

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:	Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA	(Chairperson)
	Mrs Claire Hanna MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Mr Paul Girvan MLA	
	Mr Philip Smith MLA	
	Mr Jim Wells MLA	
In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus	(Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Phil Pateman	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Ms Kate McCullough	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Piotr Palys	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)
	<i>Mr Alyn Hicks</i>	<i>(Legal Advisor)</i>
Apologies:	Mr Jim Allister MLA	
	Mr Ross Hussey MLA	
	Mr Gerry Mullan MLA	

The meeting commenced at 2:12pm in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 16 January 2017

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

3. Matters Arising

Minister's Non-Attendance

Emma Little Pengelly declared an interest in relation to the implications of the current situation for the Budget 2017-2018 stating that her husband, Mr Richard Pengelly, is the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health.

Agreed: to write to the Department seeking clarification in relation to direct rule and Rates.

Agreed: to write to the Permanent Secretary on the ramifications of not having a budget by the summer on services, particularly health and education.

Agreed: to write to the Minister for Finance expressing the Committee's disappointment at his decision not to attend today's meeting given the importance of the matter and the impact of not having a budget in place for 2017-2018; and to express the Committee's view that there is an onus on the Minister to engage directly with the Committee on matters of such importance.

Agreed: to write to the Secretary of State on a number of issues relating to the current situation on the Budget 2017/18 and the provision of services.

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. Budget – Assembly Research Briefing: Executive Draft Budget 2017-18

The Committee considered Research on the Executive Draft Budget 2017-18.

5. EU Issues – Consideration of the Committee's Priorities on the EU Work Programme.

Members considered the Committee's Priorities on the EU Work Programme.

Agreed: to forward the Committee's response on the EU Priorities to the Committee for the Executive Office.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- Consul General of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of Chinese Welfare Association - Invitation for the Chair to attend NI's Chinese New Year Showcase 2017 in the Ulster Hall at 17:30 on 25 January.

Agreed: that the Chairperson attends on behalf of the Committee, subject to her availability.

- Department of Finance - Department's response re projected savings in relation to Reform of Property Management (RPM)

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: that due to the current political situation the Committee meeting scheduled for 25 January 2017 is cancelled due to the end of the mandate.

8. Any Other Business

Dissolution Arrangements

Agreed: that, should any correspondence be sent to the Committee between this last meeting & dissolution, a standard letter will be issued stating that the Committee has no further meetings scheduled before the Assembly dissolves on 26 January 2017, but that the correspondence has been forwarded to members of the Committee for information.

Agreed: that the incoming Committee for Finance is permitted access to the Committee papers from this mandate, subject to any legal requirements, should it request so in the new mandate.

Agreed: to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to submit views on the releasing or withholding of information in any non-routine / contentious Freedom of Information (FoI) requests received.

The Committee noted it will be advised of any such requests, the views expressed by the Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson and the response issued by the FoI Unit by email. This will be the case until the Assembly dissolves on 26 January 2017.

The Committee noted any FoI requests received after dissolution will be dealt with by the FoI Unit directly.

Agreed: that, as there will be no further meetings of the Committee in this Assembly mandate, the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson will agree the minutes from this meeting on behalf of the Committee.

The Chairperson paid tribute to the contribution of Committee members during this mandate and the Chairperson and other members thanked the secretariat staff for the support which they provided to the work of this Committee.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

Agreed: that there are no further scheduled meetings of the Committee for Finance in the current mandate.

The Committee agreed to move into closed session at 3:25pm for the next agenda item.

10. Inquiry into the Sale of the NAMA Loan Portfolio in Northern Ireland – Legal Advice.

Members considered advice from Legal Services in relation to the Inquiry into the Sale of the NAMA Loan Portfolio in Northern Ireland.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:28pm.

**Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance
24 January 2017**