

MEETING OF THE COURTS SERVICE BOARD
22nd February 2021

Authentication of the Seal of the Courts Service

The names of the officers of the Service designated to sign and authenticate the Seal was changed from Tom Ward and Linda Memery, to Michelle Johnston and Linda Memery

Corporate Business Plan

The plan was presented to and following a thorough discussion, adopted by the Board. It was agreed that there will be Quarterly updates to the Board in relation to each Item.

Risk Management – Corporate Risk Register

The document before the Board had been considered by the Audit and Risk Committee and by the SMT. It uses risk categories that align closely with the Goals in the new Strategic Plan. The Register was examined and any questions raised were addressed. There was also a full discussion on the measures in place in all Jurisdictions to manage backlogs and deal with as much business as possible throughout the period of time when Covid-19 restrictions have been imposed.

Financial Report

The Financial Report in respect of the year ending 31st December 2020 which had been considered by the Financial Committee on the 8th February 2021, was before the Board together with a summary document.

Mr. Cleere outlined the main points contained in the summary document which were; the gross underspend of €1.858m, the stimulus fund of €5m, the outturn for Appropriations in Aid of €32.496m representing a surplus of €0.363m (1.1%) taken compared with the revised target, and the net underspend of €7.116m (5.5%). The underspend was made up of Pay, Non-Pay and Capital. Only non-pay was not in line with expectations. When account is taken of the carryover of €4.895m into 2021 which the underspend on Capital provides, the adjusted gross underspend was €1.858m which compares with circa €1.5m for 2019, while the surrender balance for 2020 was €2.221m (1.7% of total net funding).

The C&AG have commenced the Auditing of Accounts for 2020.

Committee Updates

There was a brief update on membership of Committees but due to time constraints the report was deferred to the next meeting.

Board Effectiveness Review

The Board continued with its consideration of the report on the Board Effectiveness Review prepared by the Institute of Public Administration.