

F 7/28/05

11 October 2005

Circular 28/05

Minute of the Minister for Finance in response to the Report of the Committee of Public Accounts into the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme

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I am directed by the Minister for Finance to enclose for your information and guidance a copy of the Minute of the Minister for Finance in response to the Report of the Committee of Public Accounts into the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme.

Your attention is drawn in particular to paragraph 5 of the Minister's response to the Committee's recommendations, which stresses the importance of Departments ensuring that policy, negotiating and mandated positions in connection with important meetings and decisions are appropriately documented as negotiations and policy discussions proceed and that inter-Departmental positions are agreed where more than one Department is involved; and to paragraph 6 regarding the desirability of involving as appropriate the Attorney General's Office or other legal experts in major negotiations with a legal dimension.

As indicated at paragraph 4 of the Minister's response to the Committee's recommendations, this Department will be reviewing the provisions of *Public Financial Procedures* in relation to contingent liabilities, including the administrative procedures required in connection with the giving of indemnities, and will be considering the general guidance it might issue to Departments in relation to identifying, estimating and reporting on contingent liabilities.

You should bring this circular to the attention of all relevant officers in your Department/Office.

Mise le Meas

Tom Considine
Secretary General

To: All Accounting Officers