



AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2013
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Danny Kinahan (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle
Mr Dominic Bradley
Ms Anna Lo

In Attendance: Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Hilary Bogle (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)

Apologies: None

The meeting commenced at 3.04pm in open session.

Chairperson's Introduction

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the meeting should commence in open session and move into closed session during item 5.

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairperson reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

Ms Michaela Boyle declared an interest as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2012

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2012 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. NIAO Estimate for 2013-2014

Members noted the draft NIAO Estimate for 2013-2014 and correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Public Accounts Committee.

3.08pm Mr Hilditch joined the meeting

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Andrew Allen, Audit Manager; and Mr Joe Campbell, Audit Manager. The Chairperson invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the NIAO Estimate for 2013-14.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the NIAO Estimates for 2013-2014.

3.20pm Ms Boyle left the meeting

3.20pm The Committee moved into closed session.

3.25pm Ms Boyle returned to the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Committee Report on the NIAO Estimates for 2013-2014 (as amended).

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Powers and Membership and Table of Contents should form part of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Appendix 1 ‘Other Evidence considered by the Committee’ should form part of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Appendix 2 ‘Minutes of Proceedings relating to the Report’ should form part of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the tabled extract of today’s Minutes of Proceedings should be included in Appendix 1 of the report.

Agreed: The Committee ordered the Report on the Estimates of the Northern Ireland Audit Office 2013-14 to be printed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write to the Department of Finance and Personnel advising them of the Committee’s decision.

6. Draft Foreword to NIAO Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16

Agreed: Members noted and agreed the draft ‘Foreword’ to the NIAO Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16 (as amended).

7. Salary of the Comptroller and Auditor General

Agreed: Following a briefing by the Clerk the Committee agreed that:

- (a) the Comptroller and Auditor General’s salary for 2013-14 should remain frozen at its current level (and therefore that no motion should be tabled by the Audit Committee); and
- (b) that further to the outcome of the Government’s consideration of the Senior Salary Review Body’s review of the judicial salary structure, the Audit Committee should carry out a review of the options open to it for determining the Comptroller and Auditor General’s salary in the future.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Department of Finance and Personnel informing them of the Committee’s decision.

8. Correspondence

Members noted correspondence dated 8th October 2012 from the Committee to the Minister for Finance and Personnel and the Minister’s response dated 31st December 2012.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Minister’s position on this issue.

Members noted correspondence dated 12th December 2012 from the Committee to the Minister for Finance and Personnel and the Minister's response dated 11th January 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Minister's position on this issue.

Members noted correspondence dated 24th January 2013 from the Public Accounts Committee to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write to the Public Accounts Committee confirming the Committee's position.

Members noted correspondence dated 29th October 2012 from a Member.

The Clerk updated the Committee on this issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should write to the Member outlining the Committee's decision.

Ms Boyle asked for it to be noted that she objected to the tone used by the Member in his correspondence to the Chairperson.

9. Any other business

Members noted that, as agreed at the last meeting, a visit has been arranged for the Committee to meet with the Public Accounts Commission at 2.45pm on Tuesday 12th March 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the visit should take place subject to Plenary business and that the Clerk should confirm Members availability in due course.

10. Time, date and place of next meeting

Committee Office staff will inform Members of the date of the next Committee meeting.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.45pm.

Danny Kinahan
Chairperson
Audit Committee

Dated: 2nd July 2013