

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013
BUSINESS ROOM 3, BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr John McCallister MLA
Mr Ian McCrea 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: Ms Megan Fearon MLA

The meeting opened at 10.03am in public session.

The Chairperson welcomed a new member to the Committee: Mr Ian McCrea and his declaration of interests were noted.

The Chairperson recorded thanks to Mr David McIlveen for his contribution to the work of the Committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: that agenda items 6, 7 and 8 are covered by Hansard and the Official Record published on the Assembly's website.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 11 September 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.

Westminster NI Affairs Committee: Inquiry into Banking

The Clerk updated members on initial consideration given to how the Committee might input into the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into Banking. Further enquires would be made before a formal proposal is brought to the Committee.

John McCallister joined the meeting at 10.08am

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10.10am

4. End of Session Report 2012-13: Final consideration of draft report

The Committee considered a draft End of Session Report 2012-13

Agreed: that paragraphs 1-8 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 9-19 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 20-28 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 29-39 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 40-49 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 50-57 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that the report as agreed be the End of Session report of the Committee for Finance and Personnel 2012-13.

5. Financial Provisions Bill – Consideration of Committee Stage timetable

Agreed: that the motion seeking Assembly approval to extend the Committee Stage of the Bill to Friday 13 December 2013 will be laid in the Business Office.

6. Draft Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – Evidence from DFP Officials

The Committee received evidence on the Draft Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill from the following Departmental officials: Oswyn Paulin, Departmental Solicitor, and Michael Foster, Legal Advisor,. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Peter Weir joined the meeting at 10.42am

Agreed: that the DFP officials will provide additional information as requested by members during the session. It was *further agreed* that, subject to the Executive agreeing to proceed with the Bill, the Department will provide a report to the Committee on the outcome of a consultation on the draft Bill before introduction into the Assembly.

7. Air Connectivity Study – DFP/DETI Evidence Session

The Committee received evidence on the first stage of the study into Air Connectivity, commissioned by DFP and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), from the follow officials: Bill Pauley, Head of Strategic Policy Division, DFP; Tony Simpson, Strategic Policy Division, DFP; and David Thomson, Head of Policy Group, DETI. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

The Committee noted that the second stage of the study would be concluded at the end of 2013, at which time the Committee would receive further briefing.

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11.20am

Adrian McQuillan rejoined the meeting at 11.22am

8. Air Connectivity/Air Passenger Duty – Evidence from Airport Representatives

The Committee received evidence in response to the DFP/DETI commissioned Air Connectivity Report from the following representatives: Damien Tierney, Airport Director, City of Derry Airport; Clive Coleman, Senior Director, Regional and City Airports Management Ltd; Mr Uel Hoey, Business Development Manager, Belfast International Airport; and Ellie McGimpsey, Business Development Manager, George Best Belfast City Airport. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Peter Weir left the meeting at 12.21pm

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 12.25pm

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 12.25pm

Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 12.28pm

Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 12.29pm

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 12.30pm

Agreed: that the briefing papers from today's sessions are copied to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information.

Agreed: that the airport representatives will provide follow-up written submissions including: a response to the University of Ulster report "Northern Ireland Air

Connectivity: Phase 1: A Literature Review by NICEP"; as well as joint proposals on steps which the Executive could take to assist the airports in developing new air routes.

9. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence.

- DFP: Follow-up information regarding EU issues
- DFP: Response to Education Committee regarding Savings Delivery Plans
- DFP: Minister's submission to NI Affairs Committee regarding Banking Issues
- DFP: Further update on Modernising European Union
Agreed: that this paper would be included as part of a wider briefing on public procurement issues by Central Procurement Directorate.
- Recruitment Advertising Policy
- List of papers available in Room 419

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 12.42pm

Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 12.45pm

Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 12.46pm

10. Committee Work Programme

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: to hold a follow up session on Effective Questioning following the Committee's meeting on 20 November 2013.

Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill

The Committee noted a previous decision to receive early briefings from the Law Society and the Belfast Solicitors Association on this Bill and that the Chair and Deputy Chair would meet both in advance of these briefings.

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

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 25 September 2013 at 10:00 am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.50am.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
25 September 2013