901
Direct voted expenditure	50,048	39,121
Expenditure borne elsewhere		
Net allied services expenditure (note 1.1)	16,650	17,625
Notional rent	2,393	1,236
Net programme cost	69,091	57,982

1.1 Net allied services expenditure

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following amounts in relation to Vote 7 borne elsewhere.

		2025	2024
		€000	€000
Vote 11	Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation	223	294
Vote 12	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	15,340	14,053
Vote 13	Office of Public Works	1,001	1,582
Vote 18	National Shared Services Office	618	1,882
Vote 43	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	539	533
Vote 20	Garda Síochána	271	326
Central Fund – ministerial pensions		271	272
		18,263	18,942
Cost of shared services provided to other votes		(1,613)	(1,317)
		16,650	17,625

Note 2 Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 €000	2024 €000
Fixed assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2.1	79	60
Intangible assets	2.2	138	154
		217	214
Current assets			
Prepayments	2.3	465	490
Other debit balances	2.4	1,030	1,335
Net Exchequer funding	2.7	742	313
		2,237	2,138
<i>Less</i>			
Current liabilities			
Bank and cash		489	628
Accrued expenses	2.5	2,358	1,751
Other credit balances	2.6	1,283	1,020
		4,130	3,399
Net current liabilities		(1,893)	(1,261)
Net liabilities		(1,676)	(1,047)
Represented by:			
State funding account	2.8	(1,676)	(1,047)

2.1 Property, plant and equipment

	Office equipment	IT equipment	Capital assets under development	Total
	€000	€000	€000	€000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2025	205	60	60	325
Additions	32	—	—	32
Disposals ^a	—	(60)	—	(60)
Brought into use	—	60	(60)	—
At 31 December 2025	237	60	—	297
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	205	60	—	265
Depreciation for the year	4	9	—	13
Depreciation on disposals	—	(60)	—	(60)
At 31 December 2025	209	9	—	218
Net assets				
At 31 December 2025	28	51	—	79
At 31 December 2024	—	—	60	60

Note ^a These disposals relate to the removal from the asset register of individual items that were transferred to the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

2.2 Intangible assets

	Acquired and developed software €000	Total €000
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2025	166	166
Additions	—	—
At 31 December 2025	166	166
Accumulated amortisation		
At 1 January 2025	12	12
Amortisation for the year	16	16
At 31 December 2025	28	28
Net assets		
At 31 December 2025	138	138
At 31 December 2024	154	154

2.3 Prepayments

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
IT licences and support	278	317
Training	107	109
Subscriptions	55	55
Other prepayments	25	9
	465	490

2.4 Other debit balances

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Recoupable travel expenditure	36	47
Recoupable travel pass expenditure	33	23
Recoupable salaries	102	102
Payroll	771	600
Other debit suspense items	88	563
	1,030	1,335

2.5 Accrued expenses

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Payroll costs	1,863	1,338
Secondment costs	219	109
Consultancy and other services	103	243
Office premises expenses	74	18
Travel and subsistence	67	10
General administration	32	33
	2,358	1,751

2.6 Other credit balances

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income tax	410	379
Pay related social insurance	307	267
Professional services withholding tax	34	35
Value added tax	246	49
Pension contributions	106	93
Local property tax	1	1
Universal social charge	76	77
Other credit suspense items	—	39
	<u>1,180</u>	<u>940</u>
Suspense		
Payroll deductions	103	80
	<u>1,283</u>	<u>1,020</u>

2.7 Net Exchequer funding

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	1,371	5,047
Deferred surrender	—	110
Exchequer grant undrawn	(2,113)	(5,470)
Net Exchequer funding	<u>(742)</u>	<u>(313)</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Debit balances: suspense	1,030	1,335
	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,335</u>
Creditors		
Due to the State	(1,180)	(940)
Credit balances: suspense	(103)	(80)
Bank and cash	(489)	(628)
	<u>(1,772)</u>	<u>(1,648)</u>
	<u>(742)</u>	<u>(313)</u>

2.8 State funding account

	Note	2025	2024
		€000	€000
Balance at 1 January		(1,047)	687
Disbursements from the Vote			
Estimate provision	Account	50,790	
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(1,371)	
Net vote		49,419	37,387
Expenditure borne elsewhere	1.1	16,650	17,625
Non-cash items: notional rent		2,393	1,236
Net programme cost	1	(69,091)	(57,982)
Balance at 31 December		(1,676)	(1,047)

2.9 Matured liabilities

at 31 December	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Estimate of matured liabilities not discharged at year end	5	11

2.10 Contingent liabilities

There is litigation in progress regarding Irish Bank Resolution Corporation (IBRC) and Permanent TSB. These actions are being defended, and no estimate of the potential liability has been made.

Certain third-party protections (in the form of warranties and indemnities) have been provided in connection with the sale of Irish Life Limited, the disposal of the Bank of Ireland contingent capital notes, the disposal of shares in Bank of Ireland, PTSB and AIB, and the liquidation of IBRC.

These do not represent a complete list of litigation or third-party protections. These items have been included as at the time they were instigated or provided they were of particular significance to the Minister and the State.

With the passage of time the quantum of any such contingent liabilities, should they materialise, is likely to be diminished.

2.11 Impact of accounting policy changes

Nine new central government accounting standards (CGAS) were implemented with effect from 1 January 2024 and six new central government accounting standards (CGAS) were implemented with effect from 1 January 2025. The implementation had the following impact on the State funding balance.

	2025 €000	2024 €000
Adjustment of intangible assets ^a	—	(1,056)
Holiday accrual ^b	—	(522)
Payroll accrual ^b	—	(816)
	—	(2,394)

Note ^a CGAS 31 Intangible Assets

^b CGAS 39A Employee Benefits Part A

Note 3 Vote Expenditure

Analysis of administration expenditure

All of the allocation for Vote 7 Office of the Minister for Finance is classified as administrative expenditure applied towards a single programme: Economic, Fiscal, Banking and Financial Services Policy.

		2025		2024
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
i	Salaries, wages, pensions and allowances			
	<i>Original</i>	30,051		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(102)		
			29,949	29,860
ii	Travel and subsistence			28,153
	<i>Original</i>	1,081		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(100)		
			981	836
iii	Training and development		500	479
iv	Operational services, supplies, and sundry equipment			485
	<i>Original</i>	1,206		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(65)		
			1,141	972
v	Digital capital investment and IT expenses			1,257
	<i>Original</i>	970		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(48)		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	110		
			1,032	724
vi	Premises and accommodation expenses			828
	<i>Original</i>	1,842		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(850)		
			992	951
vii	Policy reviews, consultancy services and research			724
	<i>Original</i>	115		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(36)		
			79	67
viii	EU Presidency ^a		1,000	958
			35,674	34,847
				32,327

Note ^a The EU Presidency expenditure subhead was introduced in 2025. The allocation is apportioned €950,000 to administration pay and €50,000 to administration non pay.

Significant variations

The following notes outline the reasons for significant variations (at least +/- 25% and €100,000) in administration expenditure.

v Digital capital investment and IT expenses

Estimate provision €1.080 million; outturn €724,000

The underspend of €356,000 relates to difficulties with supply chains for suppliers and with the scheduling of certain capital work streams which cannot be predicted with certainty.

vi Premises and accommodation expenses

Estimate provision €1.842 million; outturn €951,000

The underspend of €891,000 relates mainly to the supplementary estimate necessary to reallocate funds to meet the increased demand of the Fuel Grant. The Department had sought funding in anticipation of taking occupancy of new offices in Leeson Lane in early 2025, however staff were not moved to the building until May 2025, resulting in a saving of utility expenses. Savings have been identified also in the capital allocation as projects did not progress as quickly as anticipated.

Programme A Economic, Fiscal, Banking and Financial Services Policy

		2025		2024
		Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
		€000	€000	€000
A.1	Administration – pay			
	<i>Original</i>	31,001		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(102)		
			30,899	30,792
A.2	Administration – non pay			28,153
	<i>Original</i>	5,764		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(1,099)		
	<i>Deferred surrender</i>	110		
			4,775	4,055
A.3	Committees and commissions			4,174
	<i>Original</i>	430		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	(120)		
			310	258
A.4	Policy reviews, consultancy services and research		2,674	2,553
A.5	Fuel grant			1,177
	<i>Original</i>	11,000		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	919		
			11,919	11,870
A.6	Office of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman			10,526
	<i>Original</i>	525		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	303		
			828	828
A.7	Pension for certain bodies under the aegis			525
	<i>Original</i>	250		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	100		
			350	350
			51,755	50,706
				44,924

Significant variations

The following notes outline the reasons for significant variations in non-administration programme expenditures (at least +/- 5% and €100,000).

A.3 Committees and commissions

Estimate provision €430,000; outturn €258,000

The underspend of €172,000 was mainly due to changes to the Board structure of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal that affected the volume of cases the Board was able to consider during 2025. The Chair of the new Board resigned in October 2024 and a new Chair was appointed from existing members in late October 2024. A fifth member of the Board was appointed in July 2025. Legislative changes in 2025 mandate that the Board must have a minimum of 4 members to operate although the intention is to have five members where possible. With the Board at full capacity it is expected that the volume of appeal hearings will increase significantly in 2026.

A.4 Policy reviews, consultancy services and research

Estimate provision €2.674 million; outturn €2.553 million

The underspend of €121,000 arose due to the nature of this subhead where the work programme cannot be predicted with certainty and budgets must be set at a prudent level to allow the units to address issues as they arise.

A.5 Fuel grant

Estimate provision €11 million; outturn €11.87 million

The grant is paid in respect of fuel used in the previous 12 months, but claims can be made for fuel used in any of the previous four years. Spend on the fuel grant is dependent on a number of factors such that there will always be some variance between actual versus estimated spend. In particular, as it is a demand led scheme, it is difficult to estimate accurately.

A.6 Office of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman

Estimate provision €525,000; outturn €828,000

The operation of the office of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman is funded by an industry levy for financial services-related complaints and the Department of Finance for pensions-related complaints. The overspend of €303,000 was due to the increased volume of complaints and the proportion of complaints that were attributable to pensions.

A.7 Pension for certain bodies under the aegis

Estimate provision €250,000; outturn €350,000

The Department of Finance funds the pension liabilities for the Office of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman in relation to both its non-Single (model) Scheme and the Single Public Service Pension Scheme funding requirements. The overspend of €100,000 was due to a number of large retirement payments which had not been expected at the time of Budget 2025.

Note 4 Receipts and Revenue

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid

		2025		2024
		Estimate provision	Realised	Realised
		€000	€000	€000
1	Recoupment of pension liabilities from bodies under the aegis	15	173	6,314
2	Additional superannuation contribution receipts	800	960	868
3	Miscellaneous	150	154	355
		965	1,287	7,537

Significant variations

The following notes outline the reasons for significant variations in appropriations-in-aid (at least +/- 5% and €100,000).

1 Recoupment of pension liabilities from bodies under the aegis

Estimate provision €15,000; realised €173,000

Sanction was provided by the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to the Department of Finance to fund the pension liabilities in respect of the benefits payable to members of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman (FSPO) pension schemes (non-single scheme) in 2023. Subsequently in 2024, the FSPO transferred pension deductions that had accrued up to that point of €6.314 million to the Department of Finance. The 2025 estimate was provided when arrangements for the standing transfer of any surplus funds collected by the FSPO (net of pension payments made) to the Department of Finance had recently commenced and, at €173,000, the actual figure for the recoupment of the pension liabilities across the full year of 2025 was higher than the original estimate.

2 Additional superannuation contribution receipts

Estimate provision €800,000; realised €960,000

The receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration are estimated based on the number of staff employed by the Department and additional resources required. The outturn can vary based on the timing of staff departing or joining the Department and the level of remuneration of individual staff members.

4.2 Revenue of the Vote

Appropriations-in-aid represent cash amounts received in the year. Revenue of the Vote represents income related to the activity of the year, based on the accrual principle.

	2025
	€000
Non-exchange transaction revenue	
Central Fund grant	49,419
Additional superannuation contributions	960
Other revenue	
Miscellaneous	327
Total revenue	50,706
Represented by	
Total appropriations-in-aid (note 4.1)	1,287
Central Fund grant	49,419
	50,706

4.3 Gain/loss in foreign exchange rates

	2025
	€000
Foreign exchange loss	(2)
	(2)

4.4 Extra receipts payable to the Exchequer

	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Balance at 1 January	—	—
Interest on SPEM Account ^a	7,396	16,476
Voluntary surrender of pay ^b	17	40
Transferred to the Exchequer	(7,413)	(16,516)
Balance at 31 December	—	—

Note ^a The Surplus Public Expenditure Monies (SPEM) account was set up to offset counterparty risk, whereby surplus funds in the totality of accounts held with the Government Banking Supplier are transferred to the SPEM account, held with the Central Bank of Ireland, overnight; these surplus funds are then used to offset expenditure the following working day. In 2025, the SPEM account earned interest of €7.396 million. This was paid to the Exchequer.

