

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2016, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan
Ms Claire Hanna
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)
Mr Ross Hussey

2.27pm The meeting began in open session

1. Apologies

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

2. Minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Correspondence from the Department for Finance's Accounting Officer in regards to a recent anonymous whistleblower's letter regarding the NICS Voluntary Exit Scheme

Agreed: Members agreed to note this correspondence and to forward it to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for information.

Correspondence from the Department for Education's Accounting Officer in regards to teacher suspensions

Agreed: Members agreed to note this correspondence and forward to the Committee for Education for their information.

2.35pm Ms Hanna joined the meeting

Correspondence received from Mr T.I McManus, regarding the Charity Commission NI

Agreed: Members agreed to note correspondence dated the 4 February 2016.

Agreed: Members agreed that the NI Audit Office will keep a watching brief on this matter and update the Committee at an appropriate time.

Agreed: Members agreed to write back to Mr McManus to advise him on the agreed action.

Correspondence received from Mr Ross Hussey MLA regarding the Charity Commission NI

Agreed: Members agreed to note correspondence dated the 9 February 2016.

Agreed: Members agreed that the NI Audit Office will keep a watching brief on this matter and update the Committee at an appropriate time.

Agreed: Members agreed to write back to Mr Hussey to advise him on the agreed action.

4. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

5. Inquiry on Account NI: Review of a Public Sector Financial Shared Service Centre – Memorandum of Reply update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the update on the Memorandum of Reply on the report on Account NI: Review of a Public Sector Financial Shared Service Centre.

2.50pm The meeting moved into closed session

6. Inquiry into The Governance and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Correspondence received from DSD's Accounting Officer, Mr Andrew Hamilton

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

Agreed: Members also agreed to write back to Mr Hamilton to advise to further information was required from him at this time.

Correspondence received from Mr Tony McGuinness, former NIHE Internal auditor

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

7. Inquiry into Department of Education: The Sustainability of Schools

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

Mr Beggs, declared an interest as a member of the Board of Governors of Glynn Primary School.

Main Body of Report:

Paragraphs 1 to 4	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 5	Read, Amended and Agreed
Paragraphs 6 and 7	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 1	Read, Amended and Agreed
Paragraph 8 and 9	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 2	Read and Agreed
Paragraphs 10 and 11	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 3	Read and Agreed
Paragraphs 12 to 16	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 4	Read, Amended and Agreed
Paragraphs 17 and 18	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 5	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 19	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 6	Read and Agreed
Paragraphs 20 to 22	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 23	Read, Amended and Agreed
Paragraph 24	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 7	Read and Agreed
Paragraphs 25 and 26	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 8	Read and Agreed
Paragraphs 27 to 30	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 9	Read, Amended and Agreed
Paragraph 31	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 10	Read, Amended and Agreed

Executive Summary:

Paragraphs 1-13 Read and Agreed

Summary of Recommendations:

Recommendations 1-10 Read, Amended and Agreed

3.02pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

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 2 March 2016 and for a press release to be brought before the Committee on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

Any Other Business

Agreed: The draft release was agreed. The Committee agreed that the press release be amended and published.

3.19pm Mr Poots left the meeting

Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 24 February 2016 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

3.32pm The meeting adjourned.

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