

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:	Mr Daithí McKay MLA	(Chairperson)
	Mr Gordon Lyons MLA	
	Mr John McCallister 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 Nory Kaplan-Kelly	(Legislative Studies Programme Student)
	Mr Oliver Bellew	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA	
	Mr Dominic Bradley MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Ms Michaela Boyle MLA	
	Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA	
	Mr Gary Middleton MLA	
	Mr Ian McCrea MLA	

The meeting commenced at 10:20am in public session.

Agreed: that agenda item 3 is covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Matters Arising

There no matters arising.

3. Legislative Consent Motion: Proposed Cap on Public Sector Exit Payments – Departmental briefing

The Committee received a briefing on the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) on the Proposed Cap on Public Sector Exit Payments from the following Trade Union representatives:

- Bumper Graham, NIPSA;
- Jim Caldwell, FDA;
- Alastair Long, UNISON;
- Justin McCamphill, NASUWT; and
- Jim Quinn, FBU.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence from the Education Committee and from the Equality Commission to DFP with a request for an urgent response to the issues raised.

Agreed: that the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) is sent to DFP for direct response, with a request that the Department's response is copied to the Committee for information.

Agreed: that the NILGA letter is sent to the Environment Committee for information, outlining the Finance Committee's work in this regard.

Agreed: that a response is issued to NILGA outlining the Committee's scrutiny in respect of the Bill and directing NILGA to the relevant information on the Committee's webpages.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 10:55am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir rejoined the meeting at 11:00am

Gordon Lyons left the meeting at 11:45am

Gordon Lyons rejoined the meeting at 11:50am

4. Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – Potential amendments proposed by the Committee

Members noted email communication from DFP in follow up to the evidence session on 11 November 2015, which provided clarification on the amendments to the Bill which the Department will consider tabling at Consideration Stage to address issues identified by the Committee.

Agreed: that the Committee is content to await draft amendments from DFP in relation to the five specific areas which it is willing, in principle, to address and which relate to clauses 8, 17(4)(a), 19(2), 36(4)(a) and 38(2).

Agreed: that the Assembly Bill Office will be instructed to prepare draft amendments in relation to the following substantive issues which DFP has not yet confirmed it will address: an amendment to provide enhanced power to enable the Legal Services Oversight Commissioner (LSOC) to compel the Law Society of Northern Ireland and the Bar Council of Northern Ireland to provide accurate information on the total number of complaints received by their members, and also by those professional bodies in relation to their members; an amendment to place a duty on the LSOC to accumulate and publish such data annually; and an amendment to provide for a review mechanism on the face of the Bill, to require that an independent appraisal of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Bill is undertaken within a specified timeframe and that this is laid in the Assembly.

5. Any Other Business

NAMA Review – Evidence from Mr Sammy Wilson MP

Members noted that Mr Sammy Willson MP had indicated availability to attend an oral hearing on Thursday 26 November, Thursday 3 December or Thursday 10 December 2015.

Agreed: that, subject to the availability of a quorum, an additional meeting will be held on Thursday 3 December to facilitate an oral evidence session with Mr Wilson.

Rates (Amendment) Bill

Members noted that the Minister was no longer available to brief the Committee on this matter on Wednesday 18 November but would be available on Tuesday 17 November 2015.

Agreed: that, subject to the availability of a quorum, an additional meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 November to facilitate a briefing from the Minister in relation to the Rates (Amendment) Bill.

6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

Agreed: that the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be on Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 10:30am **in Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:23pm.

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