

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016 SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan
Ms Claire Hanna
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Conor Murphy
Mr Edwin Poots
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: No Apologies

2.04pm The meeting began in closed session.

1. Preparation Session on the NIAO report on The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Discussions with NIAO Officials

Agreed: The Committee agreed to adjourn briefly at approximately 4.30pm, to accommodate a short comfort break.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that if required, they can correspond with a witness in writing with any follow-up questions arising from either evidence session.

2.05pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

2.07pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

2.10pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

2.10pm Mr Poots joined the meeting

2.15pm Ms Hanna joined the meeting

2.18pm Mr Beggs joined the meeting

Correspondence received from Tony McGuinness

Agreed: Members agreed to note the email correspondence received on 18 January 2016 from Tony McGuinness, a retired, former internal auditor for the NIHE.

Agreed: Members agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair should informally meet Mr McGuinness in order to discuss any evidence he may want to submit in regards to The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive inquiry.

2.16pm The meeting moved into open session.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

5. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

6. Evidence Session on The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Session 1

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Andrew Hamilton, AO (Temp), Department for Social Development
- Mr Jim Wilkinson, Director of Housing Strategy, Policy, and Reform
- Mr Clark Bailie, Chief Executive, NIHE
- Ms Fiona Boyd, Counter Fraud and Security Advisor, NIHE
- Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General, NIAO
- Ms Alison Caldwell, Treasury Officer of Accounts, DFP

The witnesses answered a number of questions put by the Committee and agreed to provide additional information in writing.

2.20pm *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

3.03pm *Ms Hanna left the meeting*

3.06pm *Ms Hanna re-joined the meeting*

3.07pm *Mr Dallat left the meeting*

3.11pm *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

3.40pm *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

3.43pm *Mr Poots left the meeting*

3.45pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

3.45pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

3.50pm *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

4.00pm *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

4.00pm *Mr Poots re-joined the meeting*

4.02pm *Ms Hanna left the meeting*

4.15pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

4.22pm *Mr Flanagan re-joined the meeting*

4.23pm *Mr Murphy left the meeting*

4.25pm *Mr Murphy re-joined the meeting*

4.38pm *Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting*

4.46pm *Mr Dallat left the meeting*

4.55pm *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

4.56pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

5.00pm *The meeting was suspended.*

7. Evidence Session on The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Session 2

5.23pm *The meeting resumed in public session.*

The following members were present:

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)

Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Roy Beggs

Mr Phil Flanagan

Mr Ross Hussey

Mr Jim Wells

Mr Edwin Poots

Mr Conor Murphy

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Colm McCaughley, Former Director of Housing and Regeneration, NIHE

6.08pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

6.23pm *Mr Poots left the meeting*

6.25pm *Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting*

6.43pm *Mr Poots re-joined the meeting*

6.44pm *The meeting moved into closed session.*

The Committee discussed the evidence session with members of NIAO staff.

Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 27 January in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

7.00pm *The meeting adjourned.*

**Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee**