

## COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015**  
**ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, 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 Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA

*The meeting commenced at 10:14am in public session.*

*Agreed:* that agenda items 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 15 April 2015**

*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.

#### Report on Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector

*Agreed:* to write to the other committees on foot of the recent plenary debate on the Committee's Report to encourage their follow-up scrutiny of future performance by departments, including at the level of individual business areas, and arm's-length bodies in managing sickness absence.

### **4. Comparative Research on Community Benefits in Public Procurement – Briefing from Assembly Research**

*Agreed:* to note the paper and reschedule the briefing to a later date in the work programme.

*Agreed:* to forward the research paper to DFP for a response to the issues highlighted in the paper.

*John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:18am.*

### **5. Report on Air Connectivity in Northern Ireland: Economic Impact of Air Passenger Duty – Briefing from representatives from Belfast International Airport, Belfast City Airport and City of Derry Airport**

The Committee received a briefing from the following representatives in response to the above report:

- Ms Katy Best, Commercial & Marketing Director, George Best Belfast City Airport;
- Mr Graham Keddie, Managing Director, Belfast International Airport; and
- Mr Albert Harrison, Non-Executive Director, CODA (Operations) Ltd, City of Derry Airport.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:56am.*

*Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10:58am.*

*Peter Weir rejoined the meeting at 10:59am.*

## **6. Report on Air Connectivity in Northern Ireland: Economic Impact of Air Passenger Duty – Briefing from Visit Belfast, Association of British Travel Agents and Northern Ireland Hotels Federation**

The Committee received a briefing from the following representatives in response to the above report:

- Mr Gerry Lennon, Chief Executive, Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau;
- Ms Janice Gault, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Hotels Federation; and
- Ms Doreen McKenzie, Chairperson of Aviation Committee, ABTA: The Travel Association.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

*Agreed:* to forward the briefing papers from Agenda items 5 & 6 to DFP seeking a written response to the issues raised in advance of the planned session with departmental officials on 13 May 2015.

*Agreed:* to notify the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment of today's evidence, given the shared interest in this issue.

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:15am.*

*Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11.30am.*

*Leslie Cree left the meeting at 11:31am.*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:33 am.*

*Leslie Cree re-joined the meeting at 11:39am.*

*Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 11:40am.*

## **7. Correspondence**

- Member of the Public – Education Authority Workers Pay

*Agreed:* to write to DFP seeking its response to the issues highlighted and to copy to the Committee for Education for information.

- DFP – DFP Concurrence to Department of Justice direction to pay interest on funds held in court in Northern Ireland
- Email from the Law Commission – Review of Defamation Laws

*Agreed:* to write to DFP seeking both a copy of the summary of responses to the Law Commission's review of defamation laws and advice on next steps.

## **8. Committee Work Programme**

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

## **9. Any other business**

*Agreed:* to write to Cerberus Capital Management inviting it to brief the Committee on its role within the Northern Ireland economy following its acquisition of the investment portfolio from NAMA.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 29 April 2015 at 10:00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:54am.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**29 April 2015**