

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:	Mr Daithí McKay MLA	(Chairperson)
	Ms Michaela Boyle MLA	
	Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA	
	Mr John McCallister MLA	
	Mr Ian McCrea MLA	
	Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA	
In Attendance:	Mrs Stella McArdle	(Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Phil Pateman	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Jonathan Lawless	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Mr Jonathan McMillen	(Legal Advisor) (<i>Agenda item 3 only</i>)
	Ms Tara Caul	(Head of Legal Services Office)
		(<i>Agenda item 3 only</i>)
	Mr Damien Martin	(Clerk Assistant) (<i>Agenda item 3 only</i>)
Apologies:	Mr Dominic Bradley MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Mr Paul Girvan MLA	
	Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA	
	Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA	
	Mr Jim Wells MLA	

The meeting commenced at 10:06 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 5 August 2015

Agreed: that the minutes as amended are published on the Assembly website.

The meeting moved into closed session at 10:07am

3. Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland – Procedural issues and Legal Advice

Members received independent legal advice from Assembly Legal Services in respect of its powers to compel oral evidence from NAMA and oral and written evidence from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

The Committee also considered a number of procedural issues in relation to a response from PIMCO, correspondence from Mr Jamie Bryson, Assembly Research on Questions to NAMA, Questions received from individual members and Assembly Research on Questions to the Law Society.

Mr McQuillan joined the meeting at 10:18 am.

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 10:35 am.

Mr McCrea re-joined the meeting at 10:40 am.

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 11:00 am.

Mr McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:05 am.

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 11:15 am.

Mr McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:18 am.

Agreed: to write to the Head of the Civil Service urgently seeking a copy of a letter he issued to all Permanent Secretaries of Government Departments regarding the National Crime Agency investigation into the Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to write to NAMA with written questions for response and to publish this correspondence once issued on the Committee's webpages.

Agreed: to write to PIMCO highlighting that the Committee has not received any correspondence from the NCA expressing any concerns about the Committee's review and to reiterate its previous request of the availability of representatives from PIMCO to brief the Committee.

Agreed: to commission Assembly Research to prepare suggested areas of questioning for PIMCO.

Agreed: to write to the Law Society with questions for response and publish this correspondence on the Committee's webpages when issued.

Agreed: to request further legal and procedural advice in regard to compelling both NAMA and the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) under Section 44 of the Northern Ireland Act.

The meeting was suspended at 11:34 am.

The meeting resumed in open session at 11:42 for the remainder of the meeting.

4. Sale of NAMA assets in Northern Ireland – Correspondence and Next Steps

The Committee considered several pieces of correspondence received arising from invitations to oral hearings in regard to the Committee's Review of the Project Eagle sale of NAMA assets; including correspondence with former Finance Ministers Hamilton and Wilson,

correspondence with Brown Rudnick, correspondence from Mr Jamie Bryson and a press clipping on NAMA.

Agreed: following the proposal by the Chairperson, to write to the Department of Finance in Dublin requesting that the Committee is furnished with any relevant papers held by it in relation to the Committee's review and its Terms of Reference.

Former Finance Ministers

The Committee noted that no response had been received in respect of a previous request to brief the Committee.

Agreed: that Committee staff would issue reminders to the former Finance Ministers.

Correspondence from Brown Rudnick

The Committee considered a response from Brown Rudnick indicating that it would await the Committee's engagement with the NCA before meeting with the Committee.

Agreed: to write to Brown Rudnick highlighting that the Committee has not received any correspondence from the NCA expressing any concerns about the Committee's review and to reiterate its previous request to provide all correspondence between Brown Rudnick and the former Finance Ministers.

Correspondence from Mr Jamie Bryson

Agreed: to write to Mr Bryson asking for factual information relevant to the Committee's review and its Terms of Reference asking that he responds to the Committee providing only such information relevant to the Committee's terms of reference.

5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Thursday, 27 August 2015 at 10:00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
27 August 2015