

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2015  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs  
Mr Trevor Clarke  
Mr Alex Easton  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Ross Hussey  
Mr Daithi McKay  
Mr Adrian McQuillan  
Mr Sean Rogers

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

Apologies: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)

*2.08pm The meeting began in public session*

#### **1. Apologies**

An apology was received from the Deputy Chairperson.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 10 December 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

*2.10pm Mr. Clarke joined the meeting*

### **3. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence from the Irish National Teachers' Organisation to the NIAO.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### *Chairperson's Business*

The C & AG briefed the Committee on the implications of the Finance Minister's proposed budget cuts for the 2015/16 financial year on the NIAO – including staffing implications and impact on the number of VFM reports produced.

*2.27pm Mr. McQuillan left the meeting*

### **5. Inquiry into Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland – Memorandum of Reply**

*2.31pm Mr. McQuillan re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed:* The Committee noted this MOR and agreed to request an update in 12 months on the implementation of the recommendations.

*2.35pm The meeting moved into closed session*

### **7. Inquiry into Primary Care Prescribing**

*2.35pm Mr Easton declared an interest as Assembly Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and left the meeting.*

*2.41pm Mr McKay joined the meeting*

*2.43pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

*2.51pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting*

*2.57pm Mr Hussey left the meeting*

*3.02pm Mr McKay left the meeting*

*Agreed:* *The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from Mr Richard Pengelly.*

*Agreed:* *The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Clerk's report on the Chair and Mr Hussey's meeting with Dr Brendan O'Hare.*

### **8. Inquiry into Department for Social Development – Advanced Land Purchases**

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Arthur Canning regarding his attendance at the evidence session on 11 February regarding Advanced Land Purchases.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Arthur Canning requesting that he attend in person at the Committee's evidence session on 11 February 2015 rather than submit written evidence.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek legal advice on its powers under Section 44 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998*

*Mr McKay re-joined the meeting at 3.17pm*

## **6. Strategic Direction, Development and Effective Scrutiny – Follow Up**

The Committee discussed the follow-up and learning outcomes from the training and development session on strategic direction, development and effective scrutiny.

*3.25pm Paul Girvan left the meeting*

*3.29pm Trevor Clarke left the meeting*

*3.34pm Paul Girvan re-joined the meeting*

*3.35pm Trevor Clarke re-joined the meeting*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend its inquiries schedule to facilitate enhanced scrutiny and teamwork.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that evidence sessions should formally open at 2.15pm instead of 2.00pm. This is to provide Members with an opportunity to finalise preparations for the forthcoming evidence session, in closed session, from 2.00pm-2.15pm.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to review the new arrangements and revisit them if required.*

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 28 January 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*3.43pm The meeting was adjourned.*

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