

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016, THE SENATE CHAMBER,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

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

*2.05 pm The meeting began in Closed Session.*

#### **1. Inquiry into Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme: Preparation Session**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 18 November 2016 from the Accounting Officer, Department of Finance requesting clarification on the scope of the evidence he is required to give at the meeting on 30 November 2016. The Committee agreed to write to advise the Accounting Officer accordingly.

The Committee discussed its approach to the evidence session with Cambridge Economic Policy Associates (CEPA).

The Clerk briefed the Committee on guidance on making public comment during PAC Inquiries and Parliamentary Privilege.

*2.24 p.m. The meeting moved into Open Session.*

**2. Apologies**

None

**3. Chairperson's business**

None

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting on 16 November 2016 were agreed.

**5. Matters arising**

None

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Evidence Session on NIAO Report on Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme**

The following representatives from CEPA joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

Mr Mark Cockburn, Managing Director  
Mr Paget Fulcher, Managing Consultant  
Mr Paul Grimal, Consultant

The representatives briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

*2.25 p.m. Ms Lockhart left the meeting.*

*2.28 p.m. Ms Lockhart re-joined the meeting.*

*2.46 p.m. Mr Clarke left the meeting.*

*2.51 p.m. Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting.*

*3.05 p.m. Mr Lunn left the meeting.*

*3.10 p.m. Mr Lunn re-joined the meeting.*

*3.24 p.m. Ms Lockhart left the meeting.*

*3.25 p.m. Ms Lockhart re-joined the meeting.*

*3.26 p.m. Mr Dunne left the meeting.*

*3.27 p.m. Mr Dunne re-joined the meeting.*

*3.36 p.m. Mr Lunn left the meeting.*

*3.37 p.m. Mr McCrossan left the meeting.*

*3.40 p.m. Mr Lunn left the meeting.*

*3.45 p.m. Mr Lunn re-joined the meeting.*

*3.45 p.m. Mr Kearney left the meeting.*

*3.49 p.m. Mr Kearney re-joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to CEPA on a range of issues in connection with their consultancy work for the Department.

The Chairperson thanked the CEPA representatives for their attendance at the evidence session and the representatives left the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to move into Closed Session.

*4.00 p.m. The meeting moved into Closed Session.*

*4.01 p.m. Mr McCrossan re-joined the meeting.*

## **8. Inquiry into the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme: Discussion with NIAO officials.**

The following NIAO officials joined the meeting:

Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General  
Kerry Harkin, Assembly Liaison Officer  
Tomas Wilkinson, Director  
Brian O'Neill, Audit Manager

The Committee discussed the evidence it had taken from CEPA with the NIAO.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None.

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

The next meeting of the Public Accounts Committee will take place on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 4.21 p.m.*

**Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson)**  
**Public Accounts Committee**