^b The comparative figures have been amended to reflect the amount of €40,000 in relation to voluntary pay surrender which was included in the interest on SPEM figure in the 2024 appropriation account.

Note 5 Staffing and Remuneration

5.1 Employee numbers (full time equivalents)

At 31 December	2025	2024
Number of staff at year end	<u>390</u>	<u>375</u>

5.2 Pay

	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Pay	26,916	24,806
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	238	192
Other allowances	671	468
Overtime	299	189
Employer's PRSI	2,668	2,327
Pension payment	—	22
Severance payment	—	149
	<u>30,792</u>	<u>28,153</u>

5.3 Allowances and overtime payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Highest individual payment	
			2025 €	2024 €
Department staff				
Higher, special or additional duties allowances	24	6	33,297	35,795
Other allowances	34	12	98,316	57,954
Overtime	64	9	73,616	30,555
Extra remuneration in more than one category	9	7	66,343	68,469

5.4 Department employee pay bands

The number of Department 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 bands (€)		Number of employees	
From	To	2025	2024
20,000	59,999	210	209
60,000	69,999	26	24
70,000	79,999	15	15
80,000	89,999	16	32
90,000	99,999	47	28
100,000	109,999	35	24
110,000	119,999	14	7
120,000	129,999	11	14
130,000	139,999	10	6
140,000	149,999	—	3
150,000	159,999	1	—
160,000	169,999	1	3
170,000	179,999	2	1
180,000	189,999	4	2
190,000	199,999	—	—
200,000	209,999	—	—
210,000	219,999	—	—
220,000	229,999	—	—
230,000	239,999	—	—
240,000	249,999	—	—
250,000	259,999	—	1
260,000	269,999	1	—

5.5 Remuneration and benefits of Accounting Officer

	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Basic pay	261	252

The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above. The Accounting Officer is a member of the pre-1995 superannuation scheme for established civil servants and his entitlements to retirement benefits do not extend beyond the standard terms of that pension scheme.

5.6 Other remuneration arrangements

Two retired civil servants who are in receipt of a civil service pension were re-engaged on a fee basis at a total cost of €21,680, with individual payments ranging from €8,000 to €13,680. All payments were made in accordance with the principles set out in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

This account includes expenditure of €912,564 in respect of nine officers who were serving outside the Department for all or part of 2025 and whose salaries were paid by the Department.

5.7 Severance

Two staff members whose employment was terminated in 2025 received total severance payments amounting to €182,344 in January 2026. No early payment of pension, additional added years of notional service or any other enhancement to the accrued pension terms have been granted.

In 2024, an overpayment of severance was made to a former staff member due to an administrative oversight by the National Shared Services Office (NSSO). The error was identified in July 2025; a recoupment plan has since been established.

5.8 Payroll overpayments

at 31 December	Number of recipients	2025 €	2024 €
Overpayments	48	94,140	92,894
Recovery plans in place	22	35,906	34,471

Note 6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Banking system functions

The Minister for Finance delegated a number of banking system functions to the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) under statutory instrument (SI) 115 of 2010. This delegation was revoked with effect from 5 August 2011 under SI 395 of 2011 and the NTMA Banking Unit has since been seconded to the Department of Finance. At the direction of the Minister, the costs of the unit, comprising staff costs and certain consultancy costs, continue to be met by the NTMA.

6.2 Committees and commissions

	2025	2024
	€000	€000
Permanent commission		
Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal ^a	214	332
	214	332

Note ^a The Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal acts as an appeal body for those applicants refused a primary medical certificate by a senior medical officer in respect of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers (Tax Concessions) Scheme. The Board was established in 1989. 2024 was the first full year of operations following the resignation of previous members in November 2021, the appointment of a new Board in September 2023 and the recommencement of the appeals process in December 2023. From 2024, certain costs have transferred from the Department of Finance to the Department of Health. The Chair of the new Board resigned in October 2024 and a new Chair was appointed from existing members in late October 2024. A fifth member of the Board was appointed in July 2025. Legislative changes in 2025 mandate that the Board must have a minimum of 4 members to operate although the intention is to have five members where possible. With the Board at full capacity it is expected that the volume of appeal hearings will increase significantly in 2026.