

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 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 Ross Hussey  
Mr Daithí McKay  
Mr Adrian McQuillan
- In Attendance: Miss Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Lucia Wilson (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 Seán Rogers

*2.10pm The meeting opened in public session*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

The Committee noted correspondence received from Mr Sid McDowell, Vice-Chairman of the Lyric Theatre Board.

*2.11pm Mr Hussey left the meeting*

*2.11pm Mr Girvan and Mr McKay joined the meeting*

*2.13pm The meeting moved to closed session*

## **2. Inquiry into the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff – Consideration of Draft Report**

The Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr Neil Gray and Mr Richard Emerson of the Northern Ireland Audit Office joined the meeting.

The Committee continued its consideration of its report on the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff.

Executive Summary

Paragraph 1 read, amended and agreed

*2.42pm Mr McQuillan joined the meeting*

*2.47pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*3.00pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*

*3.05pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*

*3.06pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

Paragraph 2 read, amended and agreed

*3.29pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

*3.29pm The meeting moved to public session*

## **3. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted that, despite having been requested to attend the meeting, Mr Sid McDowell, Vice-Chairman of the Lyric Theatre Board, had not arrived to discuss Members' concerns in relation the comments he made to the press on the 'DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects' report.

*3.41pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

*3.44pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to again schedule Mr McDowell's attendance before the Committee at the meeting of 11 December 2013 and to request an explanation for his failure to attend when first requested.

*Agreed:* The Committee also agreed to seek legal office on its powers in relation to persons and papers.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting on 27 November 2013**

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

*3.50pm Mr Copeland and Mr Hazzard left the meeting*

*3.52pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

## **5. Matters Arising (continued)**

*Agreed:* Members considered and agreed to send a Christmas e-card on behalf of the Committee.

*3.53pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*

3.54pm Mr Hazzard re-joined the meeting

3.57pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

3.57pm Mr Easton left the meeting

*Agreed:* The Committee noted follow-up information requested from the Committee Review Group in relation to the availability of resources to facilitate the work of the Committee and agreed to seek further information on the resources available to PACs in other jurisdictions.

*Agreed:* Members noted a request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and agreed to issue the documents as requested.

4.05pm *The meeting moved to closed session*

## **6. Ministerial Direction – Delta Print and Packaging Ltd.**

The Committee considered notification from C&AG of a Direction from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Chief Executive of Invest NI in relation to the provision of grant assistance to Delta Print and Packaging Ltd.

4.11pm *Ms Boyle left the meeting; Mr Dallat took the Chair*

4.12pm *Mr Easton re-joined the meeting*

4.13pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

4.14pm *Mr Copeland left the meeting*

## **7. Inquiry into the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff – Consideration of Draft Report**

4.15pm *Ms Boyle re-joined the meeting and took the Chair*

4.19pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

4.20pm *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

4.21pm *Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

4.24pm *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

4.33pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

4.35pm *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

The Committee continued its consideration of its report on the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff.

Executive Summary, paragraph 3:

*On a proposal by Mr McKay:*

*At the end of paragraph 3, insert additional suggested text.*

The Committee divided: Ayes 4; Noes 4; Abstentions 0

**AYES**

**NOES**

Ms Boyle

Mr Clarke

Mr Dallat                      Mr Easton  
Mr Hazzard                    Mr Girvan  
Mr McKay                      Mr McQuillan

The proposal fell.

*On a proposal by Mr Clarke:*

*That paragraph 3, as drafted, do stand*

The Committee divided: Ayes 4; Noes 4; Abstentions 0

<b>AYES</b>	<b>NOES</b>
Mr Clarke	Ms Boyle
Mr Dallat	Mr Hazzard
Mr Easton	Mr McKay
Mr Girvan	
Mr McQuillan	

The proposal carried that paragraph 3, as drafted, do stand.

## **8. Northern Ireland Audit Office Corporate Plan 2014-15 to 2015-16**

*Agreed:* The Committee received a briefing from the C&AG, Mr Neil Gray and Mr Richard Emerson on the Northern Ireland Audit Office Corporate Plan 2014-15 to 2015-16 and agreed to commend the corporate plan to the Audit Committee.

*5.06pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

*5.15pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

## **9. Any other business**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered and agreed a proposal to host a joint visit with the Audit Committee to the NIAO offices in Belfast.

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 11 December 2013 at 1.30 pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*5.19pm the meeting was adjourned*

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