



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2020, THE SENATE CHAMBER,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Humphrey MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Ms Órlaithí Flynn MLA  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr Andrew Muir MLA  
Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA  
Mr Matthew O'Toole MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson, Assembly Clerk  
Ms Gillian Barker, Assistant Assembly Clerk  
Ms Karen Barry, Clerical Supervisor

*The meeting moved into open session 2.06 pm*

#### **1. Apologies**

None

#### **2. Minutes of meeting on 24 September 2020**

The draft minutes of 24 September 2020 were agreed.

#### **3. Declaration of Members' Interests**

- Mr Andrew Muir MLA, declared that he was a former employee of Translink, and specifically in relation to the Major Capital Projects, that his step father is a quality manager for the A6 Dungiven by-pass. Also a former Mayor of North Down and former Councillor on Ards & North Down Borough Council.
- Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA declared he was a Trustee of Naomh Eoghain Caisleán na Deirge, Gaelic Athletic Association.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

**None**

#### **5. Correspondence**

*Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, Comptroller and Auditor General; Mr Rodney Allen, Director, and Mr Kyle Bingham, Assembly Support Officer joined the meeting.*

The Committee noted correspondence dated 22 September 2020 from Ms Sue Gray, AO, Department of Finance in relation to the inquiry into ‘Major Capital Projects’; and agreed to include this in the Major Capital Projects Report.

The Committee noted correspondence dated 28 September 2020 from Ms Tracy Meharg, AO, Department for Communities in relation to the inquiry into ‘Major Capital Projects’; and agreed to include this in the Major Capital Projects Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Ms Meharg, AO DfC, to arrange a further evidence session regarding the Casement Park Project Grant overspend of £10.5m.

The Committee noted correspondence dated 23 September 2020 from the Committee for Procedures on extending the temporary provisions contained within Standing Orders 110-116 until 31 January 2021.

*Agreed:* Committee agreed to write to Committee for Procedures that the Committee is content on this extension.

Committee noted correspondence dated 23 September 2020 from Peter May, AO, DoJ, providing an update on the Northern Ireland Audit Office recommendations on their report on ‘Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System’.

*Agreed:* Committee agreed to forward this correspondence to the Justice Committee.

*The meeting was in public session at 2.14 pm*

*Andrew Muir MLA joined the meeting at 2.25 pm*

*David Hilditch MLA left the meeting at 2.34 pm*

*David Hilditch MLA rejoined the meeting at 2.40 pm*

## **6. Inquiry into the LandWeb Project and Digital Transformation – Issues Paper.**

*Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, Comptroller and Auditor General; and Mr Rodney Allen, Director, joined the meeting. Ms Clare Doran and Ms Christine Burns Audit Managers joined the meeting remotely.*

The Committee discussed the evidence session on 24 September 2020, attended by Ms Sue Gray, AO DoF; Mr Paul Duffy, Deputy Secretary DoF and Mr Ian Snowdon, Chief Executive L&PS, and agreed that there were a number of issues that had not been fully answered by the officials.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Ms Sue Gray AO DoF requesting additional information; and also to invite Ms Gray and her officials to attend a further evidence session to address the gaps in the evidence session of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a press release be prepared to request DOF officials to attend a second hearing to address the gaps in the evidence provided on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The Committee noted the first issues paper on the LandWeb Project and Digital Transformation. There then followed a discussion with Mr Donnelly and his officials.

*The meeting moved into closed session at 2.56 pm*

## **7. Inquiry into Major Capital Projects – Draft Report.**

*Mr Kieran Donnelly CB, Comptroller and Auditor General; and Mr Tomas Wilkinson, Director, and Mr Kyle Bingham joined the meeting.*

The Committee considered the draft report on its inquiry into Major Capital Projects.

### **Main Body of the Report:**

Membership and Powers - Read and Agreed

**Executive Summary:**

Paragraph 1	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 2	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 3	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 4	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraphs 5 to 12	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 13	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 14	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 15	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 16	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 17	Read and Agreed.

**Summary of Recommendations:**

Recommendation 1 Paragraph 18	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 2 Paragraph 19	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 3 Paragraph 20	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 4 Paragraph 21	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 5 Paragraph 22	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 6 Paragraph 23	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 7 Paragraph 24	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 8 Paragraph 25	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 9 Paragraph 26	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 10 Paragraph 27	Read and Agreed
Recommendation 11	Read and Agreed

Recommendation 12	
Paragraph 28	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 13	
Paragraph 29	Not Agreed - to be rewritten
Paragraph 30	Read and Agreed as amended
Recommendation 14	
Paragraph 31	Read and Agreed as amended

**Introduction:**

Paragraph 32	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 33	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 34	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 35	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 36	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 37	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 38	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 39	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 40	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 41	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 42	Read and Agreed as amended

<u>Recommendation 1</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 43	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 44	Read and Agreed

<u>Recommendation 2</u>	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 45	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 46	Read and Agreed

<u>Recommendation 3</u>	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 47	
Paragraphs 48	

<u>Recommendation 4</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 49	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 50	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 51	Read and Agreed

<u>Recommendation 5</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 52	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 53	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 54	Read and Agreed

<u>Recommendation 6</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 55	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 56	Read and Agreed

Paragraph 57	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 58	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 59	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 60	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 7</u>	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 61	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 62	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 63	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 64	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 65	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 66	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 67	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 8</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 68	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 69	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 70	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 71	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 72	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 73	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 9</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 74	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 75	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 76	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 10</u>	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 11</u>	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 77	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 78	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 79	Read and Agreed
<u>Recommendation 12</u>	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 80	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 81	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 82	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 83	Not Agreed – to be rewritten
<u>Recommendation 13</u>	Not Agreed – to be rewritten
Paragraph 84	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 85	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 86	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 87	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 88	Read and Agreed as amended
Paragraph 89	Read and Agreed
Paragraph 90	Read and Agreed

Recommendation 14      Read and Agreed as amended

*Agreed:* Committee agreed to consider the report with amendments at next week's meeting.

*The meeting remained in Closed Session at 4.08 pm*

## **8. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Richard Pengelly, AO DoH dated 29 September 2020 regarding postponing the evidence session on Addiction Services until spring next year. Committee noted the challenges of his department regarding the pandemic COVID19 and pressures as winter approaches.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Mr Pengelly to advise him that the Committee would write back in the New Year to arrange a suitable date for him to come before the Committee, regarding NIAO Report into Addiction Services.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the current draft forward work programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft forward work programme and to publish it on the website.

*The meeting remained in Closed Session at 4.15 pm*

## **9. Any Other Business**

*Matthew O'Toole left the meeting at 4.16 pm*

The Committee discussed a request from the Justice Committee to share the Senate to facilitate more of their Members and witnesses to attend in person. The Chair agreed to raise the issue of the lack of committee rooms at the next CLG meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to facilitate the Justice Committee with flexibility from both sides.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Clerk and Chief Executive of the NI Assembly, Lesley Hogg, on the lack of 'broadcasting' committee meeting rooms, and to ask what progress has been made in making available more meeting rooms to accommodate required 'public sessions'.

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

The next committee meeting will be held, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 2.00 pm in The Senate.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4.25 pm*

**Mr William Humphrey**

**Chairperson**

**Public Accounts Committee**

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2020**