



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

PAC-R-667

Correspondence 3D.3
Meeting – 09/10/2012



Public Accounts Committee

9th October 2012

Opening Statement

by
Mr. Tony O'Brien

Director General Designate
Health Service Executive

Opening Statement by Mr. Tony O'Brien, Accounting Officer, HSE

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am joined today by a number of my colleagues; Ms. Laverne McGuinness, National Director Integrated Services, Mr. Liam Woods, National Director, Finance and Dr Philip Crowley, National Director, Quality and Patient Safety.

The basis upon which I am being invited to attend the Committee of Public Accounts today is stated to be the "Budgetary Situation in 2012". The HSE attended the PAC in June and the chapters under examination were disposed of and the account closed.

The HSE is clearly still operating in 2012. The year is not closed and there is no report of the Comptroller on 2012 under examination. The 2011 Appropriation Accounts have recently been published by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In this regard I am concerned as to the appropriateness of attending the Committee of Public Accounts to discuss 2012 when the year is not closed and there are no Accounts under examination.

In addition I am further concerned that as late as yesterday afternoon a substantial draft document prepared by the Committee of Public Accounts was received by the HSE, the existence of which I had not previously been aware of.

This is not a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. This document, which was provided to us by the Clerk of this Committee, contains new information that raises questions that appear to be substantially policy related. As you are aware the HSE cannot engage in dialogue on policy related matters (*Part 4, Sec 21 (9) of the Health Act 2004 refers*).

If requested the HSE can work with the Committee to establish the factual accuracy of the draft report provided to it yesterday afternoon but we would require reasonable time for this input which would be normal practice in our work with the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Joint Committee on Health and Children and this Committee.

The HSE has at all times and will continue to work actively to support the Committee of Public Accounts in its accountability to the Oireachtas for the expenditure of public funds. We will also continue to work collaboratively with the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The HSE since 2010 to date attended 10 meetings of the Committee of Public Accounts and 25 meetings of the Joint Committee on Health and Children.

*Committee of Public Accounts and Joint Committee on Health and Children:
Committee Meetings attended by the Health Service Executive*

Year	Committee	Date	Topic
2010	PAC	4 th Mar	C&AG Report (2008) Chapter 38 Performance Measurement & Improvement in HSE Chapter 40 The Dublin Ambulance Service
2010	PAC	10 th Jun	Death of Children in Care of the HSE
2010	PAC	7 th Oct	C&AG Report (2008) Chapter 40 The Dublin Ambulance Service Internal Audit – SIPTU Training fund
2010	PAC	16 th Dec	SKILL Programme
2011	PAC	7 th Jul	Emergency Departments
2011	PAC	29 th Sept	C&AG Report (2009) Chapter 38 Property Management Chapter 39 ICT Governance Chapter 40 Management of Patient Income Chapter 41 Long Stay Retirement Scheme Chapter 42 National Cancer Screening Service Chapter 43 Nursing Resources Chapter 44 Consultants Private Practice Chapter 45 Disability Services

2011	PAC	15 th Dec	SKILL Programme
2012	PAC	26 th Jan	C&AG Report (2010) Chapter 43 Primary Care Teams Chapter 44 Development of Primary Care Centres Chapter 46 Protecting the States Property Interest Chapter 48 Nursing Home Care Costs
2012	PAC	28 th Jun	C&AG Report (2010) Remaining Chapters Chapter 42 Procurement in the HSE Chapter 45 Consultancy and External Support Chapter 47 Management of HSE Vote
2012	PAC	9 th Oct	HSE Finances
2010	JCHC	9 th Feb	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2010	JCHC	9 th Mar	Healthy Eating, Combating Obesity & Eating Disorders
2010	JCHC	23 rd Mar	Centralisation of Medical Card Services
2010	JCHC	20 th Apr	Mental Health
2010	JCHC	1 st Jun	National Drug Awareness
2010	JCHC	15 th Jun	Home Help Services
2010	JCHC	29 th Jun	McCoy Report
2010	JCHC	13 th Jul	Orthodontics
2010	JCHC	13 th Jul	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2010	JCHC	12 th Oct	Medical Cards & Integration & Reception Centres
2010	JCHC	19 th Oct	Cancer Screening & NTPF
2010	JCHC	16 th Nov	Out of Hours
2010	JCHC	18 th Nov	Sub Committee
2010	JCHC	25 th Nov	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2010	JCHC	30 th Nov	Cost of Strokes
2011	JCHC	21 st Jul	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2011	JCHC	6 th Oct	NCHDs
2011	JCHC	24 th Nov & 8 th Dec	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2011	JCHC	14 th Dec	Alcohol Abuse

2012	JCHC	23 rd Feb	Contingency for Early Retirements
2012	JCHC	22 nd Mar	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2012	JCHC	24 th May	Medical Cards – PCRS
2012	JCHC	7 th Jun	Children
2012	JCHC	14 th Jun	Quarterly Meeting – update on Health issues
2012	JCHC	19 th Jun	DePuy – Hip Replacement

As Accounting Officer I am happy to attend the Committee and provide all relevant information in support of the Committee in fulfilling its terms of reference.

Mr. Tony O'Brien
Director General Designate
Accounting Officer