

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:	Mr Daithí McKay MLA	(Chairperson)
	Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA	
	Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA	
	Mr Paul Girvan MLA	
	Mr John McCallister MLA	
	Mr Ian McCrea MLA	
	Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA	
	Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA	
In Attendance:	Mr Shane McAteer	(Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Phil Pateman	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mrs Clairita Frazer	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Joe Westland	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	Mr Dominic Bradley MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Ms Michaela Boyle MLA	
	Mr Peter Weir MLA	

The meeting commenced at 10:30am 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 29 April 2015

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

3. Matters Arising

Cerberus Capital Management

Members considered a response from Cerberus Capital Management to the Committee's request for an oral briefing on the work of Cerberus in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to respond to Cerberus requesting that an introductory briefing is held in open session covering the work of Cerberus in general terms, followed by a briefing in closed session (as requested by Cerberus) on any specific cases which members may wish to discuss and which are of a commercially sensitive nature.

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. Rating of Online Business – Briefing from Assembly Research

Agreed: to reschedule this briefing to a future Committee meeting.

5. Report on Air Connectivity in Northern Ireland - The Economic Impact of Change to Air Fares and Short-haul Air Passenger Duty – Briefing from DFP & The Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

The Committee received a briefing on the 'Report on Air Connectivity in Northern Ireland – The Economic Impact of Change to Air Fares and Short-haul Air Passenger Duty, from the following officials:

- Mr Tony Simpson, Strategic Policy Division, DFP;
- John Simms, Head of Access and Agri-Food Branch, Economic Policy Division – Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI); and
- Gareth Hetherington - Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: that officials will provide follow-up information in relation to Air Passenger Duty and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10:43am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10:47am

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 10:55am

Adrian McQuillan rejoined the meeting at 11:21am

Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 11:30am

6. Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations from the Study on Identified Adverse Impact on Northern Ireland Civil Service Recruitment – Briefing from DFP

The Committee received a briefing on the ‘Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations from the Study on Identified Adverse Impact on Northern Ireland Civil Service Recruitment’ from the following departmental officials:

- Mark Goodfellow – Head of Resourcing Division, Corporate Human Resources, DFP;
- Carmel McLarnon – Head of Appointments and Marketing, Corporate Human Resources, DFP; and
- Dr John Mallon – Director of HR Consultancy Services, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Agreed: that the departmental officials will provide the Committee with a written report on further progress on this matter in due course.

Agreed: that having considered the recommendations arising from the research and the actions taken by the Department, the Committee is content with the progress that has been made to date by DFP on this matter.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11:55am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir rejoined the meeting at 12:00pm

7. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service - Public Sector Workforce Restructuring Steering Group;
Agreed: to schedule this evidence session for 10 June 2015.
- DFP – Response regarding PSNI-NIO Equal Pay;
- DFP – Education Workers Pay Increment;
Agreed: to forward the DFP response to the Committee for Education and to the original correspondent for information.
- DFP – Email regarding the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (CETI) Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation;
Agreed: to write to CETI noting that DFP is not responding to its inquiry and to explain that the Committee for Finance and Personnel will be focusing its future scrutiny in this area on the Corporation Tax rate rather than the other economic drivers, which would fall within the remits of other committees.
- DFP – Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) Investment Activity Report;
- DFP – Monthly Forecast Outturn Data March 2015 and February Analysis

- Committee for Justice - Desertcreat Community Safety College Capital Project Funding;
- Carnegie UK - Final Report on Focus Groups; and
- Consumer Council - postponement of Roundtable event on Bank Branch closures;
Agreed: that this event will be postponed until a later date in view of the advice from the Consumer Council.

Agreed: to arrange a briefing on banking services provided by the Post Office in advance of the rescheduled Roundtable event.

8. Committee Work Programme

Committee Visit to Edinburgh

The Committee noted that one space has become available on the visit due to membership changes.

Agreed: that any member wishing to avail of this opportunity would express an interest to the Committee secretariat by close of play on Wednesday 13 May 2015.

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

There was no other business.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 at 10:00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:10pm.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
20 May 2015