

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2015
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Daithi McKay
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 Alex Easton
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Adrian McQuillan

2.08pm The meeting began in closed session

1. Inquiry into DRD: the effectiveness of public transport in Northern Ireland.

The Committee conducted a preparation session for the Inquiry into DRD: the effectiveness of public transport in Northern Ireland.

2.12pm Mr Clarke joined the meeting.

2.16pm The meeting moved into open session

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Easton, Mr Flanagan, Mr Hussey and Mr McQuillan.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 22 April 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

5. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising

6. Inquiry into DRD: the effectiveness of public transport in Northern Ireland – evidence session

Agreed: The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Peter May, *Accounting Officer, DRD*
- Mr John McGrath, *Deputy Secretary, Governance, Policy and Resources, DRD*
- Mr Tom Reid, *Director of Transport Policy, Strategy and Legislation Division, DRD*
- Mr David Strahan, *Group Chief Executive, Translink*
- Mr Kieran Donnelly, *Comptroller and Auditor General, Northern Ireland Audit Office*
- Mrs Julie Sewell, *Head of Public Audit and Accountability Branch, Department of Finance and Personnel*

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

2.24pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2.27pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

2.37pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

2.58pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

3.05pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

3.53pm Mr McKay left the meeting

3.54pm Mr McKay re-joined the meeting

3.58pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

3.58pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

4.16pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

4.17pm Mr McKay left the meeting

4.19pm Mr Rogers left the meeting. The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

4.29pm Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting - decision making quorum returned

4.36pm Mr Beggs declared an interest as his son is a student engineer and the discussion turned to cover the employment of engineers by the Department.

4.41pm Mr Rogers declared an interest as he has two daughters who use the early morning Belfast to Dublin train and the discussion moved on to cover timetabling of this service.

4.48pm The meeting moved to closed session.

7. Inquiry into DRD: the effectiveness of public transport in Northern Ireland – discussion of evidence session

The Committee discussed the evidence session with the C&AG and members of NIAO staff.

8. Any Other Business

The Committee agreed a draft Press Release on the PAC report into “*Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court*” with one amendment.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2pm on Wednesday 13th May in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

4.57pm *The meeting adjourned.*

Mr John Dallat
Deputy Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee