

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2014  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs  
Mr Alex Easton  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Ross Hussey  
Mr Adrian McQuillan

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

Apologies: Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Phil Flanagan

*2.09pm The meeting began in public session*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr Clarke and Mr Flanagan.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 12 November 2014**

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

#### **3. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward Mr Agnew's correspondence to the Environment Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward Mr Agnew's correspondence to the NIAO which are planning to report on Environmental Regulation in 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Agnew informing him of the Committee's actions.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### Take-Note Debate – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Agreed: Members confirmed their choices of reports to speak on in the debate.

2.17pm *The meeting went into closed session*

#### **5. Inquiry into Primary Care Prescribing**

2.19pm *Alex Easton declared an interest as Assembly Private Secretary to the Health Minister.*

2.19pm *Alex Easton left the meeting.*

The Committee received briefing from the C&AG and NIAO Officials on the Inquiry into Primary Care Prescribing.

3.00pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting.  
The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

3.05pm *Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting  
Mr Dallat joined the meeting*

3.10pm *Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further evidence to support the Inquiry from the medical field.

3.20pm *Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

3.22pm *Mr McQuillan left the meeting*

3.26pm *Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

#### **6. Summary of Qualified Accounts of Public Sector Bodies in Northern Ireland – Briefing**

3.27pm *Mr Hussey declared an interest as a member of the Policing Board as PSNI were one of the bodies included in the summary.*

3.27pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

The Committee received briefing from the C&AG and Louise Mason on qualified accounts for 2013/14 of Public Sector Bodies in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Summary of Qualified Accounts.

*Agreed:* NIAO agreed to note in their report on Excess Votes that the difference in the value of the DHSSPS Excess Vote between Budgets (£13m) and Estimates (£1.3m) was confusing.

#### **7. Consideration of Draft Forward Work Programme January-March 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Draft Forward Work Programme.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

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

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 2.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*3.45pm The meeting was adjourned*

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