

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2016
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:	Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA	(Chairperson)
	Mrs Claire Hanna MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Mr Jim Allister MLA	
	Mr Paul Girvan MLA	
	Mr Gerry Mullan MLA	
	Ms Caitríona Ruane MLA	
	Mr Philip Smith MLA	
	Mr Jim Wells MLA	
In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus	(Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Phil Pateman	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	Mr Ross Hussey MLA	
	Mr John O'Dowd MLA	

The meeting commenced at 2:08 pm in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 26 October 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

Question Time Tuesday, 8 November 2016

Agreed: to clarify the Minister's intentions with the Department in respect of a statement next Tuesday in relation to Non-Domestic Rates which arose from the recent question time and to request that the Minister attends the Committee's meeting next week to enable members to question him on relevant matters.

Agreed: to seek clarification from the Minister in respect of his comments in relation to Treasury guarantees in respect of EU projects up to and post Brexit.

Summary of Requests to DoF

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

4. Non-domestic Rating System: Consideration of Written Evidence

Members considered responses from Stakeholders in relation to the Non-Domestic Rating system in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: subject to any Ministerial statement on the Non-Domestic Rating system to schedule oral evidence from Manufacturing NI.

5. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- Department of Finance - Monthly Forecast Outturn Data August 2016-2017.

Agreed: to forward to the Audit Committee and statutory committees for information

- Committee for the Executive Office - Draft Programme for Government 2016/21

Agreed: Members to consider what evidence the Committee may wish to receive in order to inform a response to the Committee.

Agreed: Subject to the Minister's attendance to explore the departmental responsibilities and input into the Programme for Government and the forthcoming Budget and to request a briefing paper as sought by the Clerk.

- Ulster Bank - Opportunity Knocks event in partnership with Belfast City Council, focussing on the entrepreneurial ecosystem on November 16

Agreed: Members to inform Committee Office by Friday, 11 November 2016 should they wish to attend.

- Department of Finance - Business Case and EU Funding
- Department of Finance - Written Briefing on Business Cases
- Department of Finance- Response on current process for Budget Legislation
- Audit Committee - Budget Position 17-18
- Audit Committee - Budgets of the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman and the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission
- The Committee for Education - Reclassification of Resource and Capital
- Northern Ireland Executive Office - Brussels Director's Report (August - October 2016)

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the work programme which will be published on the Committee's webpage.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, 16 November 2016 at 2:00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee agreed to move into closed session for consideration of agenda items 9 and 10 at 2:35 pm, for the remainder of the meeting.

9. Strategic Planning Session

Members considered the Committee's draft Strategic Plan.

The Committee noted that Caitríona Ruane's view that issues relating to Marriage Equality should be on the Committee's agreed list of Strategic Priorities.

Budget

Agreed: to include evidence on the multi-year capital budget in the scheduling of evidence for the forthcoming Budget.

Brexit

Agreed: that the Clerk will liaise with The Committee for the Executive Office on work undertaken by other Committees on Brexit and will update members next week.

Rates

Agreed: that Committee staff will issue proposals to Members for venues for the two external meetings.

Paul Girvan left the meeting at 3.00 pm

Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 3:05 pm

10. Inquiry on the Sale of the NAMA Loan Portfolio in Northern Ireland

Emma Little Pengelly declared an interest in relation to the Review, stating that her husband, Mr Richard Pengelly, was a senior official in the former Department of Finance and Personnel prior to NAMA's formation and until his departure from the Department in December 2012.

The Committee considered the draft Inquiry Plan and associated documents.

Agreed: The Terms of Reference, as drafted, includes provision to draw on the evidence which arose from the former Committee's Review.

Agreed: the Terms of Reference as amended and that these should then be published on the Committee webpage.

Agreed: to write to the Law Society seeking a response on its actions it has taken arising from the recommendation by the former Committee in its progress report.

Caitríona Ruane returned to the meeting at 3.20 pm

Agreed: to circulate relevant the Official Reports of proceedings of the Public Accounts in the Oireachtas to Members for information.

Jim Wells left the meeting at 3.35pm

Claire Hanna left the meeting at 3.35pm

Gerry Mullan left the meeting at 3.44pm

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.47 pm.

Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA

Chairperson

Committee for Finance

16 November 2016