



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**CONCURRENT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE AND
COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Paul Givan MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA
Ms Rosaleen McCorley MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies: Mr Steven Agnew MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Ms Megan Fearon MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darrah (Clerk)
Mr Jim McManus (Clerk)
Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 4.49 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Evidence Session on the current position in relation to the Desertcreat Police and Community Safety College Capital Project

The Committee took evidence from:

Alistair Finlay	Interim Deputy Chief Constable, PSNI and Chair of the NICSC Programme Board
Brendan Smyth	Health Estates CoPE, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Rosemary Crawford	Deputy Director, Policing Policy and Strategy Division, Department of Justice

4.56 p.m. Mr Dickson joined the meeting.

Interim Deputy Chief Constable Alistair Finlay outlined the background to and current position in relation to the Desertcreat Police and Community Safety College Capital Project.

A detailed question and answer session followed covering a range of issues including: the level of increase in the supply chain estimate of costs highlighted by the preferred bidder; the current stated position of the preferred bidder; the current price gap; whether the preferred bidder will absorb the additional costs; whether the additional costs should have been detected earlier; the management of the project; governance arrangements; the current position regarding action being taken against the design team for earlier failings relating to the project; the consequences of the failings of the design team; the rationale for continuing to pay the design team; the options for moving forward; whether there is confidence in the preferred bidder; what commitment the preferred bidder has shown in relation to the project; the impact of the project on the local area and economy; the number of occasions the costs associated with the project have changed; responsibility for calculating costs; the reasons for the inaccurate cost calculations; how much has been paid in consultancy fees relating to the project; the total cost of the project to date; the organisations represented on the design team; lead responsibility for the design team; the role of the Programme Board; at what stage the Programme Board became aware of the increase in supply chain costs identified by the preferred bidder; how soon the increased cost concerns identified can be validated;

5.32 p.m. Mr Dickson left the meeting.

the timescale for confirmation from the preferred bidder on whether it can proceed with the project; the timescale to which the Programme Board are working to move things forward; the planned next steps; whether the project will have to be scaled back; whether there is an option to progress the overall

programme by breaking it down into smaller projects of work; the impact of delay on the programme; the position of the other tenders;

5.40 p.m. Mr Lynch left the meeting.

5.44 p.m. Mr McCartney left the meeting.

5.46 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.

the problems within the supply chain and sub-contractors and the likely impact on other public sector capital projects; the worst case scenario moving forward; what costs would be lost if the programme had to be retendered; the nature of the contract with the design team and any penalty clauses; costs incurred by the preferred bidder in relation to their tender bid;

The Chairman advised Members that, as the quorum was going to reduce to four members from each Committee, a decision was required regarding signing off the minutes of proceedings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the minutes of proceedings of the meeting should be approved by the Chairpersons of each Committee.

6.16 p.m. Ms McCorley left the meeting.

6.16 p.m. Mr Douglas left the meeting.

The question and answer session resumed and issues covered included: recouping funds from the design team; the involvement of the Strategic Investment Board in the project: whether the bill of reduction undertaken would compromise the quality of the build; confidence in the current design team; responsibility for payments made to the design team; the assurance processes in place; and the level of commitment to proceed with the project at the Desertcreat site.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for attending and they left the meeting.

The Chairman advised Members that, given the matter sits primarily with the Committee for Justice, that Committee would continue to monitor developments relating to the Capital Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.45 p.m.

Signed: _____

Mr Paul Givan MLA, Chairperson

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Mr Patsy McGlone MLA, Deputy Chairperson

Date: _____