

# **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2013  
ROOM 30 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Ms Megan Fearon MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr David McIlveen MLA  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

The meeting opened at 10:10am in public session.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: that agenda item 4 is covered by Hansard and the Official Record published on the Assembly's website.

## **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 12 June 2013**

Agreed: that the minutes are published on the Assembly website.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### Table of Requests for Information from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)

The Committee noted the table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### Public Service Pensions Bill: “Macro Economic” Appraisal - Options

The Committee considered options relating to a macroeconomic appraisal of the policy aims of the Public Service Pensions Bill.

Mr McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.16am.

Agreed: that, given the substantive nature of the issues to consider, the Committee would defer its decision on the options until next week’s meeting.

Agreed: to take evidence from the Nevin Economic Research Institute at a future meeting.

Agreed: to seek an update from Trade Union Side on its preparedness to support the commissioning of a macroeconomic appraisal.

## **4. Review of Rates Liability for the Landlord Sector – DFP Evidence Session**

The Committee took evidence from the following DFP officials on the Review of Rates Liability for the Landlord Sector: Brian McClure, Head of Rating Policy Division, Central Finance Group (CFG) and Andrew McAvoy, Rating Policy Division, CFG. The evidence sessions was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Girvan and Ms Fearon joined the meeting at 10.33am.

Mr McCallister joined the meeting at 10.35am.

Mr Weir left the meeting at 10.40am and rejoined the meeting at 10.50am.

Mr McQuillan left the meeting at 10.55am.

Agreed: that the Departmental officials will provide clarification on the percentage of unregistered land in Northern Ireland and a statistical analysis of defaults on rates payment in the domestic sector.

## **5. Senior Civil Service Pay and Bonuses – DFP Briefing**

The Committee received a briefing from the following DFP official on Senior Civil Service Pay and Bonuses: Mark Bailey, Head of Pay and Policy, Corporate Human Resources (CHR).

Mr McQuillan rejoined the meeting at 11.00am.

Mrs Cochrane left the meeting at 11.06am.

Agreed: that the Departmental official will provide information on the pay scale for the post of Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and will respond to follow-up written questions from the Chairperson following the session.

## **6. Dormant Accounts: Outcome of Consultation – DFP Briefing**

The Committee received a briefing from the following DFP officials on the outcome of the consultation in relation to Dormant Accounts: John McKibbin, Supply Officer, Supply Division, CFG; Ian Fleming, Deputy Supply Officer, CFG; and Maryanne Smith, Supply Officer, CFG.

Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 11.36am.

Agreed: that the Departmental officials will examine the scope for taking an alternative approach to accessing Dormant Accounts Funds other than utilising the Big Lottery and will provide further information on the scale of Big Lottery Funded projects in general and in comparison to the scale of the Dormant Accounts Funds.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- DFP: Response to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment; EU Procurement Directive;
- DFP: Response regarding “Shared Services” Assembly Research Paper;  
Agreed: to schedule a briefing from the Department on this issue for after summer recess.
- DFP: Response regarding Equal Pay, Abdulla judgement and others;
- Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (COFMDFM) regarding European Commission proposal on the free movement of citizens.  
Agreed: to seek urgent comment on this proposal from DFP, including its views on any potential impact that the proposal would have in Northern Ireland. It was further agreed that this response would be forwarded to the COFMDFM immediately on receipt.
- Draft response to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the review of the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland;  
Agreed: to issue the response to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.
- NI Assembly Research Paper – The Calman Commission: North Sea Oil and Natural Resource Taxation;
- DFP: Departmental response to issues raised in Assembly Research papers on Prompt Payments and Sub-economic Tendering.

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from the Department on this issue for after summer recess.

- Committee for Justice: Equal Pay Claims for DoJ/NIO/PSNI Support Staff.

The following routine papers were noted:

- Consumer Council for Northern Ireland – New Current Account Service; and
- Consumer Council for Northern Ireland – Budget Energy Price Increase.

#### **8. Committee Work Programme**

The Committee considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: that the draft Committee Work Programme is amended to reflect any decisions made today and published on the Committee's website.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 26 June 2013 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.43am.

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**26 June 2013**