

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Jimmy Spratt (Chairman)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Colum Eastwood
Mr Robin Newton
Mrs Sandra Overend

In Attendance: Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Hilary Cleland Bogle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Miss Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan
Ms Anna Lo
Mr David Hilditch

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the meeting should be held in closed session.

The meeting commenced at 12.02pm in closed session.

The Chairman welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interest before or during each Committee meeting.

3. Draft minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Accountability of the Northern Ireland Assembly Commissioner for Standards

Members noted the Clerk's paper and draft letters for its consideration.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the background to this issue.

Agreed: Following discussion the Committee agreed the draft responses to the complainants.

Agreed: Following discussion the Committee agreed the draft letter to the Commissioner, as amended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write to the Member who forwarded the letters of complaint, to set out the Committee's position.

6. Any other business

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee will be sponsoring an event organised by Transparency International UK on lobbying to be held at lunchtime (12.00 noon – 2.00pm) on Monday 28th September in the Long Gallery.

7. Time, date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday, 23rd September 2015 at 1.30pm in Room 21.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12.12pm.

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA

Chairman, Committee on Standards and Privileges

23 September 2015