

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr John McCallister MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan 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 Mitchel McLaughlin MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:07 in public session.

Agreed: that agenda item 5 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 04 June 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. Defamation Law – Follow up briefing by Assembly Research

The Committee received a follow up briefing from Assembly Research on Defamation and the Dead.

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:12

5. Briefing from the Northern Ireland Law Commission on its work on matters relating to DFP

The Committee received a briefing from the Northern Ireland Law Commission on its work on matters relating to DFP, from the following representatives:

- Mr Ken Millar, Interim Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Law Commission; and
- Dr Andrew Scott, Associate Professor, Department of Law, London School of Economics and Political Science.

The session was recorded by Hansard

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:35

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:40

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 10:45

6. Proposed Private Members' Bill to make Amateur Sports Clubs Exempt from Rates – Briefing by Assembly Research

Daithí McKay, Chairperson, declared an interest as Bill Sponsor and stood aside from the Chair but remained as a member of the Committee during proceedings on this agenda item.

The Deputy Chairperson took the Chair at 10:47.

The Committee received a briefing from Assembly Research on the proposed Private Members' Bill to make Amateur Sports Clubs Exempt from Rates.

Agreed: to forward the research paper to DFP for a response to the issues raised.

Agreed: to seek legal advice from Assembly Legal Services on legal issues highlighted in the research paper and discussed during the briefing.

Agreed: to schedule a further briefing from the Bill Sponsor when appropriate.

Agreed: that Pubs of Ulster will be included as a key stakeholder in the Committee's future consideration of the proposed Bill

Michaela Boyle joined the Committee at 10:54

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:56

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:57

John McCallister joined the meeting at 11:03

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 11:06

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:10

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:20

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:23

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11:27

Daithí McKay resumed his role as Chairperson and returned to the Chair at 11:30.

7. Flexible Working Inquiry: Telework in the United States of America Federal Government – Assembly Research Briefing

The Committee received a briefing on Telework in the USA Federal Government from Assembly Research.

Agreed: that follow up research will be undertaken on various issues discussed during the briefing.

8. Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector – Follow up briefing by Assembly Research

The Committee received a briefing on Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector from Assembly Research.

Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:45

9. Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) employee: Equal Pay issues
- PSNI Employee: Equal Pay issues

Agreed: to write to DFP to request that the Committee is copied into the Department's response to the correspondent.

Agreed: to write to the correspondent setting out the Committee's approach.

- DFP: Peace III and INTERREG Mid-programme evaluations

Agreed: to forward the mid-programme evaluations to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister for information.

- DFP: Launch of public consultation on proposals for PEACE IV and INTERREG VA programmes

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from DFP upon the conclusion of the consultation.

- DFP: 2013-14 Forecast Outturn for Month of February
- Centre for Economic Empowerment: Invite to launch of report on Land Value Tax

Agreed: to schedule an oral briefing on the report on Land Value Tax.

- NI Assembly Research: Publications Update - May 2014

10. Committee Work Programme

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: that the Committee work programme will be updated to reflect decisions taken today and is 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, 18 June 2014 at 10:00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:50

Mr Dominic Bradley MLA
Deputy Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
18 June 2014