

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2015, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Phil Flanagan
Ms Claire Hanna
Mr Conor Murphy
Mr Jim Wells

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

Apologies: Mr Edwin Poots

2.07pm The meeting began in open session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Poots.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

4. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

5. Carnegie UK Trust – Oral Briefing

The Members received an oral briefing from John Woods and Peter Doran from Carnegie UK Trust on the Wellbeing Framework.

2.25pm *Mr Beggs left the meeting.*

2.31pm *Mr Clarke joined the meeting.*

2.45pm *Mr Murphy joined the meeting*

Agreed: The Members agreed for the Clerk to seek further information on how the comparable Performance Framework in Scotland is factored into the work of PAC in the Scotland Parliament.

2.56pm *Mr Dallat left the meeting.*

6. Inquiry on NIFRS: An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-2012 – Memorandum of Reply

The Members received an oral update on the Memorandum of Reply on NI Fire and Rescue Service: An Organisational Assessment and review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-2012 from Richard Pengelly, DHSS&PS Accounting Officer and Sharon Gallagher, Director of Corporate Services.

Agreed: The Members agreed to note the Memorandum of Reply and that the Committee will write to Department requesting an update following the appointment of a permanent Chief Fire Officer in January 2016. Committee also agreed to seek clarity on the cost of running the recent unsuccessful competition in the appointment of this post.

7. Inquiry into Improving Pupil Attendance: Follow-Up Report – Memorandum of Reply update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the update on the Memorandum of Reply on the report into Improving Pupil Attendance: Follow-Up Report and to write to the Department to request a further update in 12 months' time.

3.20pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

3.25pm *The meeting moved into closed session.*

8. Inquiry into Department of Education: Sustainability of Schools – Issues Paper

Agreed: The Committee received briefing on the contents of the issues paper from the NIAO. The Committee then agreed that they were content for the C&AG to produce the first draft of the Committee report for consideration.

3.34pm *Mr Flanagan joined the meeting*

9. Inquiry into the Northern Ireland Events Company

Correspondence from DCAL regarding follow-up to first evidence session

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and publish the correspondence received from DCAL, including requested redactions.

Correspondence from Mr Mervyn Elder regarding follow-up to first evidence session

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and publish the correspondence received from Mr Mervyn Elder.

Correspondence from DETI regarding follow-up to second evidence session

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the DETI Accounting Officer acknowledging his correspondence.

The Committee agreed to publish the correspondence at the time of publication of the report.

10. Inquiry into the Health and Social Care Sector report 2012-13 & 2013-14

Correspondence from DHSS&PS regarding follow-up to evidence session

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and publish the correspondence received from DHSS&PS.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 25 November in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

3.48pm The meeting adjourned.

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee