

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Michael Copeland
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Chris Hazzard
Mr Daithí McKay
Mr Seán Rogers
- In Attendance: Miss Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Oliver Bellew (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Adrian McQuillan

2:07 pm The meeting opened in public session in Room 29.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Alex Easton to the Committee and thanked Mr David McIlveen for his work on the Committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2013

Agreed: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as amended.

3. Matters arising

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel containing an update on Post Project Evaluations. The C&AG provided an update on the PPE's.

4. Northern Ireland Audit Office Reports on 'NI Water's Response to a Suspected Fraud' and 'Review of an Investigation of a Whistleblower Complaint' – Briefing Session

Members noted copies of the NIAO's Reports on 'NI Water's Response to a Suspected Fraud' and 'Review of an Investigation of a Whistleblower Complaint'.

2.11pm The meeting moved to closed session

The C&AG briefed members on the content of the Reports.

2.12pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2.15pm Mr Hazzard left the meeting

2.47pm Mr McKay joined the meeting

2.58pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

3.00pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting

3.06pm Mr Hazzard re-joined the meeting

5. Northern Ireland Audit Office Reports on 'NI Water's Response to a Suspected Fraud' and 'Review of an Investigation of a Whistleblower Complaint' – Preparation Session

3.09pm The external advisers left the meeting

The Committee explored core issues arising from the Audit Office reports in preparation for its forthcoming evidence session on 25 September 2013.

3.30pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

3.34pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the reports separately and to call specified additional witnesses for each.

3.39pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting

3.50pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting

3.58pm The external advisers re-joined the meeting

4.03pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

4.05pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to an informal meeting prior to the evidence session.

6. Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on ‘NI Fire and Rescue Service: An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight’ and ‘Report on Accounts 2011-2012’ – Consideration of Draft Report

Alex Easton MLA declared an interest as the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

4.22pm Mr Easton left the meeting

4.23pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

4.26pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

Members considered the Committee’s draft report.

Paragraphs 34 - 36 Read and agreed

Paragraph 37 - 38 Read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 39 - 40 Read and agreed

Paragraph 41 - 43 Read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 44 Read and agreed

4.50pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

5.00pm Mr McKay left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek an additional draft paragraph as discussed.

5.00pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

5.01pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

7. Any other business

Members noted that the internal audit report in respect of the Police Service of Northern Ireland had been published.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 25 September 2013 at 2 pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.08 pm

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee