

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013  
SENATE CHAMBER, 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 Daithí McKay  
Mr Adrian McQuillan  
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 Chris Hazzard  
Mr Ross Hussey

*2:04 pm The meeting opened in public session in the Senate Chamber.*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 18 September 2013**

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

### **3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Evidence session on the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on the Inquiry into Northern Ireland Water's Response to a Suspected Fraud**

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Richard Pengelly, Accounting Officer, Department of Regional Development
- Ms Deborah McNeilly, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department for Regional Development
- Ms Sara Venning, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NI Water
- Mr Gary Fair, Director, Shareholder Unit

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

*2.25 pm Mr Rogers joined the meeting*  
*2.27 pm Mr McKay joined the meeting*  
*3.08 pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*  
*3.09 pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*  
*3.19 pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*  
*3.20 pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*  
*3.20 pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*  
*3.38 pm Mr Coplenad re-joined the meeting*  
*3.50 pm Mr McKay left the meeting*  
*4.04 pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting*  
*4.14 pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*  
*4.20 pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*  
*4.24 pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*  
*4.27 pm Mr Easton left the meeting*  
*4.30 pm Mr Easton re-joined the meeting*

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

*4.41 pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*  
*4.41 pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*  
*4.47 pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*  
  
*4.54 pm The meeting moved to closed session*  
  
*4.54 pm Mr Clarke, Mr Copland and Mr Girvan left the meeting*  
*4.55 pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*  
*4.56 pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*  
*4.59 pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*  
*5.01 pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting*  
*5.04 pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

Members noted correspondence relating to witnesses scheduled to appear before the Committee.

*Agreed:* Members noted the correspondence, discussed the issue and agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would meet with the proposed witnesses, as per the Committee's discussion. It was agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would provide feedback on the outcome of the meeting.

*5.19 pm Mr Easton left the meeting*

*5.20 pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting.

*5.36 pm the meeting resumed in closed session*

## **5. 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**

Members considered the Committee's draft report.

Paragraphs 44 -49 read and agreed  
Paragraphs 50 – 57 read, amended and agreed  
Paragraph 58 read and agreed.  
Paragraph 59 read, amended and agreed  
Recommendation 8 read, amended and agreed  
Paragraph 60 read and agreed  
Paragraph 61 read, amended and agreed  
Paragraphs 62 – 67 read and agreed  
Paragraphs 68 – 71 read, amended and agreed  
Paragraphs 72 – 73 read and agreed  
Paragraphs 74 -75 read, amended and agreed

*6.06 pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*6.08 pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting.*

Paragraph 76 read, amended and agreed  
Recommendation 10 read, amended and agreed  
Paragraphs 77 – 82 read, amended and agreed  
Recommendation 11, read and agreed  
Paragraphs 83 – 84, read and agreed  
Paragraph 85 read, amended and agreed

Paragraphs 13; 25; and 29, read, amended and agreed.

### **Consideration of the Executive Summary**

Read and agreed as per the main report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the correspondence to be included within the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee ordered the report to be printed.

## **6. Any other business**

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

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

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

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6.24 pm*

Ms Michaela Boyle  
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee