

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2016, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

2.15pm The meeting began in open session

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Dallat (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Murphy.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 March 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Correspondence from the Treasury Officer of Accounts regarding staff suspensions in the Northern Ireland Civil Service

Agreed: Members agreed to note the correspondence dated 2 March 2016 and that the Audit Office will provide a further update on this matter at a later date.

Correspondence received from Department of Justice's Accounting Officer regarding the inquiry into Managing Criminal Legal Aid

Agreed: Members agreed to note the correspondence dated 7 March 2016.

4. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

Agreed: Members agreed to issue a standard letter in response to any further correspondence received by the Committee between now and dissolution (29 March 2016). The standard letter will advise that the Committee has no further meetings but the correspondence has been forwarded to Members.

5. DFP Annual Theft and Fraud Report 2014/2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the contents of DFP's Annual Theft and Fraud Report 2014/2015

2.43pm Mr Poots joined meeting.

6. Legacy Report 2011-2016 and End of Session 2015-2016 Report

Agreed: The Committee considered its draft Legacy Report 2011-2016 which includes its End of Session 2015-2016 Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk will update any facts or figures before publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish this report and update it on the Committee's web page.

2.58pm Mr Clarke joined meeting.

3.02pm Ms Hanna left meeting.

3.04pm Mr Poots left the meeting.

3.08pm Ms Hanna re-joined meeting.

3.08pm Mr Hussey left the meeting.

3.13pm The meeting moved into closed session

7. Inquiry into The Northern Ireland Events Company

Correspondence received from the solicitors Elliott Duffy Garrett in regards to their client Thomas Alan Clarke, former director of the Northern Ireland Events Company

Agreed: Members agreed to note the correspondence dated 25 February 2016.

Agreed: Members agreed to publish the correspondence on the inquiry website.

Agreed: Members agreed to write back to Mr Clarke's solicitors advising them of the action taken.

8. Inquiry into The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Agreed: Members agreed the new protocol in the agreement of the final two draft press releases (agenda items 8 & 9) of the current mandate.

Agreed: The draft press release was agreed. The Committee agreed that the press release is published.

9. Inquiry into Invest to Save funding in Northern Ireland

Agreed: The draft press release was agreed. The Committee agreed that the press release is published.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

As all business has been concluded Members agreed that this would be the final meeting of the mandate.

3.30pm The meeting adjourned.

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