

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2016 SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT
BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
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: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan
Ms Claire Hanna

2.06pm The meeting began in closed session.

1. Preparation Session on the NIAO report on Invest to Save funding in Northern Ireland – Discussions with NIAO Officials

**Mr Wells declared an interest in this inquiry as the former Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

2.14pm The meeting moved into open session.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms Boyle (Chairperson), Mr Flanagan and Ms Hanna.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 27 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 Invest to Save funding in Northern Ireland

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- David Sterling, Accounting Officer, DFP
- Michael Brennan, Budget Director, DFP
- Jeff McGuinness, Grade 7, Central Expenditure Division, DFP
- 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.

2.22pm Mr Poots joined the meeting

3.16pm Mr Poots left the meeting

3.29pm Mr Hussey left the meeting. The Committee lost decision making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

3.38pm Mr Poots re-joined the meeting. The Committee gained decision making quorum.

**Mr Poots declared an interest in the section of questioning, as the former Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

3.40pm Mr Poots left the meeting. The Committee lost decision making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

3.49pm Mr Poots re-joined the meeting. The Committee gained decision making quorum.

3.52pm The meeting moved into closed session.

7. Excess Votes 2014-2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed the contents of the draft report on Excess Votes 2014-2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the report on Excess Votes 2014-2015.

3.56pm *Mr Poots left the meeting. The Committee lost decision making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

The Committee discussed the evidence session (agenda item 6) with members of NIAO staff.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 10 February 2016 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

4.00pm *The meeting adjourned.*

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