

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay (Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA
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 Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley (Deputy Chairperson)

Agreed: that agenda items 4, 5 and 6 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 07 May 2014

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. Flexible Working Inquiry – Briefing from Momentum NI

The Committee received a presentation on the Flexible Working Inquiry from the following witnesses from Momentum NI:

- Ken Moran, Board Member, Momentum NI;
- John Martin, Project Manager, Total Mobile, Momentum NI; and
- Ronnie Geddis, Sales Director, Total Mobile, Momentum NI.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:20

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:25

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:30

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 10:31

Michaela Boyle joined the meeting at 10:36

Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10:38

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 10:45

Paul Girvan re-joined the meeting at 10:47

5. Public Procurement and Human Rights – Briefing from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC)

The Committee received a briefing on Public Procurement and Human Rights from the following witnesses:

- John Corey, Interim Chairperson, NIHRC; and
- Kellie Turtle, Education Worker, NIHRC

The session was recorded by Hansard.

John McCallister left the meeting at 11:05

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 11:06

Paul Girvan re-joined the meeting at 11:10

Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 11:33

6. Public Procurement Issues – Update briefing from DFP

The Committee received an update briefing on Public Procurement issues from the following DFP officials:

- Des Armstrong, Director, Central Procurement Directorate, DFP; and

- David Carson, Divisional Director, Central Procurement Directorate, DFP.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: to write to DFP seeking further detail on the implementation of the Executive's policy on social clauses, including a report which is to be provided to the Procurement Board in June.

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:50

Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:54

Peter Weir left the meeting at 12:10

7. Subordinate Legislation

SL1 – The Land Registry Fees Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee received a briefing on the proposed subordinate legislation from the following DFP officials:

- Patricia Montgomery, Director of Registration, DFP;
- Gerry McKenna, Land Registry, DFP; and
- Michelle Smith, Land Registry, DFP.

Leslie Cree left the meeting at 12:15

Leslie Cree re-joined the meeting at 12:22

Agreed: that the Committee has considered DFP's proposal for subordinate legislation under The Land Registry Fees Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

8. Legislative Consent Motion (LCM): Changes in Air Passenger Duty Bands in UK Finance Bill 2014 – Final Consideration of Draft Report

The Committee considered the Draft Report on the LCM: Changes in Air Passenger Duty Bands in UK Finance Bill 2014 as follows:

Agreed: that paragraphs 1 – 8 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that the recommendation at paragraph 9 stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that the appendices stand part of the report; and

Agreed: that the report on the LCM: Changes in Air Passenger Duty in UK Finance Bill 2014 be printed.

Members noted that the agreed report would be issued to all MLAs in advance of the plenary debate on the LCM in line with normal protocol.

9. Correspondence

- Correspondence regarding Compensatory Element of Equal Pay Settlement;

Agreed: to write to DFP requesting an update on the Executive's consideration of the case for addressing the issue of the exclusion of Police Service of Northern Ireland staff and former Northern Ireland Office secondees from the Northern Ireland Civil Service equal pay settlement.

- Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM): Financial Transactions Capital Response;
- Correspondence concerning the Presbyterian Mutual Society;

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (CETI) for consideration as the issue falls within its remit.

- Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Sickness Absence in the Public Sector;
- DFP: Savings Delivery Plan up to 31 March 2014;

Agreed: to schedule a briefing on savings delivery at both a DFP and a cross-departmental level in order to inform the Committee's forthcoming input to Budget 2015-16.

- CETI: Invitation to Green Investment Bank Event to be held in in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, on 10 June 2014; and
- Bar Council of Northern Ireland: Anonymous Correspondence.

10. Committee Work Programme

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: to schedule an update briefing from the Northern Ireland Law Commission on its work in relation to DFP.

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from the Lay Observer on his role in respect of legal complaints, which will inform the scrutiny of the forthcoming Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill.

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

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:46

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
28 May 2014