

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA  
Mr Gordon Lyons MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA  
Mr Jim Wells MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Michaela Boyle MLA

*The meeting commenced at 10:36am in closed session.*

#### **1. Review of the Sale of National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) Assets in Northern Ireland – oral briefing from Assembly Legal Services**

Members received independent legal advice from Assembly Legal Services on various legal issues in relation to the ongoing review.

*Agreed:* to write to the Department requesting more detailed information on its specific reasons for requesting that papers provided to the Committee previously in relation to individual borrowers are not published.

*Agreed:* that an informal and private meeting with the National Crime Agency will be arranged for Wednesday, 2 March 2016.

*The meeting moved to public session at 11:03am.*

## **2. Apologies**

As detailed above.

## **3. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 20 January 2016**

*Agreed:* that the minutes will be published on the Assembly website.

## **4. Matters Arising**

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

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

## **5. Budget Bill and Spring Supplement Estimates – DFP written briefing**

Members noted the following papers in relation to the Budget Bill and Spring Supplement Estimates ahead of an oral briefing scheduled for next week's meeting:

- Ministerial letter regarding the Budget Bill;
- Departmental papers on the 2015-16 Spring Supplementary Estimates and the 2016-17 Vote on Account;
- Budget Bill and Explanatory and Financial Memorandum;
- Northern Ireland Estimates 2013-14 Statement of Excesses;
- 2016-17 Vote on Accounts and the 2015-16 Spring Supplementary Estimates

*Mr Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11:05am*

## **6. Subordinate Legislation**

### SL1 General Register Office (GRO) – Fees Order

Members received a briefing on the proposed subordinate legislation from the following officials from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA):

- Alison McQueen, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
- Violet Kennedy, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered DFP's proposal for subordinate legislation under SL1 General Register Office (GRO) – Fees Order and has no objection to the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

*Mr Ó Muilleoir re-joined the meeting at 11:07am*

## **7. Strategic Investment Board (SIB) Review: Implementation of Social Clauses in Public Procurement – briefing from SIB**

Members received a briefing on the SIB Review of the Implementation of Social Clauses in Public Procurement from the following representatives:

- Richard McFarlane – Associate Advisor, SIB; and
- Mary McKee – Strategic Advisor, SIB.

*Agreed:* that the SIB officials will furnish the Committee with a copy of the Review report which had been agreed by the Procurement Board.

## **8. Public Procurement Issues: Update briefing from DFP**

Members received a briefing on public procurement issues from the following departmental officials:

- Des Armstrong – Director, Central Procurement Directorate (CPD); and
- Gareth Johnston – Head of Policy & Performance Division (CPD).

*Mr Wells left the meeting at 11:58am*

*Agreed:* that the departmental officials will provide follow up information on various issues arising from the session.

## **9. Correspondence**

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- DFP – Monthly forecast outturn data for October 2015;

- DFP – Monthly forecast outturn data for September 2015;
- Committee for Regional Development – alleviating floodwater and storm water;
- Committee for Regional Development – sewer bonds; and
- Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) to HM Treasury – consultation on public sector exit payments recovery regulations.

*Agreed:* to write to the Department for clarification on what, if any, input DFP and the Committee will have in respect of the Regulations.

*Agreed:* to write to NIPSA setting out the Committee's approach.

- Responses from a number of individuals named in previous unsolicited correspondence to the Committee regarding NAMA.

*Agreed:* that the responses received should be processed in line with the Assembly's procedures in relation to the Data Protection Act.

The Committee also noted routine correspondence which had been sent to members on 25 January 2016.

## **10. Committee Work Programme**

### Dormant Accounts

*Agreed:* to request an update briefing from the Department in relation to the Dormant Accounts Scheme.

### Committee Work Programme

Members noted the updated work programme which will be published on the Committee's website.

## **11. Any other business**

There was no other business

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be on Wednesday, 3 February 2016 at 10:00am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:20pm.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**

**Chairperson**

**Committee for Finance and Personnel**

**3 February 2016**