

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 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

*2.01 p.m. The meeting began in Closed Session.*

#### **1. Inquiry into Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme: Discussion with NIAO Officials**

*Agreed:* The Committee amended and agreed a draft Press Release on its continuing work on the RHI Inquiry.

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

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

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider an options paper on the issue and retention of confidential meeting packs in January 2017.

- 2.34 p.m. *Mr McMullan left the meeting.*  
2.35 p.m. *Mr McCrossan left the meeting.*  
2.36 p.m. *Mr Kearney and Mr McCrossan re-joined the meeting.*  
2.37 p.m. *Mr McMullan re-joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that a review is carried out on the details held on the spreadsheet of applicants to the RHI Scheme to determine if all the entries constitute personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act.

The following NIAO officials joined the meeting at 2.48 p.m.

Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General  
Kerry Harkin, Assembly Liaison Officer  
Eddie Bradley, Assistant Auditor General  
Tomás Wilkinson, Director

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

- 3.27 p.m. *Mr Butler left the meeting.*  
3.34 p.m. *Mr Kearney left the meeting.*  
3.38 p.m. *Mr Butler and Mr Kearney re-joined the meeting.*  
3.39 p.m. *Mr McCrossan left the meeting.*  
3.44 p.m. *Mr Dunne left the meeting.*  
3.45 p.m. *Ms Lockhart left the meeting.*  
3.47 p.m. *Ms Lockhart re-joined the meeting.*  
3.50 p.m. *Mr Dunne re-joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence from CEPA to the Department for information.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the further questions to CEPA for written response.

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

## **2. Apologies**

None.

## **3. Chairperson's business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the electronic Christmas card list.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2016 were agreed.

## **5. Matters arising**

None

## **6. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the emailed correspondence dated 24 November 2016 from Mr N Hastings and agreed to forward it to the Justice Committee to consider.

## **7. Draft Report on PAC Symposium**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer this agenda item until 11 January 2016.

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

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

## **8. Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid: Draft Press Release**

*Agreed:* The Committee amended and agreed the draft Press Release on Managing Legal Aid.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the next two inquiries would be the Voluntary Exit Scheme and Emergency Admissions.

## **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 11 January 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 4.10 p.m.*

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