

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2016, THE SENATE CHAMBER,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Ms 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

2.07 pm The meeting began in Open Session.

1. Apologies

Noted above.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2016

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 21 September 2016 were agreed.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Evidence Session for Inquiry into Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme

The following DfE officials joined the meeting at 2.11 p.m.

Andrew McCormick, Accounting Officer, DfE
Heather Cousins, Deputy Secretary, Higher Education & Investment, DfE
Alison Clydesdale, Head of Energy Renewables Division, DfE

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

2.24 p.m. Mr Dunne joined the meeting.
3.22 p.m. Mrs Gildernew left the meeting.
3.36 p.m. Mr McCrossan left the meeting.
3.37 p.m. Mrs Gildernew rejoined the meeting.
3.40 p.m. Mr McCrossan rejoined the meeting.
3.50 p.m. Ms Lockhart left the meeting.
3.52 p.m. Ms Lockhart rejoined the meeting.
4.07 p.m. Mr Butler left the meeting.
4.11 p.m. Mr McCrossan left the meeting.
4.14 p.m. Mr Butler rejoined the meeting.
4.17 p.m. Mr Dunne left the meeting.
4.23 p.m. Mr Dunne rejoined the meeting.
4.26 p.m. Mr Kearney left the meeting.
4.34 p.m. Mr Kearney and Mr McCrossan rejoined the meeting.
4.54 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.
5.01 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.

5.05 p.m. The meeting was suspended.

5.17 p.m. The meeting resumed with all Members present.

6.09 p.m. Mrs Gildernew left the meeting.
6.10 p.m. Mr Clarke and Mr McCrossan left the meeting.

Agreed: The Accounting Officer, DfE agreed to write to the Committee on a number of issues in respect of the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold another evidence session with the Accounting Officer, DfE and his officials on 12 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into Closed Session

6.10 p.m. The meeting moved into Closed Session.

6. Inquiry into Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme – Discussions with NIAO officials

The Comptroller and Auditor General briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee noted and agreed the travel proposal for the PAC symposium in London on 17/18 October 2016 which Mr Swann and Mr Butler will attend.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Public Accounts Committee will take place on Wednesday 5 October 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 6.22 p.m.

Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson)
Public Accounts Committee