

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2013  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Michael Copeland  
Mr Alex Easton  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Ross Hussey  
Mr Adrian McQuillan

In Attendance: Miss Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Trevor Allen (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)  
Miss Clare Rice (Bursary Student)

Apologies: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Daithí McKay  
Mr Seán Rogers

*2.15 pm The meeting opened in public session*

#### **1. Inquiry into PSNI: Use of Agency Staff**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the legal advice and draft report on the inquiry into PSNI: Use of Agency Staff until the meeting of 27 November 2013.*

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting on 13 November 2013**

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

#### **4. Matters arising**

- i. Members noted the Committee Review Group's report on the Review of the Committee System of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

*Agreed: Members agreed to request additional information in relation to the Committee Resources section of the report and reflect concern about capacity iro paragraph 8;*

- ii. Members discussed concerns in relation to comments made by Sid McDowell of the Board of the Lyric Theatre following the launch of the Committee's report on DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a transcript of the interviews with Mr McDowell for its consideration and to discuss its options in closed session.*

*2.35 pm the meeting moved to closed session*

#### **5. Inquiry into the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) – Preparation Session**

The Committee identified and developed core issues arising from the Audit Office report in preparation for its forthcoming evidence session on 27 November 2013.

*2.35 pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

*2.40 pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

*2.50 pm Mr Hazzard joined the meeting*

*2.53 pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*2.57 pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*

*2.58 pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

*2.59 pm the meeting suspended*

*3.04 pm the meeting resumed with the following Members present*

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)

Mr Michael Copeland

Mr Alex Easton

Mr Paul Girvan

Mr Chris Hazzard

Mr Ross Hussey

*3.04 pm the C&AG, Mr Paul Turley and Mr Richard Emerson of the Northern Ireland Audit Office joined the meeting*

*Members discussed core areas with the Audit Office team*

#### **Matters arising:**

The Committee returned to the issue of commentary broadcast about its report on 'DCAL: Management of Capital Projects'.

*3.17 pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

*3.17 pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite Mr McDowell to attend a meeting prior to Christmas recess to explain his comments about the Committee report.

*3.19 pm Mr Hussey left the meeting*

*3.29 pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

*3.44 pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

*3.47 pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*3.48 pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

*3.53 pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

## **6. Inquiry into DFP: Collaborative Procurement and Aggregated Demand – consideration of correspondence and draft report**

*Agreed:* Members considered a number of items of correspondence and agreed to include the correspondence in the appendix to the report.

The Committee considered the draft report on ‘DFP: Collaborative Procurement and Aggregated Demand’

Paragraphs 1 to 6 read and agreed

Paragraphs 7 to 9 read and agreed

Paragraph 10 read, amended and agreed

Paragraphs 11 to 13 read and agreed

Recommendations 1 & 2 read and agreed

Paragraphs 14 to 15 read and agreed

*4.18 pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

Paragraphs 16 and 17 read and agreed

Recommendations 3 and 4 read and agreed

Paragraph 18 read and agreed

Paragraph 19 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 20 read and agreed

Recommendations 5 and 6 read and agreed

Recommendation 7 read, amended and agreed

Paragraphs 21 and 22 read and agreed

Recommendation 8 read and agreed

Paragraph 23 read and agreed

*4.44pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

Paragraphs 24 to 27 read and agreed

Recommendation 9 read and agreed

Paragraphs 28 and read and agreed

Paragraphs 29 to 31 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 32 added and agreed

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek further information in relation to Constructionline prior to approving the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee further agreed to defer consideration of Recommendation 10, the Executive Summary and the Summary of recommendations to the meeting on 27 November 2013.

## **7. Any other business**

*5.33 pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Accounting Officer of the Department for Social Development in relation to the management of planned maintenance contracts by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

C&AG commented on related and developing issues in the housing sphere.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Accounting Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development notifying the Committee of two minor errors in the printed Audit Office report on AFBI.

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 1.30 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*5.38 pm the meeting was adjourned*

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