

**Statement to Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**

I acknowledge and accept the findings of the C & AG.

Arising from such findings I wish to inform the Public Accounts Committee of the following:

1. Since 2004, when the I.T. project was established, CCVEC has established Finance and Audit Committees, as per CL 11/05.
2. CCVEC has worked in partnership, in a pilot project, with the Department of Education & Skills to prepare the Annual Financial Statements (Form V15) in a new format making it more transparent.
3. CCVEC has had its 2010 accounts (in the new format) signed off by the C& AG.
4. CCVEC continues to work with the VSSU to develop and enhance more efficient and transparent practices.
5. CCVEC has adopted and continues to implement DoESk Procurement Procedures as set out most recently in CL 39/2011. These procedures obviously post-dated the subject of today's hearing of the P. A. C.
6. CCVEC continues to engage with the National Procurement Advice Service, as set up by the Department of Finance. The CEO, PO and APO of Finance attend briefings on procurement procedures and the CEO and PO are due to attend further training on 23rd Feb.
7. Should, with the permission of the Minister, CCVEC enter leases and/or contracts, all such leases/contracts will be fully vetted by CCVEC legal advisors.
8. CCVEC no longer leases equipment as per DoESk guidelines.
9. As per the Secretary General's letter, dated Feb 2012 CCVEC will again review its procurement procedures, so as to ensure that they are fully compliant with best practice in the area of public procurement.

I now wish to briefly outline the purpose of the ICT Project initiated at Glanmire Community College through the Education Officer and Principal of the day and supported by the CEO of the day.

It is my clear understanding that the project was initiated in the utmost good faith. It was an innovative project which focussed entirely on the use of ICT in teaching and learning, in line with;

- The Governments NDP of the time.
- The goals as set out in Schools IT 2000, which specifically aimed to enhance teaching and learning through the use of ICT.
- The recommendation of the then, Department of Education & Science, to incorporate the use of ICT in the classroom and to enhance the ICT skills of students.

- The requirement, under the Education Welfare Act, 2000, to monitor, record and report on student attendance.
- CCVEC's continuing track record in initiating creative teaching and learning opportunities for the learners it serves.

I acknowledge the findings of the C & AG Report and wish to report that the school benefitted by way of;

- A server.
- A server PC.
- 70 laptops.
- 20 PDAs.
- Wifi.
- Licences.

The gross cost of the project was €215,986. The company in question reimbursed €53,996 to CCVEC, leaving a net cost of €161,990. The C & AG, in his Report found that "...of the net costs incurred by CCVEC of €161,990 on the project, value was achieved to the extent that equipment costing over €99,000 remains in use, albeit, for a purpose different to that originally intended.

Nonetheless I acknowledge and accept the findings of the C & AG.