



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2014**  
**ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Danny Kinahan (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Ms Anna Lo

In Attendance: Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Hilary Cleland-Bogle (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Kerr (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

*The meeting commenced at 3.33pm in open session*

#### **Chairperson's Introduction**

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

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

As above.

#### **2. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairperson reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

### **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

*3.35pm Mr Hilditch joined the meeting.*

### **4. Matters arising**

Members noted correspondence from the OFMdfM Committee on the Committee's response to their proposal on the governance arrangements of the new Ombudsperson in the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

*3.36pm Ms Lo joined the meeting.*

Members noted the updated NIAO policy on Internal Whistleblowing arrangements.

### **5. January 2014 Monitoring Round**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; and the NIAO Paper on its 2014-15 financial position.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Brandon McMaster, Director of Business Improvement; and Mr Richard Emerson, Audit Manager and invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee.

The Chairperson asked Mr Donnelly to extend the Committee's condolences to Ms Blair on her recent bereavement.

*3.37pm Mr Hilditch left the meeting.*

*3.42pm Mr Hilditch returned to the meeting.*

The Committee noted Mr Donnelly's update and that the NIAO would provide its final position on the January Monitoring Round at the start of January.

The Chairperson asked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues to remain at the table for the next agenda item.

### **6. Consideration of the draft NIAO Corporate Plan 2015-16 to 2017-18**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the draft NIAO Corporate Plan; and advice from the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The Chairperson invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the draft Corporate Plan.

Following discussion the Chairperson asked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues to remain at the table for the next agenda item.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to approve the draft Corporate Plan for 2015-2016 to 2017-2018.

*4.04pm Ms Lo left the meeting*

#### **7. Provision for the NIAO in the Draft NI Budget 2015-16**

Members noted the Clerk's paper, the NIAO Paper; correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel; and a Briefing Paper from Assembly Research.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Committee response to the consultation on the draft Budget.

#### **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

#### **9. Time, date and place of next meeting**

Members noted that Committee staff will inform members of the time, date and place of the next meeting in due course.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.10pm.*



Danny Kinahan  
**Chairperson**  
**Audit Committee**

**Dated:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015