

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2014
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 Ross Hussey
Mr Daithí McKay
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Seán Rogers
- 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 Chris Hazzard

2.02pm The meeting opened in public session

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

NIHE – Management of Planned Maintenance Contracts

Mr Clarke and Mr Copeland declared an interest in this issue as members of the Social Development Committee.

The Committee noted a report produced by external consultants Campbell Tickell pursuant to correspondence of 20 November from Will Haire,

Accounting Officer, Department for Social Development, in relation to the management of planned maintenance contracts by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Committee also noted that the chairman of the Housing Executive briefed the Social Development Committee on the report at its meeting of 21 November 2013.

Correspondence from Margaret Ritchie MP on the recruitment of hospital doctors at all levels

2.06pm Mr McKay joined the meeting

Mr Easton declared an interest in this issue as Assembly Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Margaret Ritchie MP on the recruitment of hospital doctors at all levels and agreed to defer consideration of the correspondence until it receives an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in its report on the use of locum doctors by Northern Ireland hospitals.

4. Inquiry into Account NI: Review of a Public Sector Financial Shared Service Centre – Evidence Session

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Stephen Peover, Accounting Officer, Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
- Paul Wickens, Chief Executive of Enterprise Shared Services (ESS), DFP
- Mr John Crosby, Director of ESS Finance Shared Services (Account NI), DFP

2.23pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

2.25pm Mr Hussey left the meeting

2.28pm Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting

2.33pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting

2.35pm Mr McKay left the meeting

2.39pm Mr Hussey left the meeting

2.43pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

2.46pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting

2.53pm Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting

2.56pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

3.02pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting

3.15pm Mr McKay left the meeting

3.16pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

3.19pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

3.25pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting

3.28pm Mr Hussey left the meeting

3.29pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

3.30pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

3.31pm Mr Rogers left the meeting

3.33pm Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting

3.37pm Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting

3.50pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

4.02pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

The witnesses answered a number of questions put by the Committee and agreed to provide additional information in writing.

4.27pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

4.27pm the meeting moved to closed session

5. Inquiry into Account NI: Review of a Public Sector Financial Shared Service Centre – Discussion on evidence session

The Committee discussed the issues arising from the evidence session on the above inquiry to inform the drafting of an issues paper for consideration at the meeting of 29 January 2014.

4.37pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

6. Any other business

No other items of business were raised.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 29 January 2014 at 2.00 pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

4.41pm the meeting was adjourned

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