



Northern Ireland
Assembly

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2020, THE SENATE,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Humphrey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Ms Órlaithí Flynn MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA
Mr Maolíosá McHugh MLA
Mr Matthew O'Toole MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson, Assembly Clerk
Ms Gillian Barker, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Ms Karen Barry, Clerical Supervisor
Mr Darren Weir, Clerical Officer

The meeting commenced at 3.13 pm in Public Session.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of meeting on 2 July 2020

The draft minutes of 2 July 2020 were agreed as amended and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

4. Declaration of Members' Interests

The following declaration of interests was declared:

- Mr Andrew Muir MLA, declared he was a former employee of Translink, and specifically in relation to the Major Capital Projects, that his step father is a quality manager for the A6 Dungiven by-pass.
- Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA declared he was a Trustee of Naomh Eoghain Caisleán na Deirge, Gaelic Athletic Association.

5. Correspondence

Committee noted correspondence from Tracy Meharg, AO Department of Communities dated 12 June 2020 regarding provision of an indemnity.

Mr Matthew O'Toole joined the meeting at 3.15 pm

Public Session - 3.15 pm

6. Excess Votes

Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, C&AG and Mr Kyle Bingham, Assembly Support Officer joined the meeting.

Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, C&AG addressed the meeting and took members through the amendments to the PAC Excess Votes Report 2016-2017. The Committee noted the amendments to the report.

Agreed: Committee agreed to published the amended PAC Excess Votes Report 2016-2017. The Committee agreed the report is to be sent to the Finance Committee and a copy to be laid in the Business Office. The report will then be presented to the Assembly in September 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 3.20 pm

The meeting resumed at 3.23 pm

Public Session - 3.23 pm.

7. Evidence on NIAO Report on Major Capital Projects

Ms Tracy Meharg, AO, Department for Communities; Ms Jacqueline Fearon, Director of the Regional Stadia Programme and Head of Capital Delivery, Department for Communities; Ms Katrina Godfrey, AO, Department for Infrastructure and Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Project and Procurement, Roads Division, Department for Infrastructure joined the meeting.

Also in attendance – Mr Kiernan Donnelly CB, C&AG NIAO and Mr Stuart Stevenson, TOA, Department of Finance.

The evidence session was heard in two parts. The Officials from the Department for Communities initially briefed the Committee on the Casement Park Project. There then followed a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities on a range of issues which arose from the evidence session.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.35 pm

The meeting resumed at 4.47 pm

The Officials from the Department for Infrastructure briefed the Committee on the Major Works on A5 & A6 roads. There then followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities on a range of issues which arose from the evidence session.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 5.11 pm

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 5.15 pm

Mr Maoliosa McHugh left the meeting at 5.34 pm.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 6.00 pm

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 6.03 pm

Mr Matthew O'Toole left the meeting at 6.07 pm

The Departmental Officials left the meeting and the meeting moved in to Closed Session at

6.07 pm.

8. Inquiry into Major Capital Projects

Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, C&AG and Mr Kyle Bingham, Assembly Support Officer remained in the meeting.

The Committee discussed the evidence it had taken from the Departmental Officials with NIAO.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure to request further information.

Closed Session 6.12 pm

9. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the draft forward work programme covering the period, September to December 2020. The Committee noted and agreed the amendments to the forward work programme

Agreed: The draft forward work programme was agreed as amended.

10. Any other business

None

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next PAC meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 3.00 pm in NIAO Offices, University Street, Belfast.

The meeting was adjourned 6.16 pm

Mr William Humphrey MLA
PAC Chairperson
Minutes of 8 July 2020

Signed: