

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (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 Nory Kaplan-Kelly (Legislative Studies Programme Student)
Mr Joe Westland Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

The meeting commenced at 10:02am in closed session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Legislative Consent Motion (LCM): Proposed Cap on Public Sector Exit Payments – Consideration of draft Committee report

Members considered a draft of the Committee's report on the LCM entitled 'Enterprise Bill: (Public sector employment: restrictions on exit payments)'.

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 10:05am

Leslie Cree joined the meeting at 10:06am

Gordon Lyons joined the meeting at 10:08am

John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:10am

Michaela Boyle joined the meeting at 10:12am

Agreed: that paragraphs 1 - 5 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraphs 6-12 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraphs 13-18 stand part of the Report.

As members could not agree a position in respect of the recommendation on the LCM, the Committee divided;

Mr Jim Wells proposed the following:

'That the Committee for Finance and Personnel supports the Minister of Finance and Personnel in seeking the Assembly's agreement "That this Assembly endorses the principle of the extension to Northern Ireland of provisions dealing with public sector exit payments contained in the Enterprise Bill"'

The question was put on Mr Well's proposal.

The Committee divided:

Ayes	Noes	Abstained
Gordon Lyons	Daithí McKay	None
Ian McCrea	Michaela Boyle	
Gary Middleton	Judith Cochrane	
Jim Wells	Leslie Cree	
	John McCallister	
	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir	

The proposal fell.

The Chairperson proposed the following:

'That the Committee for Finance and Personnel reserves its position in relation to the Minister of Finance and Personnel seeking the Assembly's agreement "That this Assembly endorses the principle of the extension to Northern Ireland of provisions dealing with public sector exit payments contained in the Enterprise Bill"'

The question was put on the Chairperson's proposal.

The Committee divided:

Ayes	Noes	Abstained
Daithí McKay	Gordon Lyons	None
Michaela Boyle	Ian McCrea	
Judith Cochrane	Gary Middleton	
Leslie Cree	Jim Wells	
John McCallister		
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir		

The proposal was carried.

Agreed: that the report be the 15th Report of the Committee for Finance and Personnel to the Assembly 2011-16.

Agreed: that the Committee Report on the LCM on the Enterprise Bill (Public Sector Employment: restrictions on exit payments) will be published online on the Committee website.

Members noted that a copy of the report would be issued to the Business Office and to the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) as soon as possible. All MLAs would be notified of the publication of the report in advance of the Assembly debate, which the Department has indicated will take place during week commencing 7 December 2015.

The Committee moved into public session at 11:19am for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill – consideration of draft amendments

The Committee considered the draft amendments to the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill which it had commissioned the Assembly Bill Office to prepare.

Agreed: that the Committee is content, in principle, with the amendments as drafted and that these are proposed by the Committee as part of its report on the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill.

Agreed: that the draft amendments will be forwarded to DFP for information ahead of next week's formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Gordon Lyons left the meeting at 10:19am

Gordon Lyons rejoined the meeting at 10:23am

4. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 11 November and 12 November 2015

Agreed: that the minutes will be published on the Assembly website.

5. Matters Arising

Table of requests for information from 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.

6. Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

- DFP – November Monitoring Round;

Agreed: to circulate this correspondence to other statutory committees pending a departmental briefing on 25 November 2015.

- DFP – Monthly forecast outturn data – August 2015, July Analysis;
- DFP – Response to member of public regarding dissatisfaction with Land & Property Services (LPS);
- Member of Public and LPS letter regarding dissatisfaction with service;
- Member of Public – further letter regarding dissatisfaction with LPS;

Agreed: to forward correspondence to DFP for information and to advise the correspondent to this effect.

- Environment Committee – Public Sector Exit Payments; and

Agreed: to publish on the Committee webpages with other written submissions on the LCM.

- EU Matters Issue 8/2015.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be on Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 10:00am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.

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