

# ENVIRONMENT FUND

## Accounts 2014





# **ENVIRONMENT FUND**

## **Accounts 2014**

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## **Environment Fund Accounts 2014 Statement by Accounting Officer on Internal Financial Control**

### **Responsibility for System of Internal Financial Control**

As Accounting Officer, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Department. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to me and my other obligations as Secretary General. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

The position in regard to the financial control environment, the framework of administrative procedures, management reporting and internal audit is as follows:

### **Financial Control Environment**

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- there is an Audit Committee to advise me in discharging my responsibilities for the internal financial control system.

### **Administrative Controls and Management Reporting**

I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management.
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts.

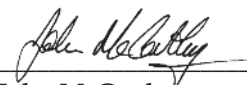
## Environment Fund Accounts 2014 Statement by Accounting Officer on Internal Financial Control (continued)

- a risk management system operates within the Department.
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems.
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines.
- the Department is compliant with all relevant guidelines regarding procurement and is complying with all circulars relating to the mandatory use of framework agreements and contracts.

### Internal Audit

I confirm that the Department has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with an approved written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which the Department is exposed and its annual internal audit plans, approved by me, are based on this analysis. These plans aim to cover the key controls, on a rolling basis, over a reasonable period. The internal audit function is reviewed periodically by me and by the Audit Committee. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John McCarthy  
Secretary General

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
17 December 2015

## Environment Fund Accounts 2014

### Statement of Accounting Policies

#### 1. Basis of Accounts

The Environment Fund was established by the Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001 with effect from 17 July 2001. The proceeds of Environmental Levies, introduced in respect of plastic bags by the Waste Management (Environmental Levy) (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 605/2001), collected by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and in respect of landfill by the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 86/2002), collected by local authorities, are paid into the Fund.

The Environment Fund comprises of two bank accounts and an Investment account which are managed and controlled by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. The Fund is managed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the associated administration costs are charged to Vote 25.

The accounts have been prepared for the year ending 31 December 2014 in a form and manner approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. The accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the accounting policies set out below.

#### 2. Funding Policy

The Environment Fund is funded through receipts lodged into the receipts bank account (No. 1 account) by local authorities and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. The balance in this bank account is transferred to the Investment Account on a daily basis. Sums payable from the Environment Fund are paid out of the payables bank account (No. 2 account). The necessary funds are transferred to the payables bank account from the Investment account before payments are disbursed to the relevant payees.

## Environment Fund Accounts 2014 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

### 3. Income

Income to the fund is recognised as follows:

- Environmental levy on the supply of plastic bags is the amount collected by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in accordance with Waste Management (Environmental Levy) (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 605/2001).
- Environmental levies on the landfill of waste are based on the tonnage of waste deposited in public and private landfill facilities at rates set by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Levies from public landfill facilities operated by local authorities are due to the Fund based on the volume of waste deposits in the financial year.

Levies from private landfill facilities are payable to the relevant local authority based on the volume of waste deposits. The amount due to the Fund is the amount collected by the local authority in respect of the financial year.

Interest is charged on late payments at 0.0322% per day under Section 13(e) of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011. Defaults and late payments by private operators are liable to interest and recoverable as a contract debt through the courts by local authorities.

Local authorities may deduct and retain up to 2% (maximum of €50,000 per annum) from levies payable in respect of privately operated landfill facilities and 80% from levies payable in respect of unauthorised landfill facilities to meet expenses incurred by them in collection and enforcement.

- Receipts from investments are recognised on an accrual basis.



## **Environment Fund Accounts 2014 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

### **4. Expenditure**

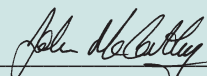
Expenditure from the Fund is recognised on the basis of:

- Allocations of expenditure as approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in accordance with Section 74(9) of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as inserted by Section 12 of the Waste Management (Amendment) Act, 2001 and Section 14 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2011), which specifies the purposes for which payments may be made from the Environment Fund.
  
