

Appropriation Account 2020

Vote 15

Secret Service

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 15, 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 2020 for Secret Service.

The expenditure outturn is compared with the sums granted by Dáil Éireann under the Appropriation Act 2020.

A surplus of €932,000 is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Principles and notes 1 to 3 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 and Reform in Circular 22 of 2020, have been applied in the preparation of the account.

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Prescribed arrangements are in place with the Department of Justice and the Department of Defence for the drawdown of moneys from the Secret Service Vote and for the annual certification by the respective Ministers of moneys actually expended during the year, as well as balances held at year end.

For security reasons, restrictions are in place regarding operations and information about the individual transactions. This places a limitation on the normal direct controls available to me as Accounting Officer of a Vote. In the circumstances, I rely on annual certified statements signed by the Ministers to whom moneys have been issued, which are underpinned by operational controls put in place by their Departments.

David Moloney
Accounting Officer
Secret Service

24 March 2021

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Vote 15 Secret Service

Opinion on the appropriation account

I have audited the appropriation account for Vote 15 Secret Service for the year ended 31 December 2020 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 15 Secret Service for the year ended 31 December 2020, and
- has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

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 *Preface to the Appropriation Accounts*. I am independent of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

For the purposes of this audit, I have been furnished with certificates from the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Defence which support the expenditure from the Vote. 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 *Preface to the Appropriation Accounts*.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

4 June 2021

Vote 15 Secret Service

Appropriation Account 2020

	2020		2019
	Estimate provision	Outturn	Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Programme expenditure			
Secret service	2,000	1,068	984
	2,000	1,068	984

Surplus

The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer.

	2020	2019
	€	€
Surplus to be surrendered	932,379	266,307

David Moloney
Accounting Officer
Secret Service

24 March 2021

Notes to the Appropriation Account

Note 1 Operating Cost Statement 2020

This note is not applicable in the case of the Secret Service Vote.

Note 2 Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 €000	2019 €000
Current assets			
Sub-account balances		594	262
PMG balance		88	(116)
Total current assets		682	146
Less current liabilities			
Net Exchequer funding	2.1	682	146
Total current liabilities		682	146
Net current assets		—	—
Net assets		—	—
Represented by:			
State funding account	2.2	—	—

2.1 Net Exchequer funding

at 31 December	2020	2019
	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	932	266
Exchequer grant undrawn	(250)	(120)
Net Exchequer funding	682	146
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Sub-account balance	594	262
PMG balance	88	(116)
	682	146
	682	146

2.2 State funding account

	Note	2020	2019
		€000	€000
Balance at 1 January		—	—
Disbursements from the Vote			
Estimate provision	Account	2,000	
Surplus to be surrendered	Account	(932)	
Net vote		1,068	984
Net programme cost		(1,068)	(984)
Balance at 31 December		—	—

Note 3 Vote Expenditure

The expenditure outturn was €932,000 (47%) lower than the amount provided. The estimate is necessarily conjectural.