

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2014
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Daithi McKay
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Sean Rogers
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 Ross Hussey

2.02pm The meeting began in public session

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Mr Hussey.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 24 September 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Correspondence

There were no new items of correspondence for consideration.

2.06pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2.08pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

4. Matters Arising

Meeting with Ulster Bank officials regarding BMC inquiry

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair would report back on the meeting with Ulster Bank officials regarding the BMC enquiry at the next Committee meeting, when outstanding information from the Department for Employment and Learning and the Strategic Investment Board would be available.

Correspondence relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr Beggs declared an interest in this issue as his parents were savers in the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

Mr Clarke declared an interest in this issue as he was a saver in the Presbyterian Mutual Society

2.11pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

The Committee received briefing from Collette Kane, NIAO, on the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

2.15pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

2.20pm Mr McKay joined the meeting

2.28pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr. James McKeown to note his correspondence and to inform him about the aspects of his queries which are relevant to the remit of the Public Accounts Committee.

Committee Motion for debate – 24 November 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Committee motion for debate on its reports and associated memorand..

Agreed: Members agreed the list of contributors to speak on the debate.

5. Inquiry into NIAO report into Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service Trust Statement

2.32pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

2.35pm The meeting went into closed session

The Committee received briefing from the C&AG, Suzanne Walsh (NIAO) and Barry Mitchell (NIAO) on the above Audit Office report.

2.42pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

2.44pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting

2.49pm Mr Flanagan re-joined the meeting

3.00pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

3.06pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

The Committee identified and developed core issues arising from the report in preparation for its forthcoming evidence session on 22nd October 2014.

Agreed: The Committee discussed and agreed on what areas each Member would focus their questioning on in the evidence session in advance of the preparation session. .

3.22pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

3.27pm Mr McKay left the meeting

6. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: Members agreed changes to the draft forward work programme for September to December 2014. The Committee also agreed that a briefing from NIAO on the National Fraud Strategy should be included in November 2014.

3.29pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 15th October 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

3.30pm The meeting was adjourned

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee