

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Claire Hanna MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
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)
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant 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 Michaela Boyle MLA
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:13am in public session.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Claire Hanna as a new member of the Committee and who had replaced Mr Dominic Bradley as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, following Mr Bradley's resignation from the Committee.

Agreed: to write to Mr Dominic Bradley to thank him for his contribution to the work of the Committee during his time as Deputy Chairperson and to wish him well for the future.

The Committee noted that the Declaration of Interests for Ms Hanna is available on the Assembly website.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 03 February 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) & Special European Union Programme Body (SEUPB) Briefing

Agreed: that the DFP/SEUPB briefing paper from last week's meeting is copied to the other relevant Assembly committees for information, given the cross-cutting nature of the subject.

Public Finance article – Treasury funding proposal to end Scottish devolution deadlock

Members noted this article ahead of next week's related briefing on the DFP response to the Committee's Review of the Operation of the Barnett Formula.

DFP briefing on Corporation Tax and potential for the Devolution of other Fiscal Powers

Agreed: to request DFP to provide estimated figures on how much in additional yields from other non-devolved taxes the UK Government stands to gain as a result of a 12.5% rate of corporation tax in Northern Ireland, particularly in light of the existing projections on the economic impact from this measure.

Edinburgh Airport Press Release – Air Passenger Duty (APD)

Members noted the above press release.

Table of requests for information from DFP

The Committee noted the summary table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on other matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Subordinate Legislation

S.R. 2016/16 - The Rates (Regional Rates) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered the departmental papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R 2016/16 - The Rates (Regional Rates) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

S.R. 2016/17 - The Rates (Exemption for Automatic Telling Machines in Rural Areas) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered the departmental papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R 2016/17 - The Rates (Exemption for Automatic Telling Machines in Rural Areas) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

S.R. 2016/18 - The Rates (Temporary Rebate) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered the departmental papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R 2016/18 - The Rates (Temporary Rebate) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

5. Rating Issues – Briefing from DFP

Members received an update briefing on various rating issues from the following departmental official:

- Brian McClure – Head of Rating Policy, DFP

Agreed: that the departmental official will provide follow-up information in relation to outstanding queries raised by the Committee.

John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:20am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10:20am

John McCallister left the meeting at 10:21am

John McCallister rejoined the meeting 10:45am

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 11:05am

Jim Wells left the meeting at 11:10am

Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 11:10am

6. Corporate Services Division: Performance against Business Plan Objectives – Briefing from DFP

Members received an update briefing on Corporate Services Division's Performance against Business Plan Objectives from the following departmental officials:

- Anne Breen – Director of Human Resources and Corporate Services, DFP
- Brendan Fitzpatrick – Departmental HR, DFP
- Martin Monaghan – Central Support Team, DFP

Agreed: that the departmental officials will provide follow-up information in relation to outstanding queries raised by the Committee.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11:25am

Jim Wells rejoined the meeting at 11:29am

John McCallister left the meeting at 11:30am

7. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- Member of the public – record of transfer of land to NAMA;

Agreed: to reply explaining the reasons for the Committee not engaging further in relation to this matter.

- Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Research Paper on Cerberus and Capita Assets Services;
- Public Accounts Committee – Report on Excess Votes 2014-15;
- Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) – Agency Staff in Probation Board NI;
Agreed: to forward the correspondence to DFP for a response in the first instance.
- NIC ICTU – Consultation on Public Sector Exit Payments.
Agreed: to issue a response to NIC ICTU similar to that sent previously to NIPSA in relation to this issue.

The Committee also noted routine correspondence which had been sent to members on 8 February 2016.

8. Committee Work Programme

Agreed: to write to DFP to establish whether there are any issues the new Minister may wish to brief the Committee on prior to the end of the mandate.

Members noted the updated work programme which will be 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 on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 10am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
17 February 2016