



**COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020

Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Paul Frew MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Pat Catney MLA  
Mr Seán Lynch MLA  
Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA  
Mr Matthew O'Toole MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Present through teleconferencing:

Ms Jemma Dolan MLA

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)

*The meeting commenced at 12.33pm in public session.*

*Paul Frew joined the meeting at 12.34pm*

#### **4. Oral Evidence: Private Members' Legislation: The Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill - Strategic Policy and Reform Division**

*The following officials joined the meeting at 12.57pm*

- Mr Bill Pauley, Director, Strategic Policy and Reform Directorate, Department of Finance
- Mr David Hughes, Head of RHI Inquiry Sponsorship Team, Department of Finance

Issues discussed included: Clauses in the Bill not included in the codes, Clause 3 – the provision to remove the prerogative power; the lack of a clear process or evidence for selection and appointment of special advisers; the powers to investigate by an expert multiple person panel; changing the culture of the NICS.

*Jim Allister Left the meeting at 13.59pm*

*Agreed:* To provide the Committee with the lists of exemptions to the merit principle of recruitment for NI Civil Service Commissioners and GB Civil Service Commissioners.

This oral session was recorded by Hansard.

*Officials left the meeting at 14.15pm*

**[Extract]**