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To <ted.mcenery@oireachtas.ie>

cc

Subject Publication of accounts



Dear Mr McEnery,

S 48 of the **Charities Act 2009** requires that the charity trustees of a charitable organisation shall, in respect of each financial year, prepare a statement of accounts when the gross income or expenditure of a charitable organisation exceeds €100,000. The Minister for Justice and Equality has yet to publish a Commencement Order with respect to substantial portions of this Act, including S48.

Would the Public Accounts Committee, in the interests of accountability and transparency, consider recommending that the audited accounts of charities (*whether incorporated, or not*) which are in receipt of annual State funding of €100,000, or more, are published by the relevant Accounting Officer on the web site of the Department providing the funds?

This would mean, for example, that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade would promptly and routinely publish the audited accounts of Goal and the Department of Defence would promptly and routinely publish the audited accounts of the Irish Red Cross, for as long as the State chooses to provide each with substantial exchequer resources.

The availability of this information would inform the public and facilitate a more insightful and focused examination by the Committee into how public money is accounted for, especially with respect to expenses and overheads and audited accounts would also provide some further insight into who governs funded entities and how effective that governance is.

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