

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 01 JUNE 2016**  
**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mrs Emma Little Pengelly (Chairperson)  
Ms Claire Hanna (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Jonathan Bell MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr Ross Hussey MLA  
Mr Gerry Mullan MLA  
Mr John O'Dowd MLA  
Ms Caitríona Ruane MLA  
Mr Philip Smith MLA

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Liz Marsh (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Jim Wells MLA

*2.00pm: The meeting commenced in closed session.*

Members considered committee protocols.

*Agreed:* Committee protocols were agreed.

*2.21pm: The meeting moved into open session*

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Chairpersons Business**

- (a) Members noted the Membership of the Committee for Finance.
- (b) Members considered an invitation from Research and Information Service (RaISe) to provide a presentation to the Committee on the Budget (No. 2) Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to attend the briefing by RaISe on the Budget (No. 2) on 7 June 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee office will circulate details of the time and venue to Members.

## **3. Declaration of Members' Interests**

Members considered the guidance provided on the Declaration of Members' Interests and the following Members declared:

Emma Little Pengelly MLA declared her husband Richard Pengelly is the Permanent Secretary of DHSSPS and Chief Executive of the Health Service. Richard Pengelly worked in the Department for Finance before moving on 31 December 2012 to the Department for Regional Development. As a non-practicing barrister she is still covered by the governance and disciplinary rules. She was a special adviser to the Right Honourable Ian Paisley and the Right Honourable Peter Robinson from 2007-September 2015.

Ross Hussey MLA declared he is a member of the Policing Board, a Trustee of the RUC GC Foundation and a Trustee of the Northern Ireland Assembly Pension Scheme

Caitríona Ruane MLA declared she is a Trustee of the Assembly Pension Scheme.

Jim Allister MLA declared he is a non-practicing barrister and is still covered by the governance and disciplinary rules.

Philip Smith MLA declared he is presently an unremunerated staff member of the PSNI but is exiting the organisation.

Jonathan Bell MLA declared he is Vice Chairperson of the Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster and on the Board of Governors of Regent House.

## **4. Committee Procedures**

Members noted the guidance provided on the following Committee Procedures:

- The role of the Chairperson including the guidance on privilege and matters of sub-judice
- The role and functions of the Committee Office
- Providing an effective Research Service to Committees
- Timescales for interaction between Committees and Departments

## **5. Subordinate Legislation: Delegation of Technical Scrutiny**

Members noted the guidance on subordinate legislation.

*Agreed:* The Committee for Finance, under Standing Order 43, resolves to delegate to the Examiner of Statutory Rules the technical scrutiny of statutory rules referred to the Committee under the above mentioned Standing Order.

*Agreed:* The Committee further resolves that in carrying out this function the Examiner shall be authorised to report her technical findings on each statutory rule to the Assembly, and to the relevant Department, as well as to the Committee itself and to publish her report.

## **6. Subordinate legislation SR 2016/177 – The Public Service Pensions (Certification Officer for Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Members considered the SR 2016/177 The Public Service Pensions (Certification Officer for Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee for Finance has considered SR 2016/177 The Public Service Pensions (Certification Office for Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

## **7. Legacy Report of Predecessor Committee 2011-2016**

Members noted the legacy report of the predecessor committee.

## **8. Budget (No. 2) Bill 2016 and the Main Estimates**

Members noted a background paper on the draft Budget Bill, the draft Budget Bill (2016) and Explanatory and Financial Memorandum, a copy of the Main Estimates and 2014-15 Statement of Excesses for early consideration at the meeting next week.

## **9. Draft Forward Work Programme**

Members considered a number of issues in relation to the Forward Work Programme including Programme for Government and collaborative budgets, procurement and is it fit for purpose, the business case process, What Works Centre for Northern Ireland, same sex marriage Bill, progress on National Assets Management Agency (NAMA) and the rate relief for small businesses, a briefing on the outworking of the Voluntary Exit Scheme (VES) including the gender and community breakdown.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department for an indicative timeframe of the multi-year budget 2017-20 be provided to the Committee.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to release any additional papers it may hold which relate to the previous NAMA review terms of reference.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to make a presentation to the Committee on an overview of the role of the Department.

## **10. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Chairperson to attend the Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust (NIABT) AGM on 13 June 2016 and to be introduced to the NIABT members.

Members noted the following correspondence:

Direction by the Department of Finance and Personnel under Article 69A of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 – GMP Indexation.

The Ulster Bank's information on the two projects in NI awarded under the RBS Skills and Opportunity funding.

An invitation to launch NIIRTA Independent's Day Campaign 2016 on 14 June 2016.

*Agreed:* To inform the committee office if attending.

## **11. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to provide the Committee with the Minister's first day briefing.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, 8 June 2016 at 2:00pm, Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.10pm.*

**Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance  
08 June 2016**