

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 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 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)  
Miss Clare Rice (Bursary Student)

Apologies: Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Ross Hussey

*2.05pm The meeting opened in public session*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2013**

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

### **3. Matters arising**

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development confirming attendance of the witnesses scheduled to appear before the Committee on 16 October.
- ii. The Committee noted that the Treasury Officer of Accounts would be unavailable to attend the evidence session scheduled for 16 October and would be represented instead by Mr Mike Brennan.
- iii. Members noted a draft press release in respect of the Committee's Report on the NI Fire and Rescue Service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the draft press release would be amended and circulated to members for further consideration.

*2.10pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting*

*2.11pm the meeting moved to closed session*

### **4. Inquiry into Department for Regional Development: Review of an Investigation of a Whistleblower Complaint – Preparation Session**

The Committee explored core issues arising from the Audit Office report in preparation for its forthcoming evidence session on 16 October 2013.

*2.42pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

*2.45pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

*2.56pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

### **5. Forward Work Programme – Draft Forward Work Programme September-December 2013**

The Committee noted a memo by the Clerk regarding the PAC Symposium in Westminster which some members of the Committee were scheduled to attend.

*3.01pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee noted, and agreed, the draft forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee considered and approved indicative costs for the PAC symposium.

The Deputy Chairperson expressed an interest in attending the additional two day accreditation course in conjunction with the PAC Symposium.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to seek information on attending the course at another time and perhaps in Belfast.

## **6. Inquiry into Department for Regional Development: Review of an Investigation of a Whistleblower Complaint – Preparation Session**

*3.09pm External advisers joined the meeting*

The Committee continued its consideration of the core issues arising from the Audit Office report in preparation for its forthcoming evidence session on 16 October 2013. Members of the Committee put questions to the NIAO officials.

*3.18pm Mr Rogers left the meeting*

*3.23pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

*3.26pm Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting*

*3.30pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

*3.31pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

*3.36pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

*3.46pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

*3.50pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

*3.54pm Mr McKay joined the meeting*

## **7. Inquiry into DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects – Consideration of Draft Report**

*3.58pm Mr Clarke and Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

*4.00pm Mr Easton left the meeting*

Members noted correspondence relating to the above inquiry.  
Members considered the Committee's draft report.

Paragraphs 1 – 7 read and agreed

Paragraph 8 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 9 – 16 read and agreed

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend Paragraph 12 and defined the terms of an additional recommendation after Paragraph 13.

Paragraph 17 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 18 - 19 read and agreed

Paragraph 20 - 21 read, amended and agreed

*4.24pm Mr Rogers left the meeting*

Paragraph 22 – 27 read and agreed

*4.33pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

Paragraph 28 – 30 read and agreed  
Paragraph 31 – 32 read, amended and agreed

Agreed: The Committee agreed the terms of an additional recommendation.  
Paragraphs 33 – 34 read and agreed

*4.39pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*  
*4.42pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

Paragraph 35 read and agreed

*4.44pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

Paragraph 36 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 37 read and agreed.

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

The Executive Summary was agreed as per the main report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the correspondence to be included within the report; and to sideline an exchange of correspondence from the report.

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

### **8. Inquiry into The Police Service of Northern Ireland: Use of Agency Staff – Correspondence on PSNI: Internal Audit Ad-Hoc Review of Governance over Fixed Term Contracts**

The Committee discussed the implications of the internal audit report in relation to its Inquiry into the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff.

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed to schedule consideration of its draft PSNI report for 16 October.

### **9. Any other business**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted a request by a whistleblower for early sight of the Committee's Report on the NI Fire and Rescue Service and agreed that there would be no departure from the normal procedures for dealing with the publication and issuing of reports.

*Agreed:* The Chairperson informed members of further papers received in connection with elements of the report. The Committee discussed this and agreed that the correspondence should be returned as the inquiry had now terminated.

*4.56pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 16 October 2013 at 2 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings with a pre-meeting in room 54 at 1 pm.

*4.58pm the meeting was adjourned*

**Ms Michaela Boyle**  
**Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee**