

# COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Daithi McKay (Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley (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 Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)  
Ms Pamela Dugdale (Assembly Researcher) – Agenda item 5
- Apologies: Ms Michaela Boyle MLA

*The meeting commenced at 10:12 am in public session.*

*Agreed:* that agenda items 4, 6 and 7 are covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 19 February 2014**

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

## **3. Matters Arising**

Table of requests for information from 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.

*Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:12am*

## **4. Flexible Working Inquiry – Stakeholder Evidence via video-link**

The Committee received evidence on the Flexible Working Inquiry from the following witness:

- Andy Lake - Director, Flexibility.co.uk

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:25am*

*Peter Weir joined the meeting at 10:25am*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 10:40am*

*Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 10:45am*

*John McCallister left the meeting at 10:45am*

## **5. Financial Transaction Capital – Briefing by Assembly Research**

The Committee received a briefing from Assembly Research on Financial Transaction Capital.

*Agreed:* that the Researcher will provide a follow up note on issues discussed during the briefing.

*Agreed:* to copy the research paper to the other statutory committees for information.

*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:00am*

*John McCallister re-joined the meeting at 11:00am*

*Judith Cochrane re-joined the meeting at 11:00am*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:01am*

*Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 11:07am*

*Dominic Bradley re-joined the meeting at 11:20am*

## **6. Options for addressing the residual Equal Pay grievances – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee received a briefing from the following DFP official on the options for addressing the residual Equal Pay grievances:

- Mark Bailey, Head of Pay & Policy Division, Corporate Human Resources, DFP.

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Agreed:* to seek follow up advice from DFP on the feasibility of providing information on the number of affected staff from groups reporting residual equal pay grievances outside of the original settlement arrangements.

*Agreed:* to seek a formal written response from the Department to the equal pay issues raised in correspondence to the Deputy Chairperson in respect of a group of staff at Administrative Officer and Administrative Assistant grades within the Northern Ireland Office.

*Agreed:* that the Department will provide regular updates to the Committee on the implementation of the recently agreed settlement for the Northern Ireland Civil Service retirees who were excluded from the original equal pay settlement.

*Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 11:38 am*

*Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11:47am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:50am*

*Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 11:50am*

*Daithí McKay left the meeting at 12:00pm*

*Dominic Bradley, Deputy Chairperson took the Chair at 12:00pm*

*Leslie Cree left the meeting at 12:06pm*

## **7. Non Domestic Rate Revaluation – Briefing from DFP/LPS**

The Committee received a briefing from DFP and Land and Property Services (LPS) on Non Domestic Rate Revaluation from the following officials:

- Brian McClure – Head of Rating Policy Division, DFP; and
- Alan Bronte – Commissioner of Valuation, LPS.

*The session was recorded by Hansard*

*Paul Girvan left the meeting at 12:20pm*

*Paul Girvan re-joined the meeting at 12:21pm*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 12:22pm*

*Leslie Cree re-joined the meeting at 12:23pm*

## **8. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following pieces of correspondence:

- Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety (CHSSPS): Inquiry into flexible working;

*Agreed:* to write directly to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to establish what initiatives, if any, it has implemented to facilitate flexible working practices.

- DFP: Response to Committee request for information on Small Technical Adjustments;
- DFP: Response to Financial Provisions Report;
- Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (COFMDFM): Barroso Task Force Inquiry Memo and Letter

*Agreed:* to write to DFP seeking detail on any involvement it has had in the Barroso Task Force Working Group and on progress on any related actions falling within its remit.

- COFMDFM: Summary of Joint Ministerial Council Meeting, 2 December 2013;
- CHSSPS: Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on Sick Absence;

*Agreed:* to write to DHSSPS for a written and oral briefing in response to the findings contained in the Northern Ireland Audit Office report relating to the health sector.

- Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust: InterTradeIreland Briefing.

## **9. Committee Work Programme**

Members were advised that a delegation from the Economy Committee from the Parliament of Jordan will be visiting the Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme

*Agreed:* that the Committee work programme will be updated to reflect decisions taken today and published on the Committee's website

## **10. Any other business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 05 March 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance and Personnel  
05 March 2014**