

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2014
ROOM 106, 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 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 Chris Hazzard
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Daithí McKay
Mr Adrian McQuillan

2.22pm The meeting opened in public session

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 28 May 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Briefing note from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) on NI Fire and Rescue Service provision of fuel and facilities to charities

Agreed: The Committee considered a briefing note from the NIAO on the above issue and agreed to forward the paper to the Health Minister for comment.

2.46pm Mr Girvan and Mr Easton joined the meeting

Briefing note from the NIAO on its Invest to Save study

Agreed: The Committee considered a briefing note from the NIAO on the above issue and agreed to consider the issue further following completion of the study.

Ministerial Direction on the Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) Wildlife Intervention Research Project

The Committee considered notification from the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of a Direction from the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in relation to the Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) Wildlife Intervention Research Project.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's Annual Budget.

5. Inquiry into the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) – Consideration of Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: Members noted a Memorandum of Reply in relation to the Committee's report on 'The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)' and agreed to request an update on the implementation of the recommendations in 12 months.

6. Inquiry into the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff – Consideration of Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: Members noted a Memorandum of Reply in relation to the Committee's report on 'The PSNI: Use of Agency Staff' and agreed to request an update on the implementation of the recommendations in 12 months.

2.49pm The meeting moved to closed session

7. Memoranda of Reply Updates

The Committee noted a paper on recently requested information in relation to a number of memoranda of reply and agreed to defer consideration of the paper to a later date.

8. Inquiry into the Future Impact of Borrowing and Private Finance Commitments and Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter PPP Project – Preparation Session

The Committee received further briefing from C&AG, Brandon McMaster, Sean Beattie and Richard Emerson on the above Audit Office reports.

The Committee identified and developed core issues arising from the reports in preparation for its forthcoming evidence sessions on 11th and 18th June 2014.

3.27pm *Mr Copeland left the meeting*

9. Any Other Business

Draft Press Release – Report on ‘Improving Pupil Attendance: Follow-Up Report’

Agreed: The Committee considered a draft press release on the launch of the report on ‘Improving Pupil Attendance: Follow-Up Report’ and agreed that the press release be issued.

4.17pm *The meeting adjourned*

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee