

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2016, THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Ms Michelle Gildernew MLA
Mr Declan Kearney MLA
Ms Carla Lockhart MLA
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA

Apologies: Mr Gordon Dunne MLA

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson, Assembly Clerk
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Ms Karen Barry, Clerical Supervisor
Mr Darren Weir, Clerical Officer

2.01 pm The meeting began in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of the meeting 15 June 2016

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 15 June 2016 were agreed.

3. Matters arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee considered the correspondence from the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) and agreed to join CAPAC as associate members.

Noted: The Committee noted the copied correspondence from Ross Hussey MLA and the Charity Commission.

Agreed: The Committee considered emailed correspondence from Mr Aidan Quinn regarding suggested areas of inquiry and agreed to further consider the correspondence at a Strategic Planning meeting and advise Mr Quinn accordingly.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Committee for Justice in respect of the Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid.

5. Inquiry into the Northern Ireland Events Company: Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: The Committee noted the Memorandum of Reply in respect of the Inquiry into the Northern Ireland Events Company and agreed to request a 12 month update.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the PSNI to request an update on the investigation into the Northern Ireland Events Company.

2.17 p.m. Mr McCrossan joined the meeting.

6. Inquiry into the Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: The Committee noted the Memorandum of Reply in respect of the Inquiry into the Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and agreed to request a 6 month update.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities to request information on the composition of the dedicated sponsor team which supports the NIHE in the delivery of its Executive and Ministerial objectives.

2.37 p.m. the Meeting moved into Closed Session.

7. Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid: Preparation Session

The Committee discussed its preparation for the Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid and agreed lines of questioning for the evidence session.

2.43 p.m. Mr Clarke joined the meeting.

2.47 p.m. Ms Lockhart joined the meeting.

2.54 p.m. Mr McCrossan left the meeting.

3.00 p.m. Mr McCrossan rejoined the meeting.

3.07 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

3.32 p.m. Ms Lockhart left the meeting.

3.33 p.m. Ms Lockhart rejoined the meeting.

3.37 p.m. Mr Butler left the meeting.

3.42 p.m. Mr Butler rejoined the meeting.

8. Forward Work Programme – September-December 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed its next two Inquiries would be the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and DEL Contracted Training Programmes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its Strategic Planning meeting on 7 September 2016 from 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in Room 115.

9. Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Public Accounts Committee will take place on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 3.57 p.m.

Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson)
Public Accounts Committee