

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 2 APRIL 2014  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Michael Copeland  
Mr Alex Easton  
Mr Adrian McQuillan  
Mr Seán Rogers

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Trevor Allen (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Ross Hussey  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Daithí McKay

*2.17pm The meeting opened in public session*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2014**

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

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### Briefing on 'DFP Annual Theft and Fraud Report 2012-2013'

Ms. Alison Caldwell, DFP, briefed the Committee on the content of the 'DFP Annual Theft and Fraud Report 2012-2013'.

*2.26pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*

*2.29pm the meeting moved to closed session*

*2.31pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

2.36pm Mr Easton joined the meeting  
2.43pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

2.45pm the meeting moved to public session

2.47pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting

Meeting with Mr Sid McDowell, Vice-Chairman of the Lyric Theatre Board, Sir George Bain and Mr Phil Cheevers

The Committee noted a 'remarks' paper from Sir George Bain in relation to fundraising for the Lyric Theatre project.

4.02pm Mr Copeland left the meeting  
4.14pm Mr Rogers left the meeting  
4.15pm Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting

The Committee discussed issues and questioned Mr Sid McDowell, Sir George Bain and Mr Phil Cheevers in relation to the NI Audit Office's and the PAC's reports on DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further clarification on a number of issues raised.*

Correspondence relating to waiting times at hospital A&E departments

The Committee noted correspondence from the NI Audit Office in relation to concerns raised by Mr Hugh McCloy of Save the Mid.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr McCloy informing him of the proposed Audit Office study aimed at examining emergency hospital admissions and the commissioned RQIA review into the 'major incident' declared recently in A&E at the Royal Victoria Hospital.*

Correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning

*Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to allegations made by staff at the South West College and agreed to forward the correspondence to the Audit Office for consideration.*

4.57pm the meeting moved to closed session

4.59pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

Internal review of a request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000

*Agreed: The Committee received an update on a request for an internal review of the information provided following a previous request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and agreed to forward the requested information to the review panel. An update on the outcome of the review will be provided to the Committee at a later date.*

5.01pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

## Joint PAC and Audit Committee Visit to the Northern Ireland Audit Office

The Committee noted arrangements for its joint visit with the Audit Committee to the Northern Ireland Audit Office on 9 April 2014. The PAC will also conduct its weekly meeting at the Audit Office.

### Other Business

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of all other items on the agenda to the meeting of 9 April 2014.*

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 2.00pm at the Northern Ireland Audit Office, 106 University Street, Belfast.

*5.12pm the meeting adjourned*

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