- Collection costs incurred by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in respect of the collection of the Environmental Levy on the supply of plastic bags are reimbursed from the Fund as agreed under an operation and service level agreement with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

## Environment Fund Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2014

		2014	2013
<u>Income</u>	<u>Notes</u>	€	€
Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste	1	33,717,195	43,398,619
Environmental Levy on Plastic Bags	2	12,714,544	14,768,533
Interest on Investments	3	<u>39,476</u>	<u>17,049</u>
		<b><u>46,471,215</u></b>	<b><u>58,184,201</u></b>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Environmental Protection Agency Research and Development and Administration Costs (Non-Pay)	4	13,398,000	13,896,000
Contributions to National and International Bodies	5	8,151,595	8,228,829
Enforcement Initiatives	6	6,552,026	9,333,625
Built and Natural Heritage Projects	7	5,051,444	5,884,010
Recycling Operational Costs	8	3,274,799	4,955,643
Waste Prevention and National Market Development Programmes	9	2,704,265	3,491,056
Office of Environmental Enforcement	10	2,000,000	2,022,000
Environment Awareness	11	1,611,412	1,659,151
Anti-Litter Initiatives	12	1,192,397	1,298,391
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (Non-Pay)	13	582,000	1,078,000
Waste Management including Recycling Projects	14	533,199	2,351,538
Environmental Levy Collection Costs	15	399,232	398,821
Producer Responsibility Initiatives	16	294,287	34,589
Pollution Control/ Air Climate	17	147,081	206,023
Nuclear Safety	18	100,048	303
Other	19	228,926	277,990
Water Quality	20	-	445,429
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21</b>	<b><u>46,220,711</u></b>	<b><u>55,561,398</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b><u>250,504</u></b>	<b><u>2,622,803</u></b>

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 to 5 and Notes 1 to 27 form part of these Accounts.

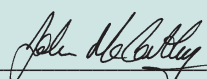
Signed   
John McCarthy  
Secretary General

Date 17 December 2015

## Environment Fund Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014

	<u>Notes</u>		2014 €	2013 €
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>				
Investments	22		7,417,265	7,244,199
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>				
Levy on the Landfill of Waste	23	3,401,093	4,536,684	
Levy on Plastic Bags	24	3,513,881	4,434,773	
Prepayments	25	145,043	112,513	
Bank	26	100,000	100,000	
		<u>7,160,017</u>	<u>9,183,970</u>	
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>				
	27			
Built and Natural Heritage Costs		1,588,819	1,058,514	
Recycling Operational Costs		1,130,539	-	
Sundry Creditors		47,232	3,809,467	
		<u>2,766,590</u>	<u>4,867,981</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			4,393,427	4,315,989
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u><u>11,810,692</u></u>	<u><u>11,560,188</u></u>
<b>Represented by</b>				
Reserves at 1 January			11,560,188	8,937,385
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year			<u>250,504</u>	<u>2,622,803</u>
<b>Reserves at 31 December</b>			<u><u>11,810,692</u></u>	<u><u>11,560,188</u></u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 to 5 and Notes 1 to 27 form part of these Accounts.

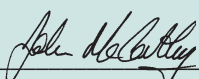
Signed   
John McCarthy  
Secretary General

Date 17 December 2015

## Environment Fund Cash Flow Statement as at 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
	€	€
<b><u>Reconciliation of deficit to net cash inflow from operating activities</u></b>		
Surplus/(Deficit)for the Year	250,504	2,622,803
Deposit Interest Earned	(39,476)	(17,049)
(Increase)/Decrease in Levies due and Prepayments	2,023,953	3,778,071
Increase/(Decrease) in Accrued Expenses	<u>(2,101,391)</u>	<u>(4,084,721)</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	<u><u>133,590</u></u>	<u><u>2,299,104</u></u>
<b>Cash Flow Statement</b>		
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	133,590	2,299,104
<b>Return on Investments and Servicing of Finance</b>		
Interest Earned	<u>39,476</u>	<u>17,049</u>
Increase in Cash	<u><u>173,066</u></u>	<u><u>2,316,153</u></u>
<b><u>Reconciliation of net cash flows to movement in net funds</u></b>		
Changes in Net Funds resulting from Cash Flow		
Net Funds at the beginning of the Year	7,344,199	5,028,046
Net Funds at the end of the Year	<u>7,517,265</u>	<u>7,344,199</u>
Increase in Cash in the Year	<u><u>173,066</u></u>	<u><u>2,316,153</u></u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 to 5 and Notes 1 to 27 form part of these Accounts.

Signed   
John McCarthy  
Secretary General

Date 17 December 2015

## Notes to the Accounts

### 1. Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste

This is the Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste receivable from local authorities, net of any amounts retained by them under the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2011. This is summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
<b>Privately Operated Landfills</b>		
Levy on landfill of waste	21,932,427	25,952,725
Interest in respect of late payments	56,439	-
Local Authority administration costs	(110,797)	(137,008)
	<u>21,878,069</u>	<u>25,815,717</u>
<b>Local Authority Operated Landfills</b>		
Levy on landfill of waste	11,836,881	17,582,072
Interest in respect of late payments	2,245	606
	<u>11,839,126</u>	<u>17,582,678</u>
<b>Unauthorised Landfills</b>		
Levy on landfill of waste	-	224
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>33,717,195</u></u>	<u><u>43,398,619</u></u>

Landfill levies of €1.52m due to the Fund since 2012 in respect of two privately operated landfill sites were not included in the income figure. They were not collected by the local authorities concerned as the private sector operator of the two sites was in receivership. The local authorities in question are following up with the receiver on securing this payment for the Fund.

In 2012, an amount of €163,768 was not included in the income figure, as the categorisation of the waste concerned was being reviewed by the Department. The review, which was completed in 2014, deemed that the waste involved was not subject to the levy.

### 2. Environmental Levy on the supply of Plastic Bags

This figure represents the amount collected from retailers by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

### 3. Interest on Investments

This figure represents interest earned from the investment of funds awaiting dispersal.

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 4. Environmental Protection Agency Research and Development and Administration Costs (Non-Pay)

This is a re-imbusement of the costs incurred by the Environmental Protection Agency in respect of Research and Development and administration (non-pay).

	2014	2013
	€	€
Research and Development	8,480,000	8,800,000
Administration Costs (Non-Pay) <sup>1</sup>	4,918,000	5,096,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>13,398,000</u></b>	<b><u>13,896,000</u></b>

<sup>1</sup>This figure includes funding in respect of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland which was dissolved with effect from 31 July 2014, see note 13. In addition, expenditure of €1.1m was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 - Environment, Community and Local Government in 2014 (€0.3m in 2013).

### 5. Contributions to National and International Bodies

This figure represents Ireland's national mandatory and voluntary contributions to organisations concerned with the protection of the environment. These are summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
International Meteorological Organisations	4,045,300	3,809,286
Global Environment Facility	1,469,000	1,421,000
Environmental Radiation Policy	1,457,731	1,681,063
Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	625,802	629,133
United Nations Environment Fund	357,805	361,000
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	112,033	141,708
Basel Convention	20,658	19,015
Stockholm Convention	19,828	23,380
Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution	15,905	56,676
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	13,272	14,182
Royal Irish Academy	9,582	9,819
Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	4,679	13,866
OSPAR Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic <sup>1</sup>	-	48,701
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>8,151,595</u></b>	<b><u>8,228,829</u></b>

<sup>1</sup>Expenditure of €51,285 was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 - Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2014 (nil in 2013).

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 6. Enforcement Initiatives

This expenditure is in respect of grants paid to local authorities and other appropriate bodies in support of enforcement initiatives. €1.1m of the expenditure incurred under this heading in 2014 (€0.7m in 2013) relates to payments made under a framework agreement between the Irish State and the Northern Irish authorities, to repatriate waste illegally deposited in Northern Ireland, which had originated in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 December 2014, work had been carried out on removing waste from 10 of the sites specified under the framework agreement (approximately 86,000 tonnes of waste has been repatriated at a cost of €7m). There will be further costs incurred by the Irish State under the terms of the framework agreement (there is an estimated 116,000 tonnes of illegal waste at the remaining 7 sites). A work programme with respect to 2015 is underway which will see three further sites remediated and an estimated 37,000 tonnes of waste repatriated.

### 7. Built and Natural Heritage Projects

This expenditure relates to the re-imbusement of costs incurred by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) on Built and Natural Heritage Projects. These costs have been certified by DAHG as being in accordance with the legislation under which the Fund is established.

### 8. Recycling Operational Costs

This represents payments made to local authorities from the Fund to assist in meeting the operational cost of waste management infrastructure.

### 9. Waste Prevention and National Market Development Programmes

Expenditure under this heading is summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
National Waste Prevention Programme	2,529,350	3,319,922
National Market Development Programme	136,817	163,298
National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste	<u>38,098</u>	<u>7,836</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>2,704,265</u></b>	<b><u>3,491,056</u></b>

### 10. Office of Environmental Enforcement

This is a re-imbusement of the costs incurred by the Environmental Protection Agency in respect of the operations of the Office of Environmental Enforcement.

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 11. Environment Awareness

This figure represents expenditure on raising environmental awareness and Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGO) capacity building. This is summarised as follows:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	€	€
Irish Environmental Network (EENGO)- Core/ Capacity & Project Funding	873,360	843,419
Local Agenda 21 Partnership Fund Grant Assistance	396,500	400,000
- Green Schools	180,000	200,000
- Birdwatch	32,550	40,000
- Digital ENFO Service	25,000	30,000
- Young Environmentalists Awards	20,000	25,000
- An Taisce - Planning Process	20,000	20,000
- European Environment Bureau	20,000	20,000
- Cork Environmental Forum	13,000	10,000
- Green Awards	7,500	7,500
- European Youth Parliament	5,000	-
- ReCreate	5,000	-
- External Awareness Campaigns	4,272	44,145
- Sherkin Island Marine Station	4,000	4,000
- OECD (Environmental compliance indicators)	-	5,000
- IBEC Environment Awards	-	5,000
Advertising	5,230	5,087
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,611,412</u></b>	<b><u>1,659,151</u></b>

### 12. Anti-Litter Initiatives

This figure represents expenditure on a range of initiatives including:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	€	€
Local Authority Anti-Litter Awareness Grants	925,384	969,291
National Spring Clean	175,000	225,000
National Litter Pollution Monitoring System	52,013	54,100
Irish Business Against Litter National Litter League	40,000	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,192,397</u></b>	<b><u>1,298,391</u></b>



## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 13. Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (Non-Pay)

This represents funding provided to the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) to defray its day-to-day (non-pay) running costs up to 31 July 2014. Under S.I. No. 360/2014 pursuant to the Radiological Protection (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014 the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland was dissolved with effect from 31 July 2014. With effect from that date all of its functions together with its assets and liabilities transferred to the Environmental Protection Agency, see Note 4. In addition expenditure of €19,600 was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 – Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2014 (nil in 2013).

### 14. Waste Management including Recycling Projects

This represents payments made to local authorities from the Fund to assist in meeting the capital costs of providing waste management infrastructure. Funding was also provided towards the costs of planning and procurement for major local authority waste management infrastructure. This is summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Waste Management - Capital Grants Scheme	280,416	2,341,378
Planning and Procurement for major local authority infrastructure projects	252,783	10,160
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>533,199</u></u>	<u><u>2,351,538</u></u>

### 15. Environmental Levy Collection Costs

This figure represents the annual service fee agreed with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners for the operation of the Environmental Levy on the supply of plastic bags.

### 16. Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Producer responsibility initiatives (PRIs) provide the foundation for a number of key EU Directives relating to specific waste streams, effectively it requires producers to contribute to the end-of-life waste management costs of products which they have placed in the market. Six successful producer responsibility initiatives (PRIs) have been introduced to date in the fields of packaging waste, farm plastics, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), tyres and batteries. These have contributed to the diversion of significant volumes of those wastes from landfill. The cost of operating the PRI's is met by industry, however funding is provided from the fund to meet miscellaneous costs that the Department may incur. Expenditure in 2014 mainly represents funding provided to a local authority towards the costs incurred in the removal of waste tyres from an unauthorised waste tyre depot.

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 17. Pollution Control Air/Climate

This figure represents expenditure incurred in the development and implementation of national policy on climate change as well as funding towards measures aimed at reducing noise/ air pollution. This is summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Climate Change	137,339	161,119
Air/Noise pollution control	<u>9,742</u>	<u>44,904</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>147,081</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>206,023</u></u></b>

### 18. Nuclear Safety

This funding relates to continuing legal and scientific research in this area, with particular reference to the Sellafield complex in the UK, in accordance with Government policy.

### 19. Other

This figure represents expenditure on various other initiatives which are summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
National Economic and Social Council	78,534	95,247
Tidy Towns	61,925	58,853
Environmental International Sustainability	60,182	60,148
North/South Waste Management Programmes	14,500	-
Sea Lettuce Intervention	9,401	22,856
Reform of household waste regulation	4,223	-
Waste Prevention Operational Costs	161	205
CO2 Reduction in Non-Domestic Buildings	-	36,124
Stakeholders Forum	<u>-</u>	<u>4,557</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>228,926</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>277,990</u></u></b>

### 20. Water Quality

Expenditure from this subhead in 2013 related to grant aid contributions towards various initiatives concerning water quality, as summarised below:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Blue Flag Scheme	-	199,000
Funding of NGO (SWAN/VOICE)	-	170,659
Water Quality Research	<u>-</u>	<u>75,770</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>-</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>445,429</u></u></b>

Expenditure of €519,330 was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 – Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2014 (nil in 2013).

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

**21. Total Expenditure**

Total expenditure from the Fund can be summarised as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Environmental Protection Agency/Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	18,500,000	20,296,513
Local authorities	11,314,841	17,635,166
Contributions to National and International Bodies	8,151,595	8,228,829
Built and Natural Heritage Projects	5,051,444	5,884,010
Other	<u>3,202,831</u>	<u>3,516,880</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>46,220,711</u></b>	<b><u>55,561,398</u></b>

**22. Investments**

	2014	2013
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	7,244,199	4,928,046

**Receipts**

Landfill Levy	29,397,506	47,670,121	
Plastic Bag Levy	<u>13,635,436</u>	<u>14,245,897</u>	
	43,032,942		61,916,018
Return on Investment	<u>39,476</u>		<u>17,049</u>
	<b><u>50,316,617</u></b>		<b><u>66,861,113</u></b>

**Payments**

Funding for the EPA/RPII	(18,500,000)	(20,324,056)	
Funding for Local Authorities	(8,494,426)	(21,051,858)	
Funding for National and International Organisations contributions	(8,201,889)	(8,181,870)	
Funding for the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht	(4,521,139)	(6,028,770)	
Other Funding	(3,181,898)	(4,030,360)	
	<b><u>(42,899,352)</u></b>		<b><u>(59,616,914)</u></b>
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b><u>7,417,265</u></b>		<b><u>7,244,199</u></b>

The figures shown above represent the money transferred between the Environment Fund bank accounts and its investment account. This is not necessarily the same as the amounts received into and paid from the Environment Fund because of accrued income and expenditure and the timing of certain cash flows.

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)**

**23. Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste**

Amounts owed to the Fund by local authorities at 31 December were as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Levy on privately operated landfills	2,718,164	2,931,861
Interest in respect of late payments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	2,718,164	2,931,861
Levy on local authority operated landfills	667,311	1,604,823
Interest in respect of late payments	15,618	-
	<u>682,929</u>	<u>1,604,823</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>3,401,093</u></b>	<b><u>4,536,684</u></b>

**24. Environmental Levy on Plastic Bags**

This is the net liability of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners to the Fund at 31 December.

**25. Prepayments**

Prepayments at 31 December were as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Contributions to International Organisations	145,043	112,033
National Economic and Social Council	-	480
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>145,043</u></b>	<b><u>112,513</u></b>

**26. Bank**

This represents the balance in the fund's receipts bank account (No. 1 account) at 31 December:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Balance in account	99,393	100,000
Refund of charges due	607	-
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 27. Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses at 31 December were as follows:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht – Built and Heritage projects	1,588,819	1,058,514
Recycling operational costs	1,130,539	-
Professional Services Withholding Tax	26,343	16,318
National Market Development Programme	12,060	-
Consultancy costs associated with the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System	8,669	8,669
Costs associated with Waste Prevention	160	205
Enforcement grants	-	3,765,404
Costs associated with Irelands contribution to the Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution	-	17,284
Costs relating to Pollution Control/ Air Climate	-	1,587
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>2,766,590</u></u>	<u><u>4,867,981</u></u>



## Comptroller and Auditor General Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

### Environment Fund

I have audited the accounts of the Environment Fund for the year ended 31 December 2014 under the Waste Management Act 1996. The accounts, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the statement of accounting policies, the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. The accounts have been prepared in the form prescribed under section 74 of the Act and generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland.

### Responsibilities of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

The Department is responsible for the preparation of the accounts, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view of the transactions of the Fund and of its state of affairs and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

### Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

My responsibility is to audit the accounts and report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### Scope of Audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the accounts, and
- the overall presentation of the accounts.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

### Opinion on the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accounts, which have been properly prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland, give a true and fair view of the state of the Fund at 31 December 2014 and of the transactions of the Fund for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Department. The accounts are in agreement with the books of account.

### Matters on which I report by exception

I report by exception if

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- my audit noted any material instance where money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- the statement on internal control does not reflect the Departments compliance with the requirements for such statements set out in the Report of the Working Group on the Accountability of Secretaries General and Accounting Officers, or
- I find there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.

Seamus McCarthy  
Comptroller and Auditor General

23 December 2015



