



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**  
**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Dominic Bradley  
Ms Anna Lo

In Attendance: Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Kate McCullough (Assistant Clerk)  
Miss Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Roy Beggs  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Mr David Hilditch

*The meeting commenced at 3.37pm in closed session.*

#### **Election of a Temporary Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson the Clerk took the chair.

The Clerk called for proposals for the position of Temporary Chairperson.

Ms Lo proposed Mr Bradley as a Temporary Chairperson. Mr Bradley seconded this proposal.

The proposal was carried and Mr Bradley was elected as Temporary Chairperson.

*The meeting moved into open session at 3.38pm*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Mr Kinahan thanking him for his contribution as Chairperson to the work of the Committee.

## **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.

The Committee noted the tabled registered interests of Mr Roy Beggs.

## **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters arising**

Members noted the response of 9 June 2015 from the Finance Minister on the issues addressed in the Committee's report on the estimate of the NIAO.

## **5. NIAO Annual Report and Accounts**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the NIAO Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15; and associated External Audit Findings Report.

Mr Kieran Donnelly, the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG); Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Richard Emerson, Audit Manager; and Mr Andrew Allen, Audit Manager joined the meeting.

The Chair invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-15.

Mr Donnelly and his colleagues then answered questions from the Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the NIAO Annual Report and Accounts.

## **6. June Monitoring Round 2015**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper and the paper from the NIAO in relation to the June Monitoring Round.

The Chair invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the June Monitoring Round and this was followed by a discussion.

## **7. Chairs of NIAO Audit Committee and C&AG's Advisory Group**

Members noted the NIAO Paper on the Chairs of the NIAO Audit Committee and C&AG's Advisory Group and the tabled pen pictures.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to endorse the following two appointments –

Chair of the NIAO Audit Committee: Áine Gallagher

Chair of the C&AG's Advisory Group: Paul Douglas

## **8. NIAO Proposed Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper and the NIAO proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Governance and Accountability Arrangements of the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

*Agreed:* Following discussion members agreed the proposed NIAO amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding.

## **9. Any other business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to submit views on releasing or withholding information in any non-routine or contentious Freedom of Information requests received during the summer recess period.

## **10. Time, date and place of next meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting shall take place in late September/early October. Committee staff shall confirm the exact time and date in due course.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.45pm.*

**Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Audit Committee**