

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2013
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: 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

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

Apologies: Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Mr Peter Weir MLA

The meeting opened at 10.12am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: that agenda item, 5 is covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 25 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 summary table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Public Service Pensions Bill – Assembly Research Briefing

The Committee received a briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service on the Research paper, *Public Service Pensions Bill*.

Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10.17am

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 10.18am

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 10.35am

5. Public Service Pensions Bill – Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Evidence Session

The Committee took evidence from the following representatives of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the Public Service Pensions Bill:

- Dr David Russell, Deputy Director; and
- Ms Rhyannon Blythe BL, Assistant Caseworker.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Paul Girvan rejoined the meeting at 10.47am

Agreed: to write to DFP seeking information on what research has been done or can be done to provide a cost-benefit analysis specifically on the implications of Northern Ireland not aligning the Normal Pension Age with the State Pension Age.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Email from member of public regarding land adjacent to Downpatrick and County Down Railway and Rathkeltair House;

Agreed: to forward this correspondence to DFP for direct response.

- DFP: Response regarding Bricklayers on Public Contracts;
- DFP: Letter from Minister regarding Transposing Articles 5, 6 and 19 1 (b) of the EU Directive on Energy Efficiency;

Agreed: that the Committee is content with the approach detailed.

- DFP: Rate Rebate Replacement Issues
- Correspondence regarding the Financial Conduct Authority's investigation into the Ulster Bank Payment System Failure

Agreed: that this correspondence would be copied to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (in light of its current Inquiry into the banking structure in Northern Ireland), the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (CETI) and DFP for information.

7. Committee Work Programme

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Inquiry into the banking structure in Northern Ireland

Members considered a proposed approach for the Committee, together with CETI, to input to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the banking structure in Northern Ireland. This would involve the members of both committees identifying local businesses which have experienced difficulties in accessing finance from the local banks and who would be willing to contribute their experiences as case studies for an Assembly Research paper. The research would be submitted to the inquiry and there would also be the possibility of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee meeting in Parliament Buildings later this year to take oral evidence from identified stakeholders.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed approach, which would be conveyed to CETI for consideration.

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

8. Any other business

None

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 09 October 2013 at 10:00 am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.59am

Mr Dominic Bradley MLA
Deputy Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
09 October 2013