

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2016, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan
Ms Claire Hanna
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Conor Murphy
Mr Edwin Poots

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)

2.06pm The meeting began in open session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms Boyle (Chairperson) and Mr Beggs.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

4. Correspondence

Draft correspondence from Committee to the TOA in relation to providing updated or new information prior to all evidence sessions

Agreed: Members agreed to issue the draft correspondence to the Treasury Officer of Accounts to request that any new or updated information is forwarded from departments prior to an evidence session.

5. Inquiry into DSD: Advanced Land Purchases – Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: It was agreed that the Committee would note the Memorandum of Reply and write to the Department to request an update in 12 months' time.

2.12pm Mr Flanagan joined the meeting

6. Inquiry on NIFRS: Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts – Memorandum of Reply update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the update on the Memorandum of Reply on the report on NIFRS: Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should monitor the recruitment competition of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and report back to the Committee if there are any further delays.

2.22pm The meeting moved into closed session

7. Inquiry into The Northern Ireland Events Company

Correspondence received from Andrew McCormick, DETI Accounting Officer and the PSNI in regards to the pause in the PSNI investigation

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence dated 27 January 2016, from Andrew McCormick, DETI Accounting Officer.

Agreed: The Committee agreed not to publish Mr McCormick's or the PSNI's correspondence on this matter, but to reflect their contents in the draft report.

2.25pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2.40pm Mr Hussey left the meeting

Consideration of draft report

Agreed: The Committee considered its draft report on the above inquiry.

Main Body of Report:

Paragraph 67	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 68	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 70	Read and Agreed

Executive Summary:

Paragraphs 1-9	Read and Agreed
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Summary of Recommendations:

Recommendations 1-11	Read and Agreed
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Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes, minutes of evidence and correspondence to be included as appendices to the report.

Agreed: The Committee ordered the report as amended to be printed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the report to be launched on Wednesday 17 February 2016 and for a press release to be brought before the Committee on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

8. Inquiry into Invest to Save funding in Northern Ireland – Issues Paper

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the DFP Accounting Officer to clarify several issues arising out of last week's evidence session.

The Committee received briefing on the contents of the issues paper from the NIAO.

2.45pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting

9. Any Other Business

Mr Girvan raised concerns over the extra funding request from the MAC theatre, Belfast. Mr Girvan stated that a further £1 million is needed in order to repair damages to the building.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk contacts the CAL Committee as they are already looking into this matter.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 17 February 2016 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

2.54pm The meeting adjourned.

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