

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Daithi McKay
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Sean Rogers
Mr Jim Wells

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

Apologies: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Ross Hussey

2.05pm The meeting began in open session

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Chairperson, Mr Flanagan and Mr Hussey.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 13 May 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received from a whistleblower regarding NIFRS Pensions

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to NIAO for further investigation and to reply to the author informing them of this action.

Correspondence received from NIPSO Ad-Hoc Committee

Agreed: The Committee agreed on a response to the NIPSO Ad-Hoc Committee outlining its views on proposed changes regarding the implementation of the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman Bill.

Correspondence received from a whistleblower regarding the Ulster Orchestra Annual Report & Accounts 2014/15

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for information.

4. Matters Arising

Report on the Estimate of the Northern Ireland Audit Office 2015/16

The Committee considered correspondence and a report published by the Audit Committee regarding the NIAO Estimate for 2015/16.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reply to the Audit Committee noting their report and reaffirming the Committee's concerns regarding the reduction in the NIAO estimate.

5. Inquiry into the General Report on the Health and Social Care Sector 2012-13 and 2013-14 – Introduction to Briefing Session

The Committee received an introductory briefing from NIAO officials on the above NIAO report.

2.18pm The meeting moved into closed session

6. Inquiry into the General Report on the Health and Social Care Sector 2012-13 and 2013-14 – Briefing Session

The Committee received a full briefing from NIAO officials on the above NIAO report.

2.22pm Mr Rogers joined the meeting

2.35pm Mr Paul Girvan joined the meeting

7. Inquiry into the General Report on the Health and Social Care Sector 2012-13 and 2013-14 – Preparation Session

The Committee conducted a preparation session for the forthcoming Inquiry into the General Report on the Health and Social Care Sector 2012-13 and 2013-14. Members selected their lines of questioning and sought clarification from NIAO staff.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that if only four members confirmed attendance for the evidence session on 27 May, the session should be rescheduled.

Mr Trevor Clarke declared an interest as a private patient.

3.15pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

8. Inquiry into DRD: The Effectiveness of Public Transport in NI – Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence received from Translink and to consider it when preparing their report.

3.18pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

3.20pm Mr Jim Wells left the meeting

3.21pm Mr Jim Wells re-joined the meeting

9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee considered a travel itinerary for a Committee visit to the National Assembly for Wales on 24th June 2015 and agreed for the Clerk to continue preparations for the visit.

3.26pm: Mr Roy Beggs proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Mr Jim Wells:

“That the Committee reduce its weekly refreshment order to tea and coffee only”.

The Committee divided: Ayes 4; Noes 2; Abstentions 2

AYES	NOES	ABSTENTIONS
Mr Beggs	Mr Girvan	Mr Dallat
Mr McKay	Mr Clarke	Mr McQuillan
Mr Rogers		
Mr Wells		

The motion was carried.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2pm on Wednesday 27th May in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

3.28pm *The meeting adjourned.*

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee