

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2013  
ROOM 115 AND THE SENATE CHAMBER,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Michael Copeland  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Mr Daithí McKay  
Adrian McQuillan  
Mr Seán Rogers
- In Attendance: Miss Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Jonathan Watson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr David McIlveen  
Mr Ross Hussey

*1:18 pm The Deputy Chairperson opened the meeting in closed session in Room 115.*

#### **1. Inquiry into NI Fire and Rescue Service: An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-2012 – consideration of draft report**

*1.18 pm Audit Office officials joined the meeting.*

The Deputy Chairperson invited the C&AG, Ms Jacqueline O'Brien, Ms Louise Mason and Mr Joe Campbell to brief the Committee on this issue.

Following discussion the Members considered paragraphs 1 to 30 of its draft report.

*1.56 pm Mr Copeland entered the meeting.*

The Committee considered the draft report paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 – 11 read and agreed.

Paragraph 12 read, amended and agreed.

Paragraphs 13 – 19 read and agreed.

Paragraph 20, recommendation 1 and recommendation 2 read, amended and agreed.

Paragraphs 21 – 24 read and agreed.

Paragraph 25 read, amended and deferred subject to legal advice.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek legal advice on the proposed amendment to paragraph 25.

Paragraphs 26 – 30 read and agreed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to resume consideration of the draft report at its next meeting.

*1.56 pm the meeting was adjourned to reconvene in the Senate Chamber.*

*2.07 pm the Chairperson reconvened the meeting in public session in the Senate Chamber.*

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

## **3. Matters arising**

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on Healthy School Meals.
- ii. The Committee considered confidential correspondence concerning a whistleblower allegation re National Museums.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to refer the matter to the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

- iii. The Committee discussed its consideration of Agenda Item 6, Inquiry on PSNI: Use of Agency Staff.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter until its meeting on 3 July 2013

#### **4. Ministerial Direction – Newry and Lisburn Health and Care Centres**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Audit Office advising of a ministerial direction from the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety concerning the procurement of Newry and Lisburn Health and Care Centres through third party development funding.

#### **5. Inquiry into Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Management of Major Capital Projects**

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Peter May, Accounting Officer, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
- Ms Deborah Brown, Finance Director, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
- Mr Arthur Scott, Culture Director, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
- Ms Roisin McDonagh, Chief Executive, Arts Council NI;
- Stewart Heaney, Divisional Director, Central Procurement Directorate.

The witnesses answered a number of questions put by the Committee.

*2.39pm Mr Hazzard left the meeting.*

*2.24pm Mr Girvan left the meeting.*

*3.45pm Mr Dallat left the meeting.*

*4.09pm Mr Hazzard rejoined the meeting.*

*4.23pm Mr Copeland left the meeting.*

*4.31pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting.*

*4:32pm The meeting moved to closed session*

Members discussed the oral evidence with Northern Ireland Audit Office Officials.

*4.38pm Mr McKay joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request further information from the witnesses.

## **6. Minutes of the meeting on 19 June 2013**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

## **7. Any other business**

The C&AG briefed the Committee on a protected disclosure received by him. The Chairperson told the Committee that the whistleblower who made the disclosure had requested a meeting with her and the Deputy Chairperson.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson should meet, in due course, with the person who provided the confidential correspondence.

## **8. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 July at 2:00 pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.47 pm*

Ms Michaela Boyle  
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee  
3 July 2013