

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA  
Mr Gordon Lyons MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Gary Middleton MLA  
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

*The meeting commenced at 10:03am in public session.*

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Gary Middleton as a new member of the Committee and congratulated Emma Pengelly on her appointment to the role Junior Minister in OFMDFM.

The Chairperson informed the members that Mr Middleton's register of interests are available on the Assembly website.

The Chairperson highlighted his concerns in respect of the content of a BBC Spotlight programme aired on Tuesday, 10 November 2015 in relation to alleged malpractices within the local banking sector.

*Agreed:* that Committee staff will seek to obtain a transcript of the Spotlight programme for members' information.

*Agreed:* that draft letters to Bank of Ireland and the Financial Conduct Authority will be prepared for the Committee's consideration, seeking a response to the issues arising from the Spotlight programme.

*Dominic Bradley joined the meeting at 10:10am*

*Jim Wells joined the meeting at 10:15am*

*Agreed:* that agenda items 5 & 7 are covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 4 November 2015**

*Agreed:* that the minutes will be 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.

Mr Ó Muilleoir proposed that, in view of the Minister's request to brief the Committee on the proposed Rates (Amendment) Bill which seeks accelerated passage, the Committee should invite views from the main sporting bodies, including the Gaelic Athletic Association, the Irish Football Association, Ulster Rugby, and Sport NI on the concept of rates relief for sporting organisations.

*Agreed:* that the Committee requests an oral briefing from the aforementioned groups and that other interested sporting groups will be offered the opportunity to provide written evidence in relation rate relief in the context of the proposed Rates (Amendment) Bill.

*John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:22am*

*Gary Middleton left the meeting at 10:33am*

*Gary Middleton returned at 10:40am*

### **4. Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – consideration of issues from the evidence**

The Committee considered a summary of issues arising from its ongoing scrutiny of the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill.

*Agreed:* to forward the summary of issues to DFP in order to inform its oral briefing later in the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 10:43am to facilitate members wishing to attend the Assembly's official Act of Remembrance.

The meeting resumed at 11:17am.

The following members were present:

Mr Daithí McKay, Chairperson  
Mr Dominic Bradley, Deputy Chairperson  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Mrs Judith Cochrane  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE  
Mr Gordon Lyons  
Mr Gary Middleton  
Mr John McCallister  
Mr Jim Wells

**5. Review of the Sale of National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) assets in Northern Ireland – oral briefing from Mr Richard Pengelly, Former Public Spending Director, DFP**

The Committee received a briefing on the Review of the Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland from the following witness:

- Richard Pengelly – Former Public Spending Director, DFP

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 11:17am*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:20am*

*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:25am*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:31am*

*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:38am*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 12:06pm*

*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 12:18pm*

*Agreed:* that Mr Pengelly will provide the Committee with follow up information on issues discussed during the briefing session.

*Agreed:* to write directly to John Miskelly, in advance of receiving his oral evidence, to ascertain whether he is involved in any current legal proceedings relevant to the Committee's review of the sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland.

## **6. Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – briefing from Assembly Research**

The Committee received a briefing from Assembly Research on the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill.

*Máirtín Ó'Muilleoir left the meeting at 12:23pm*

*Gary Middleton left the meeting at 12:28pm*

*Agreed:* that, in line with normal practice, the Assembly Research paper is published online.

## **7. Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – final briefing from DFP**

The Committee received a final briefing from the department on the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill from the following witness:

- Michael Foster, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Departmental Solicitors Office

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Gordon Lyons left the meeting at 12:31pm*

*Gordon Lyons re-joined the meeting at 12:41pm*

*The Chairperson left the meeting at 12:45pm*

*The Deputy Chairperson assumed the Chair*

*Michaela Boyle left the meeting at 12:59pm*

*Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 1:03pm*

*Judith Cochrane re-joined the meeting at 1:14pm*

*Judith Cochrane and John McCallister left the meeting at 1:16pm*

*Agreed:* to forward to DFP, for an urgent response, any issues arising from the expected report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules on the delegated powers memorandum.

## **8. Correspondence**

Members noted the following correspondence

- DFP Minister – Rate Relief for Community Amateur Sports Clubs;
- DFP – European Union Dossiers;
- DFP – Departmental Savings Delivery Plans Report up to March 2015;

*Agreed:* that, given its relevance of this matter to the upcoming budget process, the Committee will schedule an oral briefing from DFP and will forward the correspondence to the other statutory committees for information.

- Member of Public – Dissatisfaction with Land and Property Service

*Agreed:* to forward to DFP for a direct response.

- Meet your MEP Event – 13 November 2015;
- Centre for Cross Border Studies – briefing 18 November 2015; and
- Committee for the Office of the First and deputy First Minister – NIPSO Bill and Budget MoU

## **9. Committee Work Programme**

### Ministerial Briefing on Rates (Amendment) Bill

*Agreed:* that, in noting the Minister's request to provide an oral briefing on the Rates (Amendment) Bill, the Committee will defer its consideration of whether to conduct an additional meeting until its next meeting on Thursday, 12 November 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Work Programme is updated to reflect any agreements made today and published on the Committee's website.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### Legislative Consent Motion: Cap on Public Sector Exit Payments

*Agreed:* that the DFP response to issues raised in correspondence from the Trade Union Side (TUS) will be forwarded to the TUS delegation providing evidence at the Committee's additional meeting on Thursday 12 November 2015.

### Northern Ireland Economic Conference

Mr Cree provided a report on the recent Northern Ireland Economic Conference which he attended on behalf of the Committee.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held tomorrow, 12 November 2015 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**18 November 2015**