

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2015  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs  
Mr Trevor Clarke  
Ms Claire Hanna  
Mr Ross Hussey  
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:

*2.05pm The meeting began in open session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 1 July 2015**

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

### **3. Correspondence**

#### Correspondence from Carnegie UK Trust

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Carnegie Trust to brief them on their report “Towards a Wellbeing Framework”.

#### Correspondence from the Committee for Finance & Personnel

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from the Committee for Finance & Personnel.

#### Correspondence from DHSSPS re NIFRS Board Appointment

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write back to the DHSSPS, copying in the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland. The letter will inform DHSSPS that the Committee notes their correspondence and that they will be monitoring their compliance with the updated guidance on public appointments.

#### Correspondence received from a member of the public

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence received from Mr Jack Healy O’Connor.

#### Correspondence received from DFP re new guidance on dealing with media queries on NIAO or PAC reports.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write back to the TOA and inform him that they will discuss the new guidance with him when he attends the Committee’s evidence session on the general report on the Health and Social Care Sector, on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

*2.21pm Mr Clarke joined the meeting*

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### Correspondence from NIAO re response to Iva Hajkova Pension concerns

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from the NIAO and to write to Ms Hajkova to inform her that the NIAO would continue to monitor the case.

### **5. Forward Work Programme September to December 2015**

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Forward Work Programme would be amended to postpone the agenda items included on the 16 December, as this date fell within Recess. The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Forward Work Programme.

*2.30pm Mr Wells joined the meeting*

*2.31pm Mr Wells left the meeting*

*2.35pm The meeting moved into closed session*

*2.35pm Mr Wells re-joined the meeting*

### **6. Inquiry into Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court – Memorandum of Reply**

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Committee would write to the Department to request an update in 12 months’ time.  
It was also agreed that the Committee would write to the Attorney General to inform him that the Department of Justice were introducing a new system to be used by the Courts Funds Office to deduct fees. The Committee will inform the AG that it will consider this new system when it is introduced in April 2016

before then deciding whether it is necessary to ask the AG to brief the Committee on his views on the issue.

**7. Inquiry into PSNI: Use of Agency Staff – Update on Memorandum of Reply**

2.43pm *Mr Hussey declared an interest as Chair of the Policing Board's Audit and Risk Management Committee and left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the update on the Memorandum of Reply.

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

2.45pm *Mr Wells declared an interest as the former Minister for Health and 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).*

The Committee received an introductory briefing from the C&AG in open session.

2.48pm *The meeting moved into closed session.*

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

The Committee received a full briefing from the NIAO team.

2.53pm *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting. The Committee regained its decision making quorum.*

**10. Inquiry into DSD: Advanced Land Purchases**

3.15pm *Mr Wells re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed:* *The Committee agreed to convene an additional meeting during the week commencing 14 September to consider the draft report, after it had been updated to take account of new information contained in the Choice Housing Report on Governance.*

3.52pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting.*

**11. Inquiry into DRD: The Effectiveness of Public Transport – Press Release**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider the Press Release by correspondence.

**12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**13. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 1.00pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

3.53pm The meeting adjourned.

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