



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**MONDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2015
ROOM 21, 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)
Mrs Hilary Cleland-Bogle (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Kerr (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

The meeting commenced at 12.32pm in open session

Chairperson's Introduction

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the meeting should commence in open session and move into closed session for its consideration of agenda item 6 after the NIAO officials have left the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting.

1. Apologies

As 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.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. January Monitoring Round

Members noted the NIAO Paper on the 2014-15 January Monitoring Round.

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Brandon McMaster, Director of Business Improvement; and Mr Richard Emerson, Audit Manager.

Ms Sides briefed the Committee on the January Monitoring Round.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Ms Sides and asked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues to remain at the table for the next agenda item.

6. Provision for the NIAO in the 2015-16 Budget

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the NIAO Paper on the 2015-16 Budget; and associated papers.

The Chairperson invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the NIAO Paper.

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

The meeting moved into closed session.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the role of the Audit Committee in agreeing the NIAO Estimate.

Agreed: Following discussion the Committee agreed that the Chairperson should write to the Minister for Finance and Personnel setting out the Committee's position.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its lines to take during the Budget debate on Tuesday, 27th January 2015 (should the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Committee arise).

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should commission legal advice as discussed.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Time, date and place of next meeting

Members noted that Committee staff will inform members of the time, date and place of the next meeting in due course.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.25pm.

Danny Kinahan
Chairperson
Audit Committee

Dated: 14th April 2015