



Northern Ireland
Assembly

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2013
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

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

Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley

The meeting commenced at 3.35 pm in open session.

Chairperson's Introduction

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting.

The Chairperson informed Members that, as this was the first meeting using the Electronic Committee Pack, IS staff would be present throughout the meeting to assist Members if necessary.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the meeting should begin in public session and move into closed session from Agenda item 8.

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

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.

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

3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Issues arising from the NIAO Annual Report and Accounts 2012-13

Members noted the NIAO's response to issues the Committee had raised arising from its consideration of the NIAO's Annual Report and Accounts for 2012-13.

6. October Monitoring Round

The Committee noted the Clerk's Paper and the NIAO Paper on the October Monitoring Round.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Andrew Allen, Audit Manager; and Mr Richard Emerson, Audit Manager and invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the NIAO's forecast outturn for 2013-14 and their October Monitoring Round submission.

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

Agreed: The Committee noted the NIAO's reduced requirement of £100,000 for capital expenditure in the October Monitoring Round.

7. End of Session Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft End of Session Report.

The meeting moved into closed session

8. Appointment of the External Auditor for the NIAO

Members noted the Clerk's paper and the paper from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the background to this issue.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Alison Caldwell, Head of Fraud and Internal Audit Policy at the Central Finance Group at DFP and invited her to brief the Committee on her paper.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Ms Caldwell for attending the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft terms of reference and evaluation schedule for the appointment of the external auditor.

9. Correspondence

Agreed: Members noted correspondence dated 27th September 2013 from Potato Partners NI Ltd and agreed that the Clerk should forward this correspondence to the Public Accounts Committee.

10. Any other business

Members agreed that the Clerk should organise a committee visit to the next meeting of the Public Accounts Commission.

11. Time, date and place of next meeting

Members noted that they would be informed of the date of the next meeting by Committee staff in due course.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.12pm.

Danny Kinahan
Chairperson
Audit Committee
10th December 2013