



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

Thursday, 20 June 2024

Meeting Location: Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Daniel McCrossan, MLA (Chairperson)

Cheryl Brownlee, MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Diane Forsyth, MLA

Colm Gildernew, MLA

David Honeyford, MLA

John Stewart, MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Pádraig Delargy, MLA

Apologies:

Cathal Boylan, MLA

In Attendance: Lucia Wilson (Committee Clerk)
Kirsten McClelland (Assistant Committee Clerk)
Karen Barry (Clerical Supervisor)
Barbara Daly (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.15 pm in closed session

The Chairperson advised members of the requirement to declare interests in any items of business on the agenda, and discussed the substantive items of business to be considered.

The meeting moved into public session at 2.22 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cathal Boylan, MLA.

2. Draft minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2024 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairperson's Business

No Chairperson's business was raised.

5. Declaration of Interests

The Chairperson reminded members of their requirement to register their interests under Standing Order 69(5).

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Inquiry on Child Poverty in Northern Ireland – Evidence Session

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 2.24 pm

Chris Quinn, Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner

Trása Canavan, Chair of the Anti Poverty Co-Design Group

Goretti Horgan, Member of the Anti Poverty Expert Panel

The following official also joined the meeting:

Ms Dorinnia Carville, Comptroller and Auditor General

Mr Stuart Stevenson, Treasury Officer of Accounts

The Committee heard evidence from the witnesses.

Cheryl Brownlee, MLA left the meeting at 3.35 pm.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Quinn, Ms Canavan, Ms Horgan, C&AG and Mr Stevenson for attending.

Officials left the meeting at 3.54 pm.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 pm.

The meeting resumed and moved into closed session at 4.03 pm.

8. Inquiry on Child Poverty in Northern Ireland – Discussion

Members discussed the evidence heard.

Agreed: Members agreed to follow up in writing should any further questions arise for the witnesses.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee was briefed on the draft Forward Work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its forward work programme.

10. Any Other Business

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Northern Ireland Audit Office and Committee Staff for their work on the report into Mental Health Services in Northern Ireland, and congratulated the Committee Staff on a successful launch event for the report.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Chairperson thanked officials for their attendance and advised members that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27 June, at 2.00 pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.55 pm.

Daniel McCrossan MLA

Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee

20 June 2024