

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2015**  
**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA  
Mr Gordon Lyons MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Nory Kaplan-Kelly (Legislative Studies Programme Student)  
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Gary Middleton MLA  
Mrs Michaela Boyle MLA

*The meeting commenced at 2:29pm in public session.*

*Agreed:* that the oral evidence from Sammy Wilson MP in relation to agenda item 3 is taken in open session, in line with the Committee's previously agreed approach for taking further oral evidence for the Review of the Sale of National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) assets in Northern Ireland.

The Chairperson informed members that the planned evidence session with Mr John Miskelly in relation to the NAMA review would not take place today due the witness's lack of

availability on medical grounds; though it was noted that the witness was keen to still provide his evidence.

*Agreed:* that Mr Miskelly would be offered alternative options to facilitate his evidence session with the Committee, including the provision of written briefing and his oral evidence session being conducted via SKYPE.

## **1. Apologies**

As above.

## **2. Review of the Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland: Correspondence and Next Steps**

### Follow up response from the First Minister

Members noted a response from the First Minister in relation to queries raised by the Committee following Mr Robinson's evidence session in relation to the review.

*Agreed:* to publish the correspondence on the Committee webpages.

### Invitation from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to participate in an oral evidence session with Bell & Company which represents clients in matters relating to Cerberus and Capita.

*Agreed:* that any member wishing to attend the evidence session will inform the Committee secretariat as soon as possible.

### Press article

The Committee noted a press article from *The Independent* reporting that a Westminster committee is set to investigate the sale of Northern Rock mortgages to Cerberus.

### Correspondence from NAMA

Members noted a written response from NAMA to follow up questions from the Committee.

*Agreed:* to publish the correspondence on the Committee webpages.

### Draft timeline concluding the Review

The Committee considered a draft timeline for concluding its review.

*Agreed:* to proceed with oral evidence sessions with the former Minister of Finance and Personnel, Mr Simon Hamilton MLA, Mr David Watters, Mr Brian Rowntree, Dr Dara O'Hagan, Mr Richard Bullick and Mr John Miskelly.

*Agreed:* to write again to Mr Brian McGinn, Mr Andrew Creighton and the Lagan Group reiterating the invitation to provide evidence in relation to the review and asking them to respond by a specified deadline.

*Agreed:* to write to all the other parties previously invited to give oral evidence to the Committee advising that their evidence is no longer required.

### **3. Review of the Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland: Oral Briefing from Mr Sammy Wilson MP, former Minister of Finance and Personnel**

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

- Mr Sammy Wilson MP - Former Minister of Finance and Personnel

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Jim Wells joined the meeting at 2:49pm*

*Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 3:34pm*

*Jim Wells left the meeting at 4:08pm*

*Jim Wells rejoined the meeting at 4:12pm*

*John McCallister left the meeting at 4:22pm*

*Agreed:* that all declarations of interests made by Committee members in respect of the NAMA review are brought forward at a future Committee meeting.

### **4. Rates (Amendment) Bill: Briefing from Business Groups**

The Committee received a briefing on the proposal for enhanced rate relief to Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), under the Rates (Amendment) Bill, from the following witnesses:

- Colin Neill – Chief Executive, Hospitality Ulster;
- Eugene Cassidy – Regional Representative, Hospitality Ulster; and
- Stephen Magorrian – owner of hospitality businesses in Belfast and Downpatrick.

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 4:26pm*

*Ian McCrea rejoined the meeting at 4:50pm*

*Gordon Lyons left the meeting at 5:15pm*

*Gordon Lyons rejoined the meeting at 5:20pm*

*Agreed:* that clarification will be sought from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) on what proportion of rates are paid by CASCs with liquor licences for their licenced premises and for their sporting facilities and on whether the ‘expenditure and receipts’ approach to valuing rates could be applied to CASCs with liquor licences.

*Agreed:* that DFP officials will be asked to attend next week’s meeting to respond to the issues raised in the recent evidence to the Committee on the Bill.

## **5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 10:00am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:23pm.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**9 December 2015**