

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 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 Chris Hazzard
Mr Ross Hussey
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: None

2.02pm The meeting opened in public session

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 9 October 2013

Agreed: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Committee on Standards and Privileges in relation to procedures for bringing a complaint about a member before that Committee.
- ii. Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be supported with electronic committee packs.

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

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
- Dr Andrew Murray, Chief Executive, Transport NI
- Mr Paul Priestly, Former Accounting Officer, DRD
- Dr Malcolm McKibbin, Former Chief Executive, Roads Service
- Mr Geoff Allister, Former Senior Roads Service Official

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

2.53pm Mr Hussey left the meeting
3.01pm Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting
3.15pm Mr Hussey left the meeting
3.16pm Mr Easton left the meeting
3.22pm Mr Easton re-joined the meeting
3.23pm Mr Girvan left the meeting
3.28pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting
3.32pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting
3.33pm Mr Clarke left the meeting
3.40pm Mr Hazzard joined the meeting
3.41pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting
3.47pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting
3.57pm Mr Easton left the meeting
4.02pm Mr Dallat left the meeting
4.03pm Mr Easton re-joined the meeting
4.05pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting
4.19pm the meeting suspended

4.31pm the meeting resumed with the following Members present

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Chris Hazzard
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Seán Rogers

4.32pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting
4.34pm Mr Clarke and Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting
4.44pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting
5.14pm Mr Dallat left the meeting
5.43pm Mr Clarke left the meeting
5.44pm Mr Copeland left the meeting
5.44pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting
5.45pm Mr Girvan left the meeting
5.51pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting
6.15pm Mr McKay left the meeting
6.39pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting

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

6.44pm the meeting moved to closed session

5. Any other business

There was no other business

6. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 6 November 2013 at 2 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

6.55pm the meeting was adjourned

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee