ENVIRONMENT FUND

Accounts 2013

and

Comptroller and Auditor

General Report





ENVIRONMENT FUND

Accounts 2013 and Comptroller and Auditor General Report

Contents	Page
Statement on Internal Financial Control	1-2
Statement of Accounting Policies	3-4
Income and Expenditure Account	5
Balance Sheet	6
Cash Flow Statement	7
Notes to the Accounts	8-15
Comptroller and Auditor General Report	16

Environment Fund Accounts 2013 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 2013 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.

John McCarthy

Secretary General

Environment Fund Accounts 2013 Statement of Accounting Policies

1. General

The Environment Fund was established by the Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001 (No. 36 of 2001), to be managed and controlled by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. The Fund was established with effect from 17 July 2001.

Environmental Levies were introduced in respect of plastic bags by the Waste Management (Environmental Levy) (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 605 of 2001) and in respect of landfill by the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 86 of 2002).

The proceeds of the Environmental Levy on the supply of plastic bags, collected by the Revenue Commissioners, and the Environmental Levy on the landfilling of waste, collected by local authorities, are paid into the Fund.

Collection costs incurred by the Revenue Commissioners are reimbursed from the Fund, while each local authority 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 the enforcement and collection of levies.

Expenditure from the Fund in respect of collection of the Environmental Levy on the supply of plastic bags is agreed under an operation and service level agreement with the Revenue Commissioners.

Other expenditure is authorised by the Minister in accordance with the purposes permitted by the Waste Management legislation.

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) specifies the purposes for which payments may be made from the Environment Fund.

The Environment Fund is managed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the associated administration costs are charged to Vote 25.

Environment Fund Accounts 2013 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

2. Recognition of Income

Income from the Environmental Levy on the supply of plastic bags is the amount collected by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. Income from the Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste is the amount collected by local authorities, less amounts retained from levies paid in respect of privately operated and unauthorised facilities.

3. Recognition of Expenditure

In the case of goods and services, an expense/liability is recognised when the supplier has met the contractual requirement to provide goods and services ordered and presented an invoice. In the case of grants, an expense/liability is recognised when the grantee has met all requirements for the grant being paid.

Environment Fund Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2013

		2013	2012
Income	Notes	€	€
Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste	1	43,398,619	51,808,780
Environmental Levy on Plastic Bags	2	14,768,533	13,863,175
Interest on Investments	3	17,049	41,944
		58,184,201	65,713,899
Expenditure			
Environmental Protection Agency Research and	4	13,896,000	12,100,000
Development and Administration Costs (Non-Pay)			
Enforcement Initiatives	5	9,333,625	11,352,501
Contributions to National and International Bodies	6	8,228,829	7,841,104
Built and Natural Heritage Projects	7	5,884,010	8,846,137
Recycling Operational Costs	8	4,955,643	7,250,000
Waste Prevention and National Market Development Programm	nes 9	3,491,056	4,321,714
Waste Management including Recycling Projects	10	2,351,538	1,480,008
Office of Environmental Enforcement	11	2,022,000	2,100,000
Environment Awareness	12	1,659,151	1,637,524
Anti-Litter Initiatives	13	1,298,391	1,836,638
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (Non-Pay)	14	1,078,000	1,078,000
Water Quality	15	445,429	4,148,983
Environmental Levy Collection Costs	16	398,821	401,683
Pollution Control/Air Climate	17	206,023	109,114
Nuclear Safety	18	303	1,526,250
Other	19	312,579	581,422
Remediation of Landfill/Illegal Sites		-	4,120,438
Total Expenditure	20	55,561,398	70,731,516
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		2,622,803	(5,017,617)
Accumulated Surplus at 1 January		8,937,385	13,955,002
Accumulated Surplus at 31 December		11,560,188	8,937,385

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 and 4 and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these Accounts.

Signed John McCarthy

Secretary General

Date

Environment Fund Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2013

	<u>Notes</u>	2013 €	2012 €
Current Assets			
Bank		7,344,199	5,028,046
Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste due from Local Authorities	21	4,536,684	8,808,187
Environmental Levy on Plastic Bags due from Revenue Commissioners	22	4,434,773	3,912,136
Prepayments	23	112,513 16,428,169	141,718 17,890,087
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	24	4,867,981	8,952,702
		4,867,981	8,952,702
Net Assets		11,560,188	8,937,385
Represented by Accumulated Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		11,560,188	8,937,385

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 and 4 and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these Accounts

Signed /

John McCarthy Secretary General

Date

Environment Fund Cash Flow Statement as at 31 December 2013

	2013 €	2012 €
Reconciliation of deficit to net cash inflow from operating activities		
Surplus/(Deficit)for the Year	2,622,803	(5,017,617)
Deposit Interest Earned	(17,049)	(41,944)
(Increase)/Decrease in Levies due and Prepayments	3,778,071	(654,286)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accrued Expenses	(4,084,721)	7,772,162
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	2,299,104	2,058,315
Cash Flow Statement		
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	2,299,104	2,058,315
Return on Investments and Servicing of Finance		
Deposit Interest Earned	17,049	41,944
Increase in Cash	2,316,153	2,100,259
Reconciliation of net cash flows to movement in net funds		
Changes in Net Funds resulting from Cash Flow		
Net Funds at the beginning of the Year	5,028,046	2,927,787
Net Funds at the end of the Year	7,344,199	5,028,046
Increase in Cash in the Year	2,316,153	2,100,259

The Statement of Accounting Policies on Pages 3 and 4 and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these Accounts.

Signed

John McCarthy

Secretary General

Data

Notes to the Accounts

1. Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste

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

	2013	2012
	€	€
Levy on the Landfill of Waste from privately	25,815,717	29,126,408
operated landfills		
Levy on the Landfill of Waste from landfills	17,582,678	22,682,372
operated by local authorities		
Levy on the Landfill of Waste from	224	-
unauthorised landfills		
Total	43,398,619	51,808,780

In 2013, a total of \in 137,008 (\in 200,000 in 2012) was retained by local authorities from levies collected under Regulation 8 (3) of the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2011, in respect of privately operated landfill sites and a further \in 896 (\in 1,306 in 2012) was retained by local authorities from levies collected under Regulation 10 (4) of the Regulations, in respect of unauthorised landfill sites.

In 2012 landfill levies of \leq 4,627,565 due to the Fund in respect of three 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 was in receivership. One of the local authorities concerned has been advised by the receiver that the landfill levies of \leq 3,106,101 due to the Fund are unsecured liabilities and will not now be paid. The landfill levies due in relation to the other two sites are still unpaid and under review by the company receiver.

In 2012, an amount of \leq 163,768 was not included in the income figure, as the categorisation of the waste concerned was being reviewed by the Department, this review is on-going.

In addition, landfill levies of €121,867 due to the Fund in respect of 2013 from a publicly (local authority) operated landfill site have not been included in the income figure above as the local authority in question has not yet remitted the levy due. The local authority, as the accountable person under the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2011, is responsible for discharging this liability to the Fund and interest on the unremitted levy is accruing under Section 73(5) of the Waste Management Act 1996.

2. Environmental Levy on the supply of Plastic Bags

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

3. Interest on Investments

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

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

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

	2013	2012
	€	€
Research and Development	8,800,000	9,600,000
Administration Costs (Non-Pay) ¹	5,096,000	2,500,000
Total	<u>13,896,000</u>	12,100,000

¹In addition, expenditure of €0.3m. was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 - Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2013, (€0.2m. in 2012).

5. Enforcement Initiatives

This expenditure is in respect of grants paid to local authorities and other appropriate bodies in support of enforcement initiatives. \in 0.7m of the expenditure incurred under this heading in 2013 (\in 0.7 in 2012) 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 2013, work had been carried out on removing waste from 8 of the sites specified under the framework agreement (approximately 78,000 tonnes of waste has been repatriated at a cost of \in 6.5m). There will be further costs incurred by the Irish State under the terms of the framework agreement (there is an estimated 172,000 tonnes of illegal waste at the remaining 8 sites). A work programme with respect to 2014 is underway which will see three further sites remediated and an estimated 22,000 tonnes of waste repatriated.

6. 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:

	2013	2012
	€	€
International Meteorological Organisations	3,809,286	3,449,872
Environmental Radiation Policy	1,681,063	1,678,019
Global Environment Facility	1,421,000	1,420,000
Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol for the	629,133	629,087
Protection of the Ozone Layer		
United Nations Environment Fund	361,000	360,706
United Nations Framework Convention on	141,708	142,384
Climate Change (UNFCCC)		
Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary	56,676	39,551
Air Pollution		
OSPAR Convention on Protection of the	48,701	47,309
Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic		
Stockholm Convention	23,380	21,394
Basel Convention	19,015	22,505
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	14,182	-
Aarhus Convention on Access to Information,	13,866	21,352
Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to		
Justice in Environmental Matters		
Royal Irish Academy	9,819	8,925
Total	8,228,829	7,841,104

7. Built and Natural Heritage Projects

This expenditure relates to the re-imbursement 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:

	2013	2012
	€	€
National Waste Prevention Programme	3,319,922	3,641,240
National Market Development Programme	163,298	655,749
National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste	7,836	24,725
Total	3,491,056	4,321,714

10. 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:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Waste Management - Capital Grants Scheme	2,341,378	1,331,091
Planning and Procurement for major local authority	10,160	148,917
infrastructure projects		
Total	2,351,538	1,480,008

11. Office of Environmental Enforcement

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

12. Environment Awareness

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

	2013	2012
	€	€
Irish Environmental Network (EENGO) - Core/	843,419	784,280
Capacity & Project Funding		
Local Agenda 21 Partnership Fund	400,000	337,000
Grant Assistance		
- Green Schools	200,000	180,000
- External Awareness Campaigns	44,145	49,657
- Birdwatch	40,000	30,000
- Digital ENFO Service	30,000	50,000
- Young Environmentalists Awards	25,000	20,000
- An Taisce - Planning Process	20,000	20,000
- European Environment Bureau	20,000	-
- Cork Environmental Forum	10,000	-
- Green Awards	7,500	7,500
- OECD (Environmental compliance indicators)	5,000	5,000
- IBEC Environment Awards	5,000	-
- Sherkin Island Marine Station	4,000	4,000
- Cultivate Greenhouse	-	145,000
Advertising	5,087	5,087
Total	1,659,151	1,637,524

13. Anti-Litter Initiatives

This figure represents expenditure on a range of initiatives including:

€
99,636
25,000
61,295
50,000
707
36,638

14. 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.

15. Water Quality

This expenditure relates to grant aid contributions towards various initiatives concerning water quality. Expenditure in this area is summarised as follows:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Blue Flag Scheme	199,000	214,000
Funding of NGO (SWAN/VOICE)	170,659	170,227
Water Quality Research	75,770	114,756
¹ Environmental Protection Agency – Water Quality	-	3,650,000
Monitoring and Assessment Programme		
Total	445,429	4,148,983

¹In addition, expenditure of €3.9m. was incurred in respect of activities in this area from Vote 25 - Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2013 (nil in 2012).

16. Environmental Levy Collection Costs

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

17. Pollution Control Air/Climate

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

	2013	2012
	€	€
Climate Change	161,119	59,787
Air/Noise pollution control	44,904_	49,327
Total	206,023	109,114

18. Nuclear Safety

This funding relates to continuing legal and scientific researches 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:

	2013	2012
	€	€
National Economic and Social Council	95,247	93,693
Environmental International Sustainability	60,148	79,289
Tidy Towns	58,853	57,879
CO2 Reduction in Non-Domestic Buildings	36,124	17,393
Producer Responsibility Initiatives	34,589	212,203
Sea Lettuce Intervention	22,856	75,364
Stakeholders Forum	4,557	-
Waste Prevention Operational Costs	205	378
Regional Waste Management Plans		45,223
Total	312,579	581,422

20. Total Expenditure

Total expenditure from the Fund in 2013 can be summarised as follows:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Environmental Protection Agency	19,218,513	23,752,562
Local authorities	17,635,166	23,571,074
Contributions to National and International Bodies	8,228,829	7,841,104
Built and Natural Heritage Projects	5,884,010	8,846,137
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	1,078,000	1,083,970
Other	3,516,880	5,636,669
Total	55,561,398	70,731,516

21. Environmental Levy on the Landfill of Waste

Amounts owed to the Fund by local authorities at 31 December 2013 were as follows:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Levy on the Landfill of Waste from privately	2,931,861	6,865,260
operated landfills		
Levy on the Landfill of Waste from landfills operated	1,604,823	1,942,927
by local authorities		
Total	4,536,684	8,808,187

22. Environmental Levy on Plastic Bags

This is the net liability of the Revenue Commissioners to the Fund at 31 December 2013.

23. Prepayments

Prepayments at 31 December 2013 were as follows:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Contributions to International Organisations	112,033	141,708
National Economic and Social Council	480	-
Environment Awareness costs	-	10
Total	112,513	141,718

24. Accrued Expenses

Accrued Expenses at 31 December 2013 were as follows:

	2013	2012
	€	€
Enforcement grants	3,765,404	4,200,370
Recoupment due to the Department of Arts, Heritage	1,058,514	1,203,274
and the Gaeltacht in respect of costs incurred in 2013		
Costs associated with Irelands contribution to the Genev	7a 17,284	-
Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollutio	n	
Professional Services Withholding Tax to be paid over to	16,318	206,515
the Revenue Commissioners in respect of 2013		
Consultancy costs associated with the National Litter	8,669	9,712
Pollution Monitoring System		
Costs relating to Pollution Control/Air Climate	1,587	-
Costs associated with Waste Prevention	205	378
Recycling operational costs	-	3,200,000
National Market Development Programme	_	132,453
Total	4,867,981	8,952,702



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

Environment Fund

I have audited the financial statements of the Environment Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013 under the Waste Management Act 1996. The financial statements, 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 financial statements 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 financial statements, 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 financial statements 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 Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements 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 financial statements, and

the overall presentation of the financial statements

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 financial statements, which have been properly prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland, give a true and fair view of the transactions of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013 and of the state of its affairs at that date.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Department. The financial statements 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.

Deans Mc Con by.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General
December 2014

