



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson (Chairperson)  
Ms Anna Lo  
Ms Michaela Boyle

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

Apologies: Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson)

*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.

The Committee noted that Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson had replaced Mr Beggs as Chairperson to 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 Chairperson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 5 as a sister-in-law of the Assistant Auditor General.

## **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. NIAO Resources: 2015-16 Financial Position**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; and the NIAO Paper.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; and Mr Richard Emerson, Audit Manager, NIAO to the meeting and invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on this issue.

*3.38pm The meeting adjourned.*

*3.48pm The meeting re-convened.*

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

## **6. Briefing by the NIAO Audit Committee**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper and supporting papers.

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

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Áine Gallagher, Chairperson; and Mr Paul Douglas, member, NIAO Audit Committee and invited Ms Gallagher to brief the Committee on the work carried out by the NIAO Audit Committee.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Ms Gallagher and Mr Douglas for attending the meeting.

## **7. Public Service Ombudsperson Bill Report**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper and correspondence to the Ad Hoc Committee.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should write to the Minister for Finance to have the matter expedited.

## **8. Any other business**

### End of Session Report

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its 2014-2015 End of Session Report.

### Research Paper: Accountability and Governance in the UK and Ireland's Audit Bodies

The Clerk clarified the purpose of including the Research Paper dated 2013 in the meeting pack.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Committee's End of Mandate Report should include a recommendation that the incoming Committee carry out a review of Governance Arrangements.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Clerk should draft a communication to all Members to draw to their attention the facility within the Memorandum of Understanding on the Governance and Accountability arrangements of the NIAO for the NIAO to provide written responses to questions from Members relating to the business of the NIAO.

## **9. 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 4.30pm.*

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