

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2014  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

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 Adrian McQuillan

*2.05pm The meeting began in public session*

#### **1. Apologies**

An apology was received from Mr McQuillan.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 8 October 2014**

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

#### **3. Correspondence**

Correspondence from Andrew McCormick – DETI regarding Northern Ireland Events Company

*2.08pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting*

*2.08pm Mr Flanagan joined the meeting*

*2.09pm Mr McKay joined the meeting*

*2.10pm Mr Clarke left the meeting*

2.11pm *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the response from DETI was unsatisfactory and agreed to write to DETI to about their concerns.

2.15pm *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

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

##### 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*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward Mr James Mc Keown's letter to the Northern Ireland Audit Office for further comment.

#### **5. Consideration of draft Forward Work Programme Sept – Dec 2014**

2.25pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed amendments to the draft forward work programme for Sept-Dec 2014

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider investigating the potential for reporting on cross-border bodies, that fall within PAC's remit, and joint working with other PACs in England, Scotland, Wales and ROI.

2.32pm *The meeting went into closed session*

#### **6. Inquiry into Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service Trust Statement**

Members considered a number of issues in advance of the evidence session on 22 October.

2.46pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

2.53pm *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

2.54pm *The meeting was suspended*

3.05pm *The meeting resumed*

3.05pm *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

## **8. Any Other Business**

### Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud – Press Release

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Press Release, as amended, for the launch of its report into Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud on 22 October 2014.

*3.15pm Mr Flanagan re-joined the meeting*

## **6. Inquiry into Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service Trust Statement (continued)**

The Committee were joined by the Comptroller & Auditor General and other Northern Ireland Audit Office staff to clarify points raised by Members in advance of the evidence session.

The Committee noted correspondence from Nick Perry, Accounting Officer Department of Justice, in relation to the next week's evidence session.

The Committee noted a draft NIAO press release on the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service Trust which is embargoed until Monday, 20 October 2014.

*3.31pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

## **7. Inquiry into the Future Impact of Borrowing and Private Finance Commitments and the Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter PPP Project**

*3.38pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

The Committee considered correspondence received from Derek Baker, Accounting Officer Department for Employment and Learning, in response to a request for further information previously made by the Committee. The Committee received briefing from Brandon McMaster, NIAO, on the contents of Mr Baker's correspondence.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Mr Baker's correspondence.

## **8. Any Other Business (continued)**

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 22 October 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*4.00pm The meeting was adjourned*

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