

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Daithi McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA
Mr Paul Girvan 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)

Apologies: Mr John McAllister MLA

The meeting commenced in public session at 15:32

Agreed: that agenda item 3 is 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 March 2014

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

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 15:33

3. The Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members considered the above Scheme amendment and took evidence from the following representatives from DFP and the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA).

- Grace Nesbitt, Head of Pensions Division, DFP;
- Blathnaid Smyth, Policy & Legislation, Civil Service Pensions, DFP;
- Brian Campfield, NIPSA General Secretary; and
- Billy Lynn, NIPSA Civil Service Group Chairperson.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 15:37

Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 15:58

Michaela Boyle joined the meeting at 16:00

Mr McKay sought views from Members to establish whether there was any proposal to lay a motion in the Assembly to pray against the scheme amendments and, following a proposal from Mr Bradley, Mr McKay put the question that the following motion be laid in the Business Office:

‘That the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014 be annulled.’

Question put

The Committee divided: Ayes 3; Noes 4; Abstentions 1

AYES

Mr Bradley, Ms Boyle, McMcKay

NOES

Mr Girvan, Mr McCrea, Mr McQuillan, Mr Weir

ABSENTIONS

Mrs Cochrane

The proposal fell.

Mr McKay put the following question:

‘That the Committee has considered the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the scheme.’

Question put

The Committee divided: Ayes 4; Noes 3; Abstentions 1

AYES

Mr Girvan, Mr McCrea, Mr McQuillan, Mr Weir

NOES

Mr Bradley, Ms Boyle, McMcKay

ABSENTIONS

Mrs Cochrane

Agreed: Question accordingly agreed to.

Members noted correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules explaining that he had not undertaken a technical scrutiny of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (NI) 2014 because it is outside his terms of reference under Standing Order 43 as it is not a statutory rule. However, it was noted that this gap could be addressed in future through a special technical scrutiny function with arrangements for special reports to the Committee being devised for schemes under Article 3 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972.

Agreed: to write to DFP to highlight the views of the Examiner of Statutory Rules regarding the accessibility of schemes under Article 3 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972, including that they be made available online to facilitate scrutiny.

4. Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members noted this scheme amendment was consequential to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (NI) 2014 and was not subject to any Assembly procedure.

5. SR 67/2014: The Valuation (Telecommunications, Natural Gas and Water) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee noted that, while the Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules was not yet available, he had indicated informally that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered the SR 67/2014: The Valuation (Telecommunications, Natural Gas and Water) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

6. SR 68/2014: The Rates (Small Business Hereditament Relief) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee noted that, while the Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules was not yet available, he had indicated informally that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered the SR 68/2014: The Rates (Small Business Hereditament Relief) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

7. SR 69/2014: The Rates (Unoccupied Hereditaments) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee noted that, while the Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules was not yet available, he had indicated informally that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered the SR 69/2014: The Rates (Unoccupied Hereditaments) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 16:34.

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