

Vote 2: Department of the Taoiseach

Introduction

As Accounting Officer for Vote 2, 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 salaries and expenses of the Department of the Taoiseach, including certain services administered by the Department and for payments of 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 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 the Taoiseach.

DERMOT MCCARTHY
Accounting Officer
Department of the Taoiseach
29 March 2011

Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the Appropriation Account of Vote 2: Department of the Taoiseach 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 the Taoiseach. 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.



JOHN BUCKLEY

Comptroller and Auditor General

19 May 2011

Vote 2 Department of the Taoiseach Appropriation Account 2010

Service	2010 Estimate provision	2010 Outturn	2009 Outturn
	€000	€000	€000
Administration			
A.1. Salaries, wages and allowances	12,781	12,184	13,501
A.2. Travel and subsistence	700	284	479
A.3. Incidental expenses	1,560	733	618
A.4. Postal and telecommunications services	501	381	407
A.5. Office machinery and other office supplies and related services	1,836	934	1,007
A.6. Office premises expenses	732	440	493
A.7. Consultancy services	70	2	3
A.8. Organisational review programme	576	550	497
Other Services			
B. National Economic and Social Development Office (grant-in-aid)	3,332	2,535	3,401
C. Commemoration initiatives	100	87	133
D. Tribunal of inquiry (payments to Messrs.C.J. Haughey and M. Lowry)	7,480	3,125	3,796
<i>National Forum on Europe</i>	—	—	506
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador Business Partnerships</i>	—	—	291
<i>Active Citizenship Office</i>	—	—	17
Gross Expenditure	29,668	21,255	25,149
Deduct:			
E. Appropriations-in-aid	912	955	914
Net Expenditure	28,756	20,300	24,235
Surplus to be surrendered		€8,455,937	€8,450,714

Notes to the Appropriation Account

1 Operating Cost Statement 2010

	Note	€000	2010 €000	2009 €000
Expenditure on administration			15,508	17,005
Expenditure on services and programmes			5,747	8,144
Gross expenditure			<u>21,255</u>	<u>25,149</u>
Deduct				
Appropriations-in-aid			955	914
Net expenditure			<u>20,300</u>	<u>24,235</u>
Changes in Capital Assets				
Purchases cash		(114)		
Depreciation		195		
Loss on disposals		31	112	176
Changes in Net Current Assets				
Decrease in closing accruals		(53)		
Decrease in stock		13	(40)	(122)
Direct Expenditure			<u>20,372</u>	<u>24,289</u>
Expenditure Borne Elsewhere				
Net allied services expenditure	1.1		5,552	7,554
Notional rents			1,625	2,031
Total operating cost			<u><u>27,549</u></u>	<u><u>33,874</u></u>

1.1 Net Allied Services

The net allied services expenditure amount is made up of the following estimated amounts in relation to Vote 2 borne elsewhere

Vote		2010 €000	2009 €000
7	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	2,459	3,302
10	Office of Public Works	954	2,278
19	Justice and Law Reform - Financial Shared Services Centre	264	265
20	Garda Síochána	1,425	1,048
36	Defence	75	88
	Central Fund - Ministerial etc. Pensions	375	573
		<u>5,552</u>	<u>7,554</u>

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2010

	Note	2010 €000	2009 €000
Capital Assets	2.1	422	534
		422	534
Current Assets			
Bank and cash	2.2	405	1,613
Stocks	2.3	71	84
Prepayments		326	268
Other debit balances	2.4	320	398
Total Current Assets		1,122	2,363
Less Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses		202	197
Other credit balances	2.5	365	514
Net Liability to the Exchequer	2.6	360	1,497
Total Current Liabilities		927	2,208
Net Current Assets		195	155
Net Assets		617	689

2.1 Statement of Capital Assets

	Office Equipment €000	Furniture and Fittings €000	Total €000
Gross assets			
Cost or valuation at 1 January 2010	3,158	535	3,693
Additions	106	8	114
Disposals	(190)	(4)	(194)
Cost or valuation at 31 December 2010	<u>3,074</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>3,613</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
Opening balance at 1 January 2010	2,806	353	3,159
Depreciation for the year	149	46	195
Depreciation on disposals	(161)	(2)	(163)
Cumulative depreciation at 31 December 2010	<u>2,794</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>3,191</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2010	<u>280</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>422</u>
Net Assets at 31 December 2009	<u>352</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>534</u>

2.2 Bank and Cash

	2010 €000	2009 €000
at 31 December		
PMG balances and cash	684	1,941
Orders outstanding	(279)	(328)
	<u>405</u>	<u>1,613</u>

2.3 Stocks

	2010 €000	2009 €000
at 31 December		
Gifts	8	10
Stationery	26	33
Publications	19	22
Consumables etc.	18	19
	<u>71</u>	<u>84</u>

2.4 Other Debit Balances

	2010 €000	2009 €000
at 31 December		
Recoupable salaries	261	281
Recoupment of travel pass scheme	56	60
Other	3	57
	<u>320</u>	<u>398</u>

2.5 Other Credit Balances	2010	2009
at 31 December	€000	€000
Amounts due to the State		
Income Tax	168	204
Pay Related Social Insurance	88	102
Value Added Tax	5	5
Pension contributions	—	1
Retention Tax	19	56
	<u>280</u>	<u>368</u>
Payroll deductions	84	145
Other	1	1
	<u>365</u>	<u>514</u>
2.6 Net Liability to the Exchequer	2010	2009
at 31 December	€000	€000
Surplus to be surrendered	8,456	8,451
Exchequer grant undrawn	(8,096)	(6,954)
Net liability to the Exchequer	<u>360</u>	<u>1,497</u>
Represented by:		
Debtors		
Bank and cash	405	1,613
Debit balances: suspense	320	398
	<u>725</u>	<u>2,011</u>
Creditors		
Due to State	(280)	(368)
Credit balances: suspense	(85)	(146)
	<u>(365)</u>	<u>(514)</u>
	<u>360</u>	<u>1,497</u>

2.7 Commitments

Contracted commitments at 31 December 2010 amounted to €8,250 (2009 - €146,729)

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.	416	Savings arose as a result of the reduction in travel and subsistence rates and a reduction in travel during 2010.
A.3.	827	Savings arose as a result of reduced spending on training, entertainment, library services and advertising.
A.5.	902	Savings arose as a result of reduced spending on consumables, IT hardware and printing, and the use of electronic resources for distribution of reports.
A.6.	292	Savings arose as a result of reduced expenditure and the achievement of better value for money.
A.7.	68	On the basis of past experience, a contingency amount was included in the estimate for consultancy needs that did not arise in 2010.
B.	797	Savings arose as a result of the moratorium on recruitment and reduced spending on consultancy, printing, travel and subsistence, office maintenance and training.
C.	13	The variation between spending and the estimate provision for the Commemoration initiatives in 2010 arose due to a small number of projects not proceeding as quickly as anticipated.
D.	4,355	The award of legal costs did not arise as expected in 2010.

4 Receipts

4.1 Appropriations-in-aid	2010	2010	2009
	Estimated €000	Realised €000	Realised €000
Pension-related deduction on public service remuneration	812	881	810
Miscellaneous	100	74	104
	<u>912</u>	<u>955</u>	<u>914</u>

The variation arose due to an underestimation of the amount to be collected under the pension related deduction and an overestimation of the amount to be collected in respect of superannuation in 2010.

5 Employee Numbers and Pay

	2010	2009
Number of staff at year end (full time equivalents)	191	198
	€000	€000
Pay	10,802	12,431
Higher, special or additional duties	382	623
Overtime and extra attendance	420	490
Employer's PRSI	591	681
Total pay	12,195	14,225

Note: The above figures exceed the outturn for subhead A as a pay element of subhead B is included.

5.1 Allowances and Overtime Payments

	Number of recipients	Recipients of €10,000 or more	Maximum individual payment 2010 €	Maximum individual payment 2009 €
Higher, special or additional duties	56	12	83,391	164,566
Overtime and extra attendance	113	13	26,445	25,620

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

5.2 Other Remuneration Arrangements

Ex-gratia payments of €31,040 (2009 - €31,040) and €10,267 (2009 - €10,267) were made in respect of agreed retirement benefits to two former employees.

6 Miscellaneous Items

6.1 Commissions and Enquiries

	Year of Appointment	Total to 31 December 2010 €000	Expenditure in 2010 €000	Expenditure in 2009 €000
Commission, Committee or Special Inquiry				
Tribunal of Inquiry II (Payments to Messrs. Haughey and Lowry)	1997	41,396	3,125	3,796

There will be further payments associated with the Tribunal of Inquiry (Payments to Messrs. C.J. Haughey & M. Lowry). Costs cannot be determined at this point.

6.2 Official Gifts

The account includes the sum of €5,417 which was used for the purchase of gifts for presentation by, or on behalf of, the Taoiseach and Ministers of State in 2010. The comparable figure for 2009 was €3,145.

6.3 Other

In addition to expenditure in the Account the following amounts were received in 2010:

- €260,754 was received from the Change Management Fund (Public Service Modernisation), Subhead M. of Vote 6, Office of the Minister for Finance.

- €10,887 was received from Vote 6, Office of the Minister for Finance in respect of the Multisite Library Project.

