

# COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA  
Ms Megan Fearon MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr William Humphrey MLA  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting opened at 10.05am in public session.*

*Agreed:* that Agenda items 4, 5 and 6 are recorded by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly website.

### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

*Mr Hilditch joined the meeting at 10.06am.*

## **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 12 September 2012**

*Agreed:* that the minutes are published on the Assembly website.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### Table of Requests for Information from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)

The Committee noted the table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

*Mr McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.07am.*

The Committee agreed to consider Agenda Item 9 next.

## **4. Correspondence**

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- Consumer Council: Ulster Bank Systems Failure

*Agreed:* to forward this correspondence to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for its views on the Consumer Council's proposal for evidence to be taken from the Financial Services Authority.

## **5. Civil Service (Special Advisers) Bill – Evidence from Mr Jim Allister QC MLA**

The Committee took evidence from the Bill Sponsor, Mr Jim Allister QC MLA, on the provisions of the Civil Service (Special Advisers) Bill. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Humphrey joined the meeting at 10.25am.*

*Mr Girvan joined the meeting at 10.48am.*

*Agreed:* Mr Allister will provide additional information on the public consultation undertaken on the proposals for the Bill, as agreed during the evidence session.

## **6. Civil Service (Special Advisers) Bill – Evidence from DFP**

The Committee took evidence from Mr Derek Baker, Director, Corporate HR, DFP, on the implications of the Bill for the Department. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Ms Fearon left the meeting at 11.01am.*

*Ms Fearon returned to the meeting at 11.05am.*

*Agreed:* to copy the DFP briefing paper to Mr Allister for information and in line with normal protocol.

## **7. Civil Service (Special Advisers) Bill – Evidence from the Attorney General for Northern Ireland**

The Committee took evidence from Mr John Larkin QC, Attorney General for Northern Ireland, on the Bill. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr McQuillan left the meeting at 11.42am.*

*Mr McQuillan returned to the meeting at 11.43am.*

*Mr Humphrey left the meeting at 11.43am.*

*Mr Humphrey returned to the meeting at 11.44am.*

*Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 11.49am.*

*Mr McLaughlin returned to the meeting at 11.57am.*

*Mrs Cochrane left the meeting at 12.00pm.*

*Mr Humphrey left the meeting at 12.05pm.*

*Mr McQuillan left the meeting at 12.05pm.*

*Agreed:* the Committee will consider requesting legal advice on the Bill from Assembly Legal Services in the event of the Bill being referred for Committee Stage.

## **8. Superannuation Bill – Initial Consideration of Draft Report**

Members considered a working draft of the Committee's report on the Superannuation Bill.

*Mr Hilditch left the meeting at 12.12pm.*

*Mr Hilditch returned to the meeting at 12.15pm.*

*Agreed:* In welcoming informal notification of the Finance Minister's recent acceptance of the Committee's proposed amendment to the Bill, members agreed that, in advance of the Committee tabling the amendment for debate at Consideration Stage, the Department will be given an opportunity to agree the final wording of the amendment with the Committee, subject to there being no change to the effect of the amendment as already agreed by the Committee.

*Agreed:* Members will forward any comments they have in relation to the draft report to Committee staff by noon on Friday 21 September.

## **9. Subordinate Legislation**

Members considered two pieces of subordinate legislation:

- SL1 – The Scheme for Construction Contracts in Northern Ireland (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered DFP's proposal for subordinate legislation under The Scheme for Construction Contracts in Northern Ireland (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, and has no objection to the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

- SL1 – The Construction Contracts Exclusion Order (Northern Ireland) 2012

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered DFP's proposal for subordinate legislation under The Construction Contracts Exclusion Order (Northern

Ireland) 2012, and has no objection to the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

#### **10. Correspondence (Contd.)**

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister: European Priorities 2012-13 Implementation Plan.
- DFP: response regarding Post Project Evaluations.

*Ms Fearon left the meeting at 12.24pm.*

- Minister of Finance and Personnel: Public Authority 2011-12 Annual Progress Report on Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 2006;
- Committee for Justice: Department of Justice correspondence regarding the NICS Equal Pay Settlement.

*Agreed:* the Committee will return to this issue when it next meets on 26 September.

#### **11. Committee Work Programme**

The Committee considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

*Agreed:* to request the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide an update on progress in respect of the devolution of corporation tax powers at the Committee's meeting on 3 October.

*Agreed:* that the Committee work programme is amended to reflect decisions made today, and that the revised programme is published on the Assembly website.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

#### **13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 September 2012 at 10.00am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.35pm.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**19 September 2012**