

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2014  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Michael Copeland  
Mr Alex Easton  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Ross Hussey  
Mr Daithí McKay  
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)  
Miss Clare Rice (Bursary Student)
- Apologies: Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Adrian McQuillan

*2.04pm The meeting commenced in closed session*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

*2.05pm Mr Girvan left the meeting*

### **2. Inquiry into Improving Pupil Attendance: Follow-Up Report – Final Consideration of Draft Report**

The Committee continued its consideration of its draft report on the above inquiry.

#### Education Welfare Service

Paragraphs 18 to 20 read and agreed.

Paragraph 22 read, amended and agreed.

Recommendation 5 read and agreed.

#### Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 5 read and agreed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes, minutes of evidence and correspondence to be included as appendices to the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee ordered the report to be printed.

### **3. Launch of Report on Account NI: Review of a Public Sector Financial Shared Service Centre**

*2.19pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

The Committee noted media coverage on the launch of the above report and the comments made in the Finance Minister's press release on this report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Finance Minister seeking clarification on the protocols for commenting to the media in relation to PAC reports.

### **4. Correspondence from Mr Will Haire, Accounting Officer, DSD on the Committee Inquiry in to Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland**

The Committee noted correspondence received from Mr Will Haire, Accounting Officer for DSD, in advance of the evidence session on the above inquiry.

*2.31pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*

*2.32pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

*2.33pm The meeting moved into public session*

### **5. Minutes of the meeting on 7 May 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, subject to amendment.

### **6. Inquiry into Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland – Evidence Session**

*Messrs Rogers, Girvan and Hussey declared an interest in this issue as private landlords*

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Will Haire, Accounting Officer, Department for Social Development;
- Mr Jim Wilkinson, Director of Housing, Department for Social Development;
- Ms Mags Lightbody, Acting Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
- Mr Gerry Flynn, Director of Landlord Services, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
- Mr Cameron Watt, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations.

*2.50pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*2.55pm Mr Copeland re-joined the meeting*

*2.58pm Mr Girvan and Mr Hazzard left the meeting*  
*3.11pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*  
*3.11pm Mr Hazzard re-joined the meeting*  
*3.15pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*  
*3.35pm Mr Hazzard left the meeting*  
*3.36pm Mr Easton left the meeting*  
*3.39pm Mr Hazzard re-joined the meeting*  
*3.44pm Mr Hazzard left the meeting*  
*3.45pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*  
*3.45pm Mr Hussey left the meeting*  
*3.47pm Mr Hazzard re-joined the meeting*  
*4.23pm Mr McKay left the meeting*  
*4.27pm Mr Copeland left the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek further information from officials.

**7. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 2.00pm in the Room 106, Parliament Buildings.

*5.00pm The meeting moved into closed session*

**8. Consideration of Evidence Session on the Inquiry into Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland**

Members discussed the issues arising as a result of the evidence session on the above inquiry.

*5.10pm Mr Dallat left the meeting*

*5.12pm the meeting adjourned*

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