



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson, Chairperson  
Ms Anna Lo  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Mr David Hilditch

In Attendance: Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Hilary Cleland-Bogle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

*The meeting commenced at 3.33pm in open session.*

#### **Chairperson's Introduction**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the meeting should be held in open session.

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.

The Chairperson declared an interest as the sister-in-law of Mrs Sides, Assistant Auditor General who will be presenting to the Committee for agenda item 5.

## **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. NIAO's Main Estimate for 2016-17**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the NIAO Estimate for 2016-2017 and accompanying Memorandum; and various related papers.

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

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; and Mr Andrew Allen, Audit Manager and invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the NIAO Estimate for 2016-2017.

*3.44pm Mr Hilditch joined the meeting.*

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues.

Members noted that the Clerk would draft a Committee Report on the Main Estimate for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting.

## **6. Briefing by the NI Ombudsman**

Members noted the briefing paper provided by the NI Ombudsman on the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Audit Committee.

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

The Chairperson welcomed Dr Frawley, NI Ombudsman; and Mr John McGinnity, Director of Finance and Corporate Services invited Dr Frawley to brief the Committee.

*Agreed:* Following discussion the Committee agreed that Dr Frawley would update the Committee on progress with regard to finalising a draft Memorandum of Understanding.

Members expressed their appreciation to Dr Frawley for his excellent guidance and assistance and wished him well in his forthcoming retirement. Members also asked Dr Frawley to extend their congratulations to Ms Anderson on her appointment to the post of Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

The Chairperson thanked Dr Frawley and his colleague for attending the meeting.

## **7. Draft Foreword to the Corporate Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19**

Members noted and approved the draft foreword to the Corporate Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19.

## **8. Correspondence**

Members noted correspondence dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 from DFP and correspondence dated 3 March 2016 from the Committee to DFP in relation to the draft Corporate Plan for 2016-17 to 2018-19.

## **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 3.30pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.15pm.*

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

15<sup>th</sup> March 2016