PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2014
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
                     Mr Roy Beggs
                     Mr Trevor Clarke
                     Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
                     Mr Alex Easton
                     Mr Phil Flanagan
                     Mr Paul Girvan
                     Mr Sean Rogers

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson   (Assembly Clerk)
                     Mr Jack Peel   (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
                     Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
                     Mr Darren Weir   (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Ross Hussey
                     Mr Adrian McQuillan
                     Mr Daithi McKay

2.12pm   The meeting began in public session

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were received from Mr Hussey and Mr McQuillan.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2014**
Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence received.

4. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

5. Inquiry into Primary Care Prescribing – Evidence Session

2.13pm   *Mr Easton declared an interest as Assembly Private Secretary to the Health Minister and left the meeting.*

2.14pm   *Mr Clarke joined the meeting*

2.14pm   *Mr Girvan left the meeting*
2.15pm   *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

2.20pm   *Mr Dallat left the meeting*

2.21pm   *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

2.24pm   *Mr Dallat r-joined the meeting*

2.26pm   *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

Mr Richard Pengelly, *Accounting Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

Dr Mark Timoney, *Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

Mr Joe Brogan, *Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board*

The witnesses answered a number of questions put by the Committee and agreed to provide additional information in writing.

3.21pm   *Mr Beggs left the meeting*
3.22pm   *Mr Beggs re-joined the meeting*

3.29pm   *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

3.45pm   *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

3.46pm   *Mr Dallat left the meeting - The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

3.58pm   *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting – decision making quorum returned.*

3.59pm   *Mr Girvan left the meeting - The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line*

with Standing Order 49(5).

4.00pm   *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting - decision making quorum returned*

4.28pm   *Mr Rogers left the meeting - The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

4.32pm   *Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting – decision making quorum returned*

4.52pm   *Mr Dallat left the meeting - The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

6. Inquiry into Primary Care Prescribing – Discussion with NIAO Officials

The Committee discussed the evidence session with NIAO Officials

4.57pm   *The meeting went into closed session*

7. Briefing on NIAO Draft Corporate Plan 2015-16 – 2017-18

5.00pm   *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting – decision making quorum returned.*

Agreed: *The Committee agreed to write to the Audit Committee indicating that they are content with the draft corporate plan.*

8. Inquiry into the future impact of borrowing and private finance commitments and Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter PPP Project – Draft Press Release

Agreed: *The Committee agreed the draft press release for issue.*

9. Any Other Business

Training Session through Politics Plus – Wed January 15th 2015

Agreed: *The Committee agreed to hold a training session on effective questioning with John Sturrock on Wednesday 14th January in Parliament Buildings.*

10. Date, time and place of next meeting
Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 2.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

5.08pm   *The meeting was adjourned*

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee