



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Andrew Muir MLA, Deputy Chairperson
Alan Chambers MLA
Emma Sheerin MLA

Apologies: Daniel McCrossan MLA, Chairperson
Joanne Bunting MLA

In Attendance: Clairita Frazer, Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk
Aoibheann Baker, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Jim Nulty, Clerical Supervisor
Gareth Cross, Clerical Officer

The meeting commenced at 12.35pm in closed session.

1. Apologies.

As above.

2. Report on the Draft Budgets 2020-21 of the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission, the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

Members discussed and considered the draft Committee report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Committee Report on the Draft Budgets 2020-21 of the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission, the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (as amended)

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Title Page, Committee Powers and Membership and Table of Contents should form part of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that paragraphs 1-4 stand part of the Report.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that paragraphs 5-13, as amended, stand part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that paragraphs 14-27 stand part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that paragraphs 28-41 stand part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that paragraphs 42-56, as amended, stand part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 1: “Budget-setting protocols” should form part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 2: “Briefing papers” should form part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 3: “Other Evidence considered by the Committee” should form part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 4: “Minutes of Proceedings” should form part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 5: “Minutes of Evidence” should form part of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Report be the 1st Report of the Audit Committee to the Assembly 2017-22
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Audit Committee Report on the draft Budgets 2020-21 of the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission, the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (as amended) be published on-line on the Committee and Assembly webpages.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Clerk will send a copy of the report to the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman, the Department of Finance and the Public Accounts Committee.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the extracts of the draft Minutes of Proceedings from both today’s meeting and the meeting on 4 March 2020 are agreed by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to allow for inclusion in the Committee’s report.

The report would also be laid in the Assembly Business Office.

3. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Audit Committee would be scheduled in due course.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.47pm

**Daniel McCrossan MLA
Chairperson
Audit Committee
6 May 2020**