

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2014
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Michael Copeland
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Chris Hazzard
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Seán Rogers

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Trevor Allen (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)
Miss Clare Rice (Bursary Student)

Apologies: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Daithí McKay

In the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, the Committee agreed to elect a temporary chairperson. Mr Girvan proposed 'that Mr Rogers do take the chair of the Committee'; Mr Clarke seconded the motion. No further nominations were proposed, Mr Rogers took the Chair.

2.14pm The meeting opened in public session

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 5 February 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Invitation to the Open University Degree Ceremony

Members noted an invitation, received by the Chairperson, to attend the Open University's degree ceremony on 7 May 2014.

4. Inquiry into the PSNI: Use of Agency Staff – Consideration of Draft Report

2.18pm Mr Hazzard joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed a final deferral of consideration of the draft report to the meeting of 19 February 2014.

Members noted the judgment, and summary judgment, on the applications by the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) and Vivienne McCord for Judicial Review.

5. Matters Arising (Continued...)

Request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000

2.27pm Mr Copeland joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee noted a draft response to a request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and agreed that the response be issued.

6. Inquiry into NIFRS: An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-2012 – Memorandum of Reply

Members noted the memorandum of reply in relation to the Committee's report on 'NIFRS: An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-12' and put questions to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

2.42pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

2.44pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further clarification on the issues discussed, and to seek an MOR update in a year's time.

2.50pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

7. Inquiry into DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects – Memorandum of Reply

2.54pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

Members noted the memorandum of reply in relation to the Committee's report on 'DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects' and put questions to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further clarification on the issues discussed, and to seek an MOR update in a year's time.

3.11pm Mr Copeland left the meeting

8. Any other business

No other items of business were raised.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 2.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

3.13pm the meeting adjourned

